

# Morph Dance Company

presents

## three

Bear witness to the pain of growth, the enlightening freedom of youth and the certain, contemplative darkness of mortality.

Body, mind and spirit: the physical, mental and spiritual make up of a human being. Words, acts and deeds enable us to navigate in the world around us.

How much of our shared experiences can be summed up by a single number?

### **Collaborators**

Subhash Viman, TJ Lowe, Andy Hamer, Jean Abreu,

## Morphed

***Morphed*** is a solo dance piece created by British dancer Subhash Viman in collaboration with Indian choreographer Veena Basavarajiah with music composed by the prestigious Niraj Chag.

The piece looks at how the performer, through their international identity, must embrace, abandon, adapt and adopt ideologies of nationality, religion and culture that together weave images of 'the self'.

### **Collaborators**

Subhash Viman, Veena Basavarajiah, Niraj Chag, Andy Hamer, Donald Hutera

## Fly From

***In the end you are only left with your flesh and bones to speak***

***Fly From*** is an abstract response to the ongoing violent oppressions and uprisings happening around the world. Influenced by both the Standing Man of Taksim Square in Istanbul and the struggles of Buddhist Monks in Tibet, the influences on this new choreographic work will counter-pose peaceful forms of protest with more extreme acts of resistance such as hunger strikes, silent fasts and self-immolation and their effects on the body.

### **Collaborators**

Subhash Viman, Saju Hari, Carl Stevenson

## Quotes and Reviews

*'fresh, cheeky, intelligent...a true reflection of a multilingual dancer'*  
Piali Ray OBE

*'an astonishing talent'*  
Catherine Love at The Place, London

*'a journey of self-discovery and man's exploration of the world around him'*  
Harvey Bhogel at Desi Blitz

*'ominous...Subhash possesses a unique choreographic vocabulary'*  
Harvey Bhogel at Desi Blitz

*'arresting...never less than lucid'*  
Brian Seibert of *The New York Times* on **Morphed**, performed during the *Erasing Borders Festival* 2015, NYC

*'a seamless merging of lofty classical dance with observed movement and gestures of males, transforming from Hindu Gods to spitting and nose wiping loiterers, done with panache and grace'*  
Pulse Connects on **Morphed**

*'exudes angst and frustration...gorgeous gestural hands...[a] focused performance'*  
Maya Pinder, *The Insanity in Dancing* on **Fly From**

## Artist Biographies

### Subhash Viman, Performer/Choreographer

Subhash Viman is a promising new talent in the realm of dance who is heavily influenced by hip-hop, urban and contemporary dance styles. He subsequently trained in classical Indian dance under acclaimed teachers in the UK and India learning Bharathanatyam from Chitrleka Bolar and Chaaya Kanavate and Kathak from Nilima Devi MBE and Asha Joglaker.

Subhash danced his way into India's most popular TV dance show Just Dance in 2011. He received extensive training from top Bollywood hip-hop choreographers Javed Sanadi, Paul Cardoz and Rahul Shetty and received acclaim from judges Hrithik Roshan, Farah Khan and Vaibhavi Merchant. He was honourably invited to perform for the crème de la crème of Bollywood alongside Amitabh Bachchan for his 70th birthday celebrations.

His other credits include the stage adaptation of Kiran Nagarkar's **God's Little Soldier** produced by Theatre Freiburg, Germany. He worked alongside Aakash Odedra with whom he co-choreographed and performed in a later tour of Germany. Subhash also developed the movement vocabulary for **Murmur**, a new work by Aakash Odedra and choreographer Lewis Major.

In the US and Europe, Subhash reached yet higher acclaim touring with **Get on the Good Foot** produced by Apollo Theatre in New York celebrating the life and work of James Brown. Back in the UK, Subhash performed with Phizzical Productions in their show **The Nautch Girl**; a dance adaptation of the 1899 Urdu novel Umrao Jaan Ada about a Lucknow courtesan choreographed by Sonia Sabri.

With considerable support and endorsement from Arts Council England, Subhash has also set up his own dance company to explore yet further fresh, exciting performance possibilities.

He has been commissioned by the British Council and Sampad South Asian Arts to create a dance piece for the Tribhangi Dance School based in Midrand, South Africa.

### Andy Hamer, Technical Director

After an invitation to study Scenography at Central St Martins School of Art, London and avant-garde Czech Theatre & Opera Design at DAMU School, Prague, Andy Hamer gained an MA in Scenography. He has since established a distinctive style of working mostly within contemporary dance and site specific performance.

Past work includes projects with Louise Kateraga's company Foot in Hand, (Place Prize semi finalist), commissions for The Royal Ballet, The BBC Elstree Concert Band, site responsive dance with Choreographer Adesola Akinleye, Instillation performances working with Sherman Cymru, Scenography consultant for National Theatre Wales rural touring project, Lighting Design for circus theatre company Cirtus Arts, ongoing working practice with Choreographer Sally Marie and company Sweetshop Revolution and recent collaboration with Marc Brew Dance Company and Dame Evelyn Glenie.

### TJ Lowe, Choreographer

Theo 'TJ' Lowe has trained professionally in Hip-Hop and Contemporary Dance Theatre and performed internationally in all genres. He has performed on tour with companies such as Punch Drunk, Ace Dance and Music, Jean Abreau Dance and T.R.A.S.H Netherlands. He has also performed under the direction of innovative kathak choreographer Akram Khan MBE and the world touring dance company of Hofesh Shechter.

