PROGRAMER'S PACK

THE SHOW

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ABOUT THE WORK

STRAPLINE
A joyous blend of music, laughter, dance and storytelling.

COPY
Swing Sister Swing takes the audience on a journey behind the glitz and glamour of the modern swing dance scene.

This show interrogates the politics of partner dance, the complexities of race and gender within the swing community, and the magic of what we make together. Featuring six powerful women and a six-piece band - the dancing and music may be vintage, but this is no nostalgic throwback.

Written by celebrated theatre-maker Natasha Brown, *Swing Sister Swing* is directed by Olivier award-winning Director Miranda Cromwell with choreography by Lana Williams, original music by Two Twenty Two and Musical Direction by Annette Walker.

Photo Credit Ray Malone Photography

ABOUT THE COMPANY

Swing Sister Swing leads self-expression, creativity and collective joy through jazz music and dance. Co-founded by Cat Foley & Nancy Hitzig in 2018, Swing Sister Swing is a female-led swing dance and theatre company that specialises in public programmes, original captivating shows & workshops for people of all ages and abilities. Swing Sister Swing brings together dancers, musicians, storytellers and artists who champion the stories of jazz music and dance greats, alongside the modern feminist stories of women in swing dance today. Whether in the community, or on stage, all the work is female-led, reflective of modern society and presents at minimum 50/50 gender equity across all activities.

TESTIMONIALS

Nikki Smith- Head of Events and Production Rich Mix

"Having watched the driven and ambitious development of Swing Sister Swing, we're pleased to support them as associate artists at Rich Mix. Female-led, feminist thinking, Cat and Nancy's unique take on narrative driven dance means that their work has a style all of its own. They combine the best elements of dance and theatre to create stories that are uplifting and relatable, making a traditionally nostalgic form relevant and engaging to a modern audience. Swing dance is quintessentially about partnership and community. Swing Sister Swing are poised to tackle the challenge of keeping that spirit alive in the new socially distanced digital world."

Francesca Peschier- Associate of New Work Liverpool Everyman & Playhouse

"Swing Sister Swing is an innovative and exciting project that the Everyman and Playhouse new works department are invested in. I was particularly impressed with the energy and skill of the company of dancers, their shared modern stories of women in swing and jazz dance and the all-female and gender minority big band that recorded their original score. Cat and Nancy's ambition and feminist approach is refreshing in a form that is often perceived as heteronormative and nostalgic while also uplifting stories of female jazz makers in both historic and modern ways."

FOOTAGE

ABOUT THE SHOW (Video)
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1CQo7pUnGIhH-apN-hRIQ2q_Y_IOxwmuv/view?usp=sharing

WHY WE MADE THE SHOW (Video)
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1dQhPIkthOVkC9zZScKFFp9xWvpDaTcdu/view?usp=sharing

CREDITS

CREDITS

Swing Sister Swing by Natasha Brown

Creative Team
Writer
Natasha Brown
Director
Miranda Cromwell
Movement Director
Lana Williams
Costume Design
Charlotte Henery
Lighting Designer
Zak Macro
Musical Director
Annette Walker
Composers
Two Twenty Two
Assistant Musical Director
Ashley Blasse
Associate Director
Joseph Hardy
BSL Consultant
Daryl Jackson

Cast
Charlie | Nancy Hitzig
Deej | Cat Foley
Jaspreet | Manorma Joisi
Violet | Antoinette Harrison
Daphne | Colbert Newsome
Jodie | Rebecca Solomon

Musicians
Aleksandra Topczewska (Alex)
Joseph Oti-Akenteng (Joti)
Maria Grapsa
Amy Baldwin
Valerie Mensah

Company Co-Artistic Directors
Cat Foley and Nancy Hitzig
Producer
Treacle Holasz, Nancy Hitzig, Cat Foley
Initial Dramaturgy
Emily Aboud

Stage Manager
Cam Mitchell
Technical/ Tour Manager
Lars Davidson
Production Assistant
Emily Hamilton-Matthews

Supported by
Arts Council England
RichMix
Liverpool Everyman & Playhouse theatres
Canada Council for the Arts

LOGISTICS

- INSURANCE: The company holds their own company PLI insurance covering all dancers.
- PRSF: The Company take responsibility for the show's PRSF
- UKBA: All dancers and creative team have the right to work in the UK.

MUSIC	Live music
CAST	X5 piece band and dancers X6 dancers
DURATION	70 MINUTES without interval.
AGE GUIDANCE	16+
TRIGGER WARNINGS	No strobe, flashing lights or pyrotechnics will be used.

2022 TOUR DATES

26 March 2022 -Arts Depot
29 March 2022 - Rich Mix
2 April 2022- Theatre Royal Bath
10 - 11 June 2022- Liverpool Everyman & Playhouse
24 - 25 June 2022- Rich Mix

Previous dates and support:
2019 Richmix, London (sold out)
2018 The Arcola - Grimeborn Festival (sold out)

Previous partners include: the Arcola Theatre, English Heritage, English National Ballet, Liverpool Everyman & Playhouse, ONE Dance UK, Rag Factory London, Rich Mix, Royal Albert Hall, Sadler's Wells, Southbank Centre, Step Change Studios, Wilton's Music Hall, Young Music Makers. Projects supported by: National Lottery Project Grants from Arts Council England, received support from the Canadian High Commission and held two highly successful crowdfunding campaigns raising over £5,000.

Photo Credit Ray Malone Photography

OUTREACH WORKSHOPS

We are experts at devising new work around the experience and collective joy of dance, versus the act of dancing. To partner with Swing Sister Swing, is to hire exceptional quality performers & practitioners where 50/50 gender equity or female-leadership is a given – all centred around the themes of cooperation and empowerment. We are committed to supporting communities and individuals through our inclusive and accessible workshops. With our vast experience in facilitating we are keen to tailor our workshops to suit the needs and interest of your audience.
Whether it's for the general public, young people, or a community interest group – we are leaders in getting people moving and using lindy hop as an entry point to social history, social dance and collective joy.
Our workshops bridge the gaps between music, theatre & dance education.

Fundamentally joyful, our Swing Sister Swing artists get to the heart of self expression, improvisation, incredible music and fun!

From 20 minute taster classes to workshops or even projects, we will work with you to deliver high quality engaging activity for all to enjoy.

Workshop Format - All our workshops and tasters can be online or offline and consist of a variation on the following model:

- Warm Up
- Authentic Jazz Steps
- Creative Exercises (e.g. improvisation, social dance, games)
- Cool Down

Workshop Outcomes - what we want participants to feel they've achieved

- Discover and or develop an interest in lindy hop & gain an understanding for it
- Have a greater self confidence in moving by themselves and with others to original new jazz music as well as the greats!
- Learn lindy hop from the only all-female lindy hop company in the world!

Lastly and most importantly for us, we want to establish a relationship with your venue, audience and community. We hope that the workshops will further both interest in the show and our future work but also offer an insight into our unique process as a company in combining dance, theatre and music.

Workshop Logistics:

- We need a safe, clean place to move.
- We can teach indoors or outdoors.
- We need access to a PA/ Power source (possibly head mics depending on capacities and the space)
- We are happy to work with any COVID guidelines your venue is operating with, please email us them 6 weeks prior to the workshop.

CONTACT

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Follow our story on Instagram @swingsisterswing