

THE MOMENT WHEN...●●●

Groups Newsletter, No. 1

6th Feb 2012

What is The Moment When...?

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The Moment When... is a large scale participatory dance performance project taking place in the summer of 2012, where three outdoor shows will take place at iconic locations across Cheshire and Warrington: Chester Racecourse, Orford Jubilee Park in Warrington, and Tatton Park in Knutsford.

Specialists in dance, aerial work, music, light, costume, fire and pyrotechnics will come together for each of these shows: in Chester, 29th May, celebrating the Olympic Torch arrival in the North West, in Orford Jubilee Park, Warrington, June 16th and with Tatton Park, July date tbc, providing a spectacular rural finale to the trilogy.

The Moment When... is one the major events of

the Cultural Olympiad in the North West, and is being co-produced by Cheshire Dance and Walk the Plank, with the support of Cheshire West and Chester Council, Cheshire East Council, Warrington Council and the Arts Council England.

2012 promises to be an inspirational and exciting year, and The Moment When... is inspired by the moment an athlete first decides they want to become an Olympian, as well as moments of change in everyday life. There will be up to five hundred community performers in each show, working in up to sixty-five different performance groups. Each of these groups is involved in the creative development of the shows.



Rehearsing at Chester

Alongside the three shows, The Moment When ... will see thousands more from schools, community groups or staff teams to take part in dance flash-mobs happening in public spaces along the Torch Route, as well as school playing fields, office forecourts and gardens throughout the summer of 2012.

Thank You for Getting Involved

Being involved in The Moment When... means being involved in one the largest and most exciting Cultural Olympiad events taking place not only in the North West, but in the whole of the United Kingdom.

Whichever show you are in - Chester, Orford Jubilee Park or Tatton Park - we know it also means making a commitment to come along to a number of rehearsals and site visits.

As someone who has made this commitment,

everyone at Cheshire Dance and Walk the Plank would like to say a big **THANK YOU!**

The Moment When... is your project and without your creativity, inspiration, and effort it just would not be happening.

Working with Walk the Plank

Cheshire Dance are one half of the artistic team who are producing The Moment When...

Along with the dance performances, each show will contain spectacular special effects and pyrotechnics, as well as dramatic displays from aerial artists who will be suspended among the landscape and architecture of each location.

Walk the Plank is our creative partner, an outdoor arts organisation specialising in spectacular events and community engagement, based in Salford, Greater Manchester.

Walk the Plank have been behind many of the largest events of this kind in the United Kingdom over the last two decades - including the closing ceremony of the Manchester Commonwealth Games in 2002 and the Liverpool European Capital of Culture celebrations in 2008 - originally formed as a touring theatre company back in 1991.

This saw them launch the United Kingdom's first theatre ship, a converted Norwegian ferry, which toured



walk the plank
a creative force in cultural events

the coastline performing in the towns where it harboured.

Walk the Plank quickly became recognized for the spectacular nature of their theatre productions, and have come to specialise in outdoor performances, fire and fireworks, and engaging communities in their work. Along with their office in Salford, they have workshops across the North West, where The Moment When... staging will be made, and fireworks will be fused.

What to Expect During a Site-Visit

A site-visit is when the dance groups involved in The Moment When... meet and rehearse in the space where their performance is going to take place. In the performing arts, an outdoor performance space is called the site.

The site-visits are some of the most important moments in the development of the project. The Moment When... shows will last around forty-five minutes and each performance will have between fifteen to thirty different groups involved. The artistic directors have only the site-visits to make sure all the groups and sections are pieced together to create a whole show.

Dancing or rehearsing outside is very different to dancing or rehearsing in a normal studio space. There are many challenges that dancers will have to get used to, including the weather, the ground-under-foot, and the possible presence of the general public who are not aware of the purpose of

the site-visit.

Before coming to a site-visit, you might want to think about the following things

"The Artistic Directors only have the site-visits to sure all the performers and sections are pieced together to make the whole show"

Are you wearing appropriate clothing? Temperatures can change extremely quickly when you are outside, so it is sensible to bring lots of layers. If possible, you should bring waterproof jackets and trousers, gloves, hats, and scarves always make a difference.

Are you wearing appropriate foot-

wear? Waterproof shoes with a good grip are best.

Even when it is cold, the sun can be very strong, particularly on a clear day. Wide-brimmed hats, sun cream, and lip balm are good ways of reducing the effects of being in the sun for a long time.

If you are asked to attend longer rehearsals, breaks will be planned into the day. However, you might be on-site for most of the day and adequate food and drink should be brought to ensure energy and hydration levels are kept up.

We want all dancers involved in The Moment When... site-visits to enjoy working in outdoor environments before and during their shows. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to talk to your group leader, your facilitator, or one of the Cheshire Dance team.

The Moment When... on-line

In the lead-up to the this summer's Olympic Games, the media will be covering lots of events and celebrations.

This coverage will include The Moment When..., which will feature in local newspapers and news reports, and may be mentioned in the national media.

So that The Moment When... is given the highest possible profile, a website promoting the project is going live in the middle of February.

As well as having information for people who want to come along

to the shows, there will be a section especially for you - the participants.

*Support
The Moment When...
on Twitter by following
@cheshiredance
and using hashtag
#themomentwhen2012*

The website will have information and updates on site-visits and re-

hearsals, as well as forms and documents you might need to complete. Please keep an eye-out for the website . The address is www.themomentwhen.org

There is already a Cheshire Dance Facebook page, which has loads of information about The Moment When.. If you haven't yet, make us a friend and see what other people involved in the project are doing.

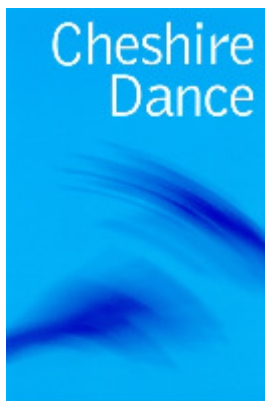
You can also support The Moment When... on Twitter by following [@cheshiredance](https://twitter.com/cheshiredance) and using the [#themomentwhen2012](https://twitter.com/hashtag/themomentwhen2012) hashtag

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The Moment When... Facilitators

Each of the shows in The Moment When... has a number of facilitators working on it. Each facilitator is responsible for co-ordinating the work of up to six of the dance groups participating in the project. Your facilitator should be the first point of contact for any questions or concerns. If this isn't possible, you can also contact Cheshire Dance using the details opposite.



The Moment When facilitators - why not see if you can recognize yours!

The Moment When ...

