

SPEAKEASY

**A New Mid Scale Touring Production
Available for Touring in Spring 2020**



Southpaw Dance Company

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Southpaw Dance Company was set up in 2013 under the artistic direction of choreographer Robby Graham.

The company creates dance theatre that has been called, "... witty, hard-edged, sure in focus, and sizzling in energy" (Clement Crisp, Financial Times), and "Atmospheric, vigorous, and breath-taking" (Sarah Crompton, The Daily Telegraph)

Southpaw Dance Company creates powerful, joyous performances, from small scale solo work to large scale outdoor spectacles, combining absolute artistic integrity with engaging narratives which inspire and excite audiences, and ultimately expresses a passion for what dance performance can be.

"The most explosive piece of dance I've ever seen: energetic, risky, quirky, humorous – hypnotic from the start" audience member, Speakeasy

"When I grow up I want to be someone like that!" audience member, Speakeasy



Some of the Company's Achievements

Originated five large scale participatory works: "RUSH", "Wordplay", "The Future of Things Past", "Erimus", and "Beautiful Thing". 14 performances, 550 community participants, and estimated audiences of 12,500.

Created touring works: "Faust", "Icarus", and "Carousel", Over 100 performances and estimated audiences of 75,000.

Delivered over 400 sessions of participatory activity.

Commissioned for theatrical movement direction:

- "Angels in America" at the National Theatre: audience of 70,000, plus Broadway
- "Rattlesnake" at the Live Theatre: UK touring, estimated audience of 4,000
- "Pericles" , the first Public Acts work at the National Theatre

The Company has an estimated digital reach of 400,000 per annum



Robby Graham

Robby Graham has a uniquely compelling choreographic vision, honed by years of inspiring audiences who have never bought a ticket to see contemporary dance, have never actively sought out dance performance, as well as to sold out festivals and theatres. He engages audiences wherever they are with performances that have been described as mesmerising: accessible work, spectacular and intimate, reflecting larger issues through the magnifying glass of personal stories.

Robby has performed, taught and choreographed around the world, including the Royal Opera House in London, the favelas of Rio Di Janeiro, and in New York.



In 2015 he was a Hip Hop Second Round Judge for BBC Young Dancer of the Year. Robby was choreographer for Maximo Park's video for Get High (No I Don't), Movement Director for Marianne Elliott's production of Angels in America at the National Theatre, as well as Pericles, the NT's first Public Acts production, and directed Leave to Remain, a new production at the Lyric Hammersmith



Speakeasy Concept



"Speakeasy", Southpaw's mid-scale dance theatre touring production, follows on from the hugely successful outdoor touring piece, "Faust".

"Speakeasy" is a re-interpretation of the classic tale of Faust, where Faust enters a seemingly normal prohibition era bar, unaware that the bar is owned by the devil and populated by his demons, including the charismatic barman, Mephistopheles.

"Speakeasy" features world-class BBoying fused with 1920s swing styles, cameo performances from local swing groups, a spectacular 1920s themed set, stunning projection visuals, a cinematic soundtrack comprising big band classics and contemporary hits, alongside the distinctive Southpaw movement vocabulary: "fluid movement is a joy to watch... as elegant as ballet...uplifting their audience in a spectacle that is joyfully Mephistophelean." (Eve Stebbing, The Daily Telegraph)

"Just seen them two nights running...absolutely awesome, I could watch them every day, just incredible." audience member, Faust

"...a highly charged, riveting 44 minutes which had the audience whooping and cheering." Peter Lathan, British Theatre Guide

Technical Information

Extensively R&D'ed, including Work in Progress performances at PDSW and Dance City in 2016.

Now created for initial preview in Spring 2019, with extended touring in 2020.

Venues have the chance to experience the work and gain a long lead in time to develop the audience engagement.

The spectacle behind "Speakeasy" is created by award-winning Novak and acclaimed digital creators Frieder Weiss and Matthias Hartig.

Projection mapping, stereoscopic cameras and an interactive programming language allows performers to appear as a shadowy devil or a mist of smoke and to dance through raindrops of fire.

A soundtrack that is at once vintage and contemporary, intimate and spectacular: big band classics such as Count Basie, alongside contemporary legends such as Tom Waits.

A cast that include some of the UK's finest BBoys and contemporary dancers: combining breaking and contemporary seamlessly with Charleston, Lindy and swing styles of the roaring 1920s.

- Length: 60 minutes
- Get In: 09:00 – 18:00 the day before the show
- Get Out: immediately after the show
- Performance Area: 12m x 10m (can be discussed)
- Technical Staff: Two staff required for duration of visit
- Lighting and Sound Plans Available Autumn 2018
- Pre-rig and Dance Floor Required

Engagement

COMMUNITY CAST

Southpaw has delivered over 350 sessions of participatory activity and our ethos is loosely grouped into Inspire, Encourage, Participate, Develop.



Swing Tyne group in Speakeasy at Dance City

Inspire: Performances are often the first contact with Southpaw and we then **encourage** with consistent communications to sustain engagement and support **participation:** Southpaw attracts fierce loyalty from community casts, most of whom have no previous experience of dance or performance, and they often **develop** more actively in the arts.

At each venue, we will work with a local swing dance group as an essential part of the performance, conveying the buzz of a true Speakeasy.

AUDIENCE

Southpaw Dance Company attracts diverse audiences -Audience Agency figures from Without Walls from the original tour of "Carousel" indicated:

- 12% were 16-24%; 43% were 25-44, 18% were 45-54; 27% were 55+
- 44% of 16-24 year olds were BAME
- 32% were from Audience Agency segments of low engagement (compared to 17% for indoor ticketed arts).

Our experience in outdoor touring gives Speakeasy a springboard to attract those existing audiences into indoor venues to experience dance.

Speakeasy Audience Reactions

"Great story-telling & exceptional lighting responsive to breath-taking dancing"

"Really enjoyed it. Keep developing, should be on the West End!"

"London and New York here you come. Absolutely fabulous."

"The most powerful piece I may have ever seen. Explosive!"

"Work in progress? Pfft. Blown away!"

"Vibrant, Energetic, Fizzing!"

"Fabulous. More please!"

"Absolutely brilliant!"

Southpaw Audience Reactions

"It is one of those rare moments in theatre that reminds you that life is worth living"
Audience member, Carousel

"The best dance performance I've seen, full-stop."
Audience member, Rush

"The biggest change was not any in the show, it was the change to our hearts, the change to our souls, and the change to our lives."
Participant, RUSH Hull



Further Information

SPEAKEASY TRAILER

<http://southpawdancecompany.co.uk/project/speakeasy/>

OTHER VIDEO CONTENT

<http://southpawdancecompany.co.uk/project/rush-hull/>

<http://southpawdancecompany.co.uk/project/faust/>

SOCIAL MEDIA

www.southpawdancecompany.co.uk

Twitter: @SouthpawCompany

Instagram: @SouthpawCompany

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/southpawdancecompany/>

Photo Credits: Dan Prince

BOOKINGS AND ENQUIRIES

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SPEAKEASY



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