



**SOUTHPAW**  
DANCE CO.

**RUSH**

# RUSH

RUSH is a large scale, touring, site-responsive, mass movement 50 minute spectacle for audiences of up to 3500.

RUSH was inspired by a 21st century phenomenon: all over the world people are showing their dissatisfaction with prevailing social and economic conditions by taking to the streets to protest.

Are there opportunities for engagement and dialogue that were missed? Why do so many people feel that, even in a democracy, their voices are not listened to?

Through the lens of their stories we tell the wider story of the issues people in areas of low engagement face.



Originally commissioned by Cultural Spring and South Tyneside Council in 2015, RUSH has been staged by Freedom Festival Hull in 2017, and LeftCoast in Blackpool in 2018



# IMPACT

"You bring so much light, life, joy and kindness with you! I know you have changed our lives for the better. "

"I'm so glad I decided to do something for myself and I'm determined to keep that up and continue with more new ventures."

"So many people of varying abilities from every different walk of life... coming together to take on this challenge and performing as ONE incredible presence. Everyone should be so proud!"

"Woke up and I'm still buzzing about Rush. I'll be honest I've never been a fan of dance but thanks to Southpaw Company I'm now a convert. The way Rush handles the local tales of impact of austerity was most impressive, and inspiring.







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

Created touring works:

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

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.



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# ROBBY GRAHAM - ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

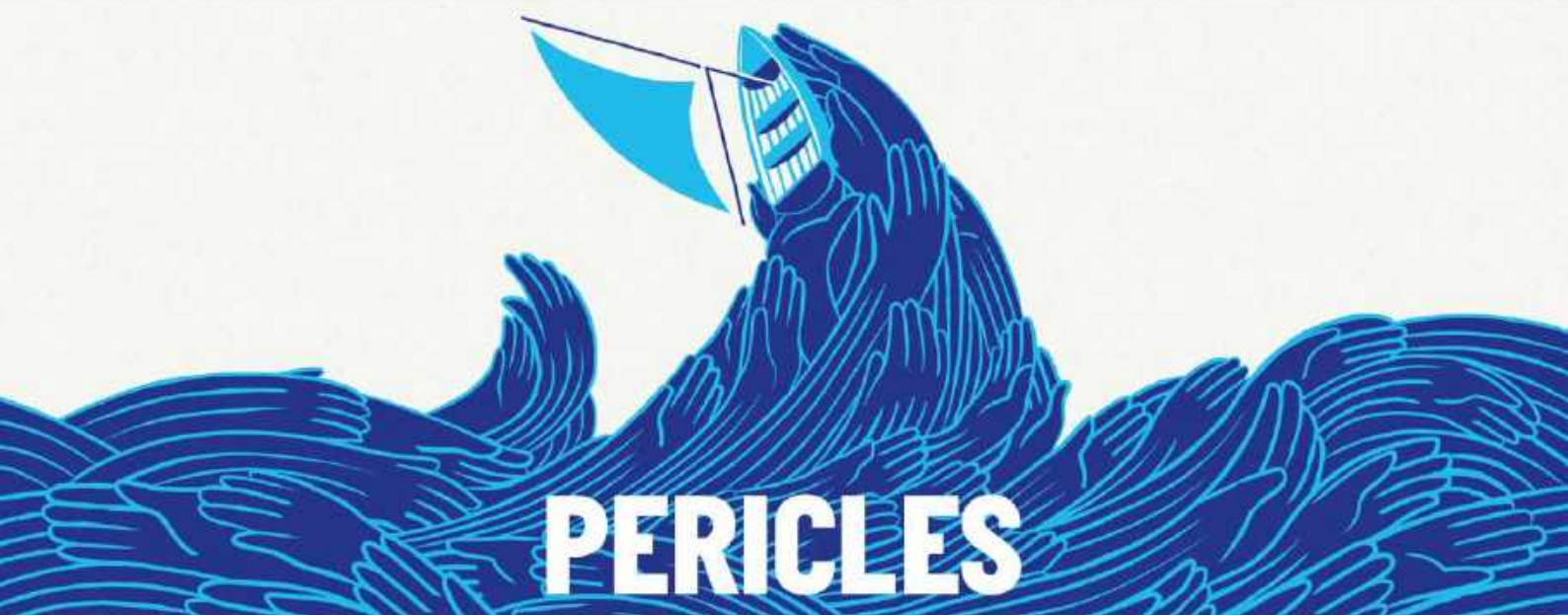
Robby Graham has a uniquely compelling choreographic vision, honed by years of inspiring audiences who have never bought a ticket to see contemporary dance, have never actively sought out dance performance, as well as to sold out festivals and theatres.

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

## RUSH TRAILER

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

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

<http://southpawdancecompany.co.uk/project/rush-2015/>

## OTHER VIDEO CONTENT

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

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

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

## SOCIAL MEDIA

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

Twitter: @SouthpawCompany

Instagram: @SouthpawCompany

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

## BOOKINGS AND ENQUIRIES

[info@southpawdancecompany.co.uk](mailto:info@southpawdancecompany.co.uk)



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