



"Sky-high street dance with a golden touch...  
It's awesome."

Sanjoy Roy, The Guardian

# ICARUS

Icarus is the brand new outdoor work from Southpaw.

Featuring an impressively mythic set of wings, with blistering lifting and contact work alongside Southpaw's distinctive mix of intense physicality and narrative, Icarus is a dance theatre interpretation of the classic Greek myth.



Obsessed with the skies, we see Icarus in his quest to achieve flight. Using dance and the distinctive, highly physical language that Southpaw has become known for, Icarus leaps, flips, and flies, ever raising the stakes in the bid to attain flight, ever looking upwards.

A hybrid of choreography and puppetry allows the audience to experience the tale of Icarus first hand, complete with 16 foot wings that enable Icarus to soar through the skies.

# FORMAT

Icarus exists as both a promenade performance with a unique lifting mechanism that allows Icarus to soar above audience members, and a static 30 minute dance theatre production that relates the narrative of Icarus's encounter with the Sun.



Icarus was co-commissioned by GDIF and The Place through Stomping Ground, and received funding from Stockton International Riverside Festival and South Tyneside Council.



## FEEDBACK

**“It was a wonderful piece, so moving, so strong. Southpaw Company’s reputation grows with each project. They make contemporary dance not only accessible but create a sense of ownership in their audiences and performers.”**

**Ray Spencer MBE**



**"Stunning. Just brilliantly stunning. #icarus with @SouthpawCompany is out of this world."**

**Russ, audience member**

**"All I can say is wow I have never known a buzz like that in my life."**

**Andrea Hoban, community cast**

# SOUTHPAW DANCE COMPANY

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.



# SOME OF THE COMPANY'S ACHIEVEMENTS

Originated six large scale participatory works:

"RUSH", "Wordplay", "The Future of Things Past", "Erimus", "Beautiful Thing", and RISE.

750 community participants, and estimated audiences of 15,000.

Created touring works:

"Faust". "Carousel", and "Icarus".

Over 125 performances and estimated audiences of 90,000.

Delivered over 500 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
- Directed "Leave to Remain", a new musical for the Lyric Hammersmith

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



**SOUTHPAW**  
DANCE CO.

# ROBBY GRAHAM - ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

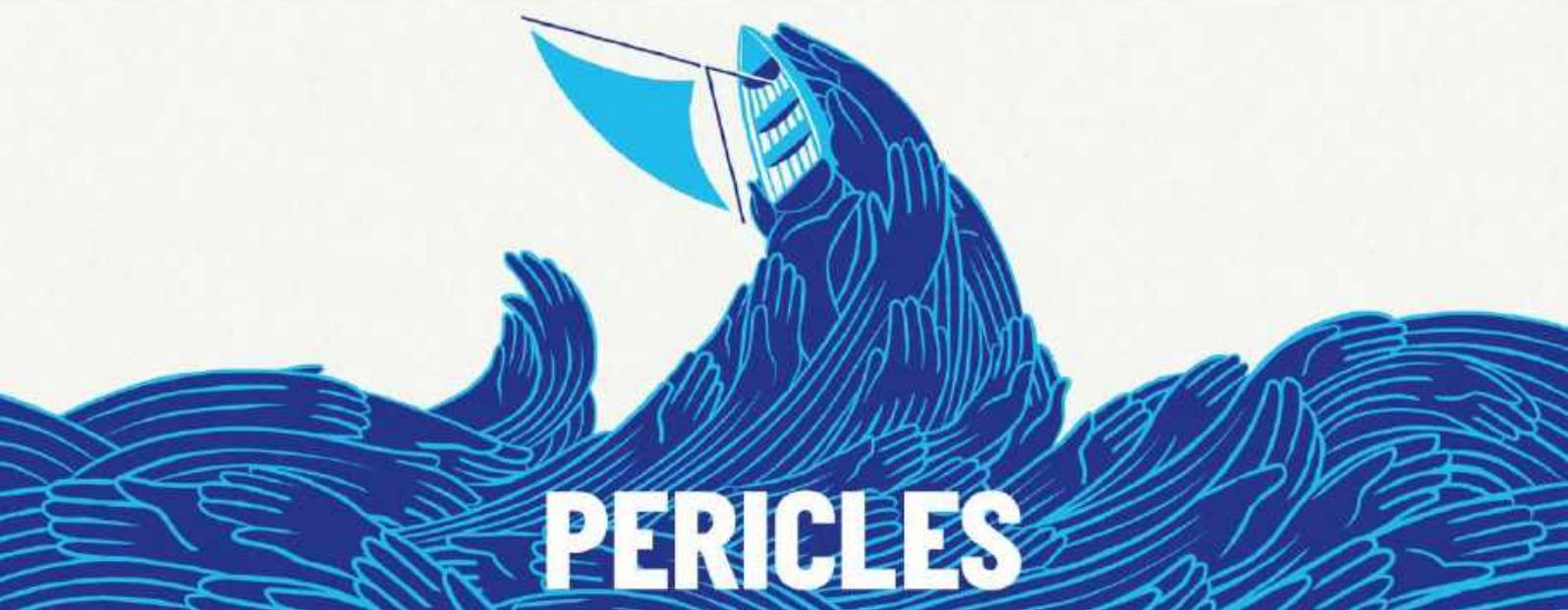
Robby Graham has a uniquely compelling choreographic vision, honed by years of inspiring audiences who have never bought a ticket to see contemporary dance, have never actively sought out dance performance, as well as to sold out festivals and theatres.

Robby creates work based in a strong physical movement vocabulary, with universal imagery and relatable content, whether working with a professional dance cast, with actors, or with large scale community casts.



Strong thematic elements have included growing up in the wake of a terrorist attack, the tyranny of body image, and the prevalent global culture of protest and riot: accessible work, spectacular and intimate, reflecting larger issues through the magnifying glass of personal stories.

Robby was choreographer for Maximo Park's video for "Get High (No I Don't)", Movement Director for Marianne Elliott's acclaimed production of "Angels in America" at the National Theatre, and for "Pericles", the first in the National Theatre's Public Acts programme. Robby created "Beautiful Thing" as the finale for Greenwich + Docklands International Festival, and directed "Leave to Remain", a new musical for the Lyric Hammersmith.



## AUDIENCE REACTIONS

“...fluid movement is a joy to watch... as elegant as ballet. All on stage have an uncanny, gravity-defying poise... uplifting their audience in a spectacle that is joyfully Mephistophelean.”

Eve Stebbing, The Daily Telegraph

“When I grow up I want to be someone like that”

Audience member, Speakeasy



“It is one of those rare moments in theatre that reminds you that life is worth living”

Audience member, Carousel

“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

## **iCARUS TRAILER**

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

## **OTHER VIDEO CONTENT**

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

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

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

## **SOCIAL MEDIA**

[www.southpawdancecompany.co.uk](http://www.southpawdancecompany.co.uk)

Twitter: @SouthpawCompany

Instagram: @SouthpawCompany

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

## **BOOKINGS AND ENQUIRIES**

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# ICARUS



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