

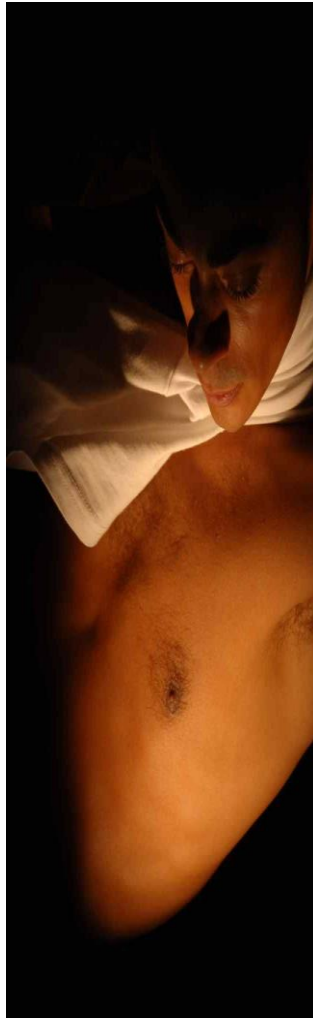
# Company Fierce Academy Presents *1*

*1* *Dancer*



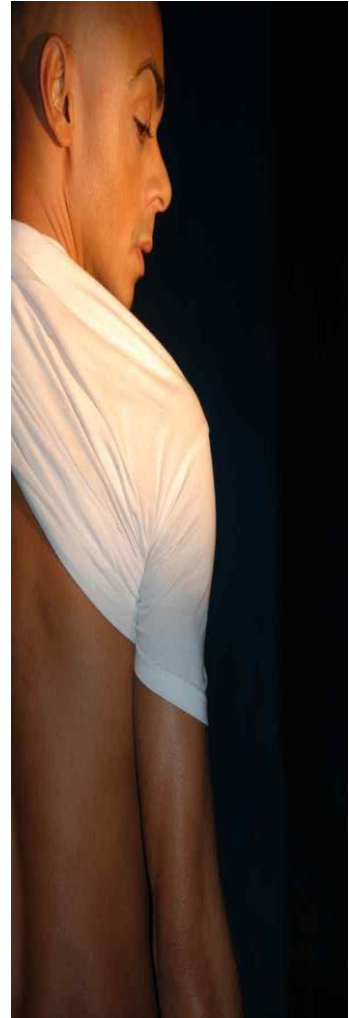
**PERFORMANCES**

*1* *Audience*



**WORKSHOPS**

*1* *Experience*



**RESIDENCIES**

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR: DARREN PRITCHARD

**CONTACT:** Donna Pritchard **EMAIL:** [donna@companyfierce.co.uk](mailto:donna@companyfierce.co.uk)

**TEL:** +44 0161 209 2004

**WEB:** [www.companyfierce.co.uk](http://www.companyfierce.co.uk)

## COMPANY FIERCE ACADEMY: 1: BACKGROUND

CFA was founded by choreographer and dancer Darren Pritchard in 2001. After success working with other dance organizations, Darren was funded by North West Arts Board to create his own piece of work, Funkadelik, which was also supported by Khemtech and DIGM. Funkadelik – with dancers skillfully balancing, spinning, diving and falling off speakers – premiered in The Mission (Choreographic Black dance platform), followed by a small-scale tour around Northern England. The success of Funkadelik led to the Company being granted an 'At Home' residency for emerging artists at Contact Theatre in 2002. This in turn led to the creation of CFA's first major work Plasma Intermix. CFA was selected as one of the first two incubated companies (alongside Quarantine) by PANDA (Performing Arts Network and Development Agency). The company was officially launched with a showing of its entire portfolio of professional work at the PANDA showcase in December 2002.