### Veena Basavarajaiah, Choreographer

Veena is a freelance performer and choreographer working with various dance companies as well as collaborative work with musicians, theatre and multimedia artists. She has worked with renowned contemporary dance companies such as Shobana Jeyasingh Dance Company (UK) & Attakkalari (India) as well as performing on various platforms across Europe. She was awarded the Young Achievers Award 2007 in Uganda and is also an empaneled artist of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations.

She is also a dance writer for various online platforms in India and Pulse Magazine (UK). She has completed a Masters in South Asian Dance Studies at the Roehampton University (UK).

## Saju Hari, Choreographer

Saju began his career with such companies as Imlata Dance and Bedlam Dance before joining Shobana Jeyasingh Dance Company from 2003-2007.

For the next two years, Saju toured the world in Akram Khan Company's Bahok, a collaboration with National Ballet of China. Among other engagements, Saju danced with Mavin Khoo in Gustav Holst's opera **Savitri** and in William Tuckett's **The Thief of Baghdad** at the Royal Opera House Linbury Theatre. Recently Saju joined Fabulous Beast Dance theatre for the new production **Rian**, a collaboration with musician Liam O Maonlai.

Since 2002 Saju Hari has created his own choreography commissioned by The Place Theatre, London and the Royal Opera House. Saju was also a semi-finalist as a choreographer in the Place Prize 2011 competition in London.

## Jean Abreu, Choreographic Mentor:

Born in Brazil, Jean choreographed his first work in 2003 and later that year was honoured with the Jerwood Choreography Award. Since then, his work has toured throughout the UK, Europe and Brazil including performances for London Dance Umbrella, the Royal Opera House and the Southbank Centre.

His work in theatre includes choreography for the Young Vic's **Amazonia** and The Red Room's **Oikos** and Protozoa Productions. He also collaborated with the Mavron String Quartet to create **Boulevard of Broken Dreams**. Jean has been an Associate Artist at The Place, Swindon Dance, South Hill Park, The Hat Factory, Luton and an Artist-in-Residence at Dance East.

He founded Jean Abreu Dance in 2009. His first work for the company **INSIDE** with music by 65daysofstatic, received 4 and 5 star reviews at its premier in the 2010 Edinburgh Festival Fringe. He subsequently created **Parallel Memories** in collaboration with Brazilian choreographer Jorge Garcia, which premiered at the 2011 Edinburgh Festival Fringe and toured to Brazil.

In 2012 Jean collaborated with Director Topher Campbell of The Red Room Theatre and Film Company on a Channel 4 film commission that was part of the Random Acts series curated by the Ballet Boyz. He also researched and developed the new work **Blood** for its premiere in May 2013.

## Donald Hutera, Dramaturge

Donald Hutera is a veteran international arts journalist, writer, editor and commentator specialising in dance, theatre and live performance. His work has appeared in The Times of London, Time Out, Dance Europe, The New York and Los Angeles Times, londondance.com, Animated, The Winchester Guide and many other publications and websites in the UK and abroad. He co-authored The Dance Handbook and edited The Rough Guide to Choreography, among other books. Additionally he has served on the judging panels of Total Theatre Awards, Casa Festival and BE Festival.

Since 2013 Hutera has been curating GOlive Dance and Performance Festival and Women GOlive presenting work in London, Oxford and Winchester. He co-founded Chelsea Arts Collective aka CAC in 2014, receiving two consecutive commissions from InTRANSIT Festival (2015 and '16). For Guardians of Doubt (GoD) he devised Scary Grant and created with h2dance the audience development touring performance Choreographus Interruptus, which was presented at The Place, London and in Nottdance Festival.

Hutera is also a prolific mentor, dramaturg, course leader and PR who has worked with such artists, companies or organisations as Creation Box London, Ignition Festival, Rebecca Evans/Pell Ensemble, C-12 Dance Theatre, Shane Shambhu, Salah El-Brogy, Zoi Dimitriou, Rhiannon Faith, Dam Van Huynh, mapdance. Sally Marie/Sweetshop Revolution, Sarah Kent, Gloria Sanvicente Amor, Lorna V, Resolution Review, Aerowaves Springback Academy, Mousetrap Productions, English National Ballet's Dance is the Word and Taiwan Season, Edinburgh Fringe 2016

## Niraj Chag, Composer

Niraj Chag is a London-based composer and artist whose work spans a wide range of albums, film scores, theatre and live events.

Significant theatre commissions include the Olivier Award Winning **Rafta Rafta** (National Theatre, 2007), **Much Ado About Nothing** (Royal Shakespeare Company, 2013) and **Dara** (National Theatre, 2015).

Niraj has also scored over 20 dance productions including Shobana Jeyasingh's **Classic Cuts** (Royal Opera House, 2012), an avant-garde piece which merged South Indian Carnatic music and Bollywood samples.

## Carl Stevenson, Digital Designer

Carl Stevenson has contributed film and artistic instillations to many UK, US and Europe based companies and festivals since the beginning of his creative career in 1991.

Notable works include: ***From Where I Am Standing***, a film commission from South East Dance that explored the illusion of gravity through dance that was shown on Channel Four; ***FLOW***, a collaboration between The Place, London and the homeless charity Crisis following dancers living on the streets of Liverpool and ***Contamination***, which toured 50 festivals including London Film Festival, Milan Film Festival and Los Angeles Short Film Festival and was awarded Best Film at Experimenta Film Festival 2003 and London Animation Festival 2004.

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