A strong educational program grew alongside the development of professional work, with CFA running numerous after-school and education dance workshops, including Yield, a large scale dance piece involving different community youth dance groups, performed in December 2001 as part of the Dance of Black Origin season. This is where the developing excellence and motivating excellence seedlings were formed. Follow link for more information on program's

<http://companyfierce.co.uk/about-fierce/company-fierce-dance-academy/>

CFA developing excellence won a highly prestigious ART 06 which opened up a whole new direction for CFA. CFA developing excellence program now has a dedicated team of teachers and voluntary staff that are constantly raising the standard of work the CFA delivers. 2004 seen CFA choreograph work for New York based live artist Penny Arcade in her show Bad Reputations. CFA also received a commission to choreograph for Manchester Youth Dance Theatre's 21st anniversary. 2006 saw a collaboration with Quarantine Theatre Company to create a show entitled 'Susan and Darren'. This show became a success for the company winning awards and touring nationally and internationally putting CFA firmly on the map. 2008 saw CFA diversifies its portfolio by delivering a collaborative piece with Walk the Plank entitled 'Gulliver's Boom Box'. This toured nationally to various outside festivals in England. CFA are now developing working, touring teaching and performing around the UK and Europe.

## COMPANY FIERCE ACADEMY: 1: DARREN PRITCHARD ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Darren Pritchard is a unique and dynamic choreographer training in some of the world's best dance institutions and dancing for world class dance companies (Random Dance) which has lead to him to be in high demand as both a performer and choreographer. Being a versatile choreographer has enabled him to work with some of the biggest names in dance, television, theatre, fashion and entertainment industry (Mel C and Vocal house diva Inaya Day). Darren is a gifted and creative choreographer breaking the mould of convention. Darren's choreography and teaching skills have allowed him to work both nationally and internationally. Darren's varied training has seen him choreograph urban street dance routines, contemporary dance repertoire, traditional West African, musical theatre and afro Caribbean dance hall.

Darren's understanding and vast experience in television, fashion, film and theatre makes it easy for him to collaborate with directors, producers and crew to create stunning effects and striking choreography. He has truly innovative and creative repertoire of work with imaginative use of lights, costume, choreography and music, which melt together to keep CFA and Darren Pritchard right at the forefront

Darren's works is diverse and always unconventional using many different mediums to create dance such as film, art installation and music.



## COMPANY FIERCE ACADEMY: 1: THE SHOW

'1' is a unique dance experience where beautiful music and pure dance are combined together to create a skilfully crafted dance solo that is shared with one audience member at a time. Once the rules of engagement are laid out and boundaries are set, you will have a private dance for your eyes only.

Research and development – By Darren Pritchard

'1' was originally conceived out of an artist in residency 'AIR' programme at Contact Theatre in 2009. After choreographing, touring and performing two large scale shows I wanted to create a piece that really connected with an audience and had the feeling that the performance was special to them.

I have had the privilege through my work of being the only one in a rehearsal room with amazing dancers performing just for me and it's always been a great privilege and felt very special when they have invited me in to experience their work. I wanted to see if there was any way I could share the experiences I have had with an audience. To help me in my quest I invited a long time collaborator Stuart Bowden to join me in the residency to see could we explore this.

I always want in some way for my work to connect with the world in which it inhabits so for this piece I interviewed lap dancers and exotic performers because they through their work even though in the sex industry have to dance one on ones all the time I also wanted to give the work an edginess.

It was very interesting what came out of the research and interviews, one element that struck me was how scientific the girls were on what they were doing, they talked about connecting with people (in their case men and sometimes women), space, proximity, and what makes a good lap dance from a bad lap dance.

One of the main components to a successful dance I learnt was that if the men where passive and allowed them to do what they do best they would have a better experience. One particular performer went into detail about timing, pace, intension and also the list of extensive rules they had to abide by during their dance during our R&D we broke many of these.

I love the fact that in this piece the audience member is part of the show. When I have performed it I can clearly see the audience member's face, nervous smiles and intense looks. I have nowhere to hide as a performer during the performance of this piece sometimes that scary but in a weird way as also very empowering.

For video of R&D follow link <http://companyfierce.co.uk/1/>

## COMPANY FIERCE ACADEMY: 1: PREMIERE

'1' was premiered 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2011 with 26 performances. Darren created a special experience based on Jonathan Harvey's 'Beautiful thing'. This is one of the experiences available for touring;

Audience Feedback: '1' - 'A Beautiful Thing'

### '1' Feed Back Form

Please take a minute to tell us your thoughts and feelings about what you just have experienced:

vulnerability and  
humanity and being  
left and leaning  
and like stepping  
into the unknown,  
a bit scary and  
but it was beautiful  
really fragile.

Thank you!

### '1' Feed Back Form

Please take a minute to tell us your thoughts and feelings about what you just have experienced:

I thought I'd be looking at one  
performer, but didn't grasp the concept  
of being one audience member. It was  
utterly beautiful, intimate and non-  
threatening. It made me think of  
'life' trying to grab the attention of  
each individual and the dance was  
(to me) like having a conversation  
with life and seeing how beautiful  
it is to be human.

I really loved the poetry of the  
movement and think the performance  
was brilliant!!

### '1' Feed Back Form

Please take a minute to tell us your thoughts and feelings about what you just have experienced:

Highly emotional experience  
Intimate + totally unthreatening  
Feel immediate connection  
Empathy  
Wasting! More - not more  
instantly! More dancing!  
So uplifting and calming.  
Wonderful juxtaposition of  
lyrics + action  
Artist as object? → ~~not the case~~  
on equal level as you as audience  
feel objectified somewhat too

### '1' Feed Back Form

Please take a minute to tell us your thoughts and feelings about what you just have experienced:

A fantastic, beautiful performance.  
So nice to see pure dance.  
No fluff just dance. It was  
a very personal performance  
and I felt it was specially  
for me (although I know it  
wasn't). I liked not knowing  
what to expect - although  
I did expect no shirts!!  
So good to see Darren  
dance, it has been a long  
time. Well done! superb!!

## COMPANY FIERCE ACADEMY: **1**: THE EXPERIENCES

### *'A Beautiful thing'*

Inspired by the themes of Jonathan Harvey's - A Beautiful Thing - love, fantasy, acceptance, struggle and sexuality.

Space Size: Suitable for studio theatres

For performance video please see link: <http://companyfierce.co.uk/1/>  
(Royal Exchange premier)

### *'Equestrian'*

A cheeky tongue in cheek boy-lesque performance with interesting use of a horse crop! Where the dancer represents both the rider and the horse!

Space Size minimum: 13ft x 10 ft

### *'Goodbye'*

Exploring the use of a portable ballet barre, as a means of support the performer falls, climbs and straddles the barre in this evocative dance performance

Space Size minimum: 13ft x 10 ft

For performance video for latter two see link <http://companyfierce.co.uk/1/>  
(Please note this is from our voyeur cam and filmed live)

These pieces can be performed and adapted for many spaces as long as we have a day in the space to adapt the piece and measurement of space prior to performance



## **TECH**

Get around 4 hours

2 performers and 1 technician on the road

For further technical information contact company

## **FEE**

Please contact company for fee

## **MARKETING**

Company Fierce Academy will provide:

A5 flyers amounted agreed with venue

A3 or appropriate sizes amounted agreed with venue

Images appropriate for brochures and website

The Venue will need to provide:

Photocopies of our A4 1 page black and white program

## **REVIEWS FROM PREVIOUS TOURING WORK: SUSAN AND DARREN**

This is not so much a performance as a gift – one that comes straight from the heart.” Lyn Gardner -The Guardian

“One of the most original, intimate, warmly human and movingly open-hearted shows I’ve seen in a very long time.” Manchester Evening News

“It’s the best night out I can remember” Miriam King, total Theatre

“Susan & Darren feels wonderfully fresh and unscripted: they just talk to us, even when they're acknowledging how theatrical this is”. Zoe Anderson independent

