

1 FEBRUARY 2020

Phoenix Dance Theatre awarded grant from Garfield Weston Foundation

We are delighted to announce that we have been successful in our application to [Garfield Weston Foundation's](#) Culture Fund. We have been awarded a grant of £167, 441 which will be used to support our recovery from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, especially in this crucial year where we mark our 40th birthday. It will enable development of a creative programme across multiple platforms and for a range of venues, from theatres to outdoor spaces. This will ensure that the company is equipped to respond to changing scenarios once the lockdown measures are lifted.

The Weston Culture Fund received many applications with requests totalling over £128 million. The fund exists to support the sector to restart its work, refresh activities and re-engage audiences following the ongoing impact of the COVID-19.

Our Executive Director Charis Charles said: *"We are incredibly grateful to the Weston Culture Fund for awarding us this grant which will support the production of a creative programme that accommodates a range of different scenarios whilst simultaneously securing the financial stability of the organisation in these precarious times.*

Phoenix celebrates its 40th birthday this year and despite the impact of COVID-19, we are committed to producing a hybrid programme of creative and education work that celebrates this landmark moment and the achievements of the last four decades."

Philippa Charles, Director of the Garfield Weston Foundation said: *"Our cultural sector is at the heart of our local communities providing not only entertainment but education and inspiration for many. Our Trustees were impressed by the entrepreneurial spirit shown across the arts in response to Covid-19 and it was a privilege to hear what organisations had been doing to not only survive but also to reinvent the way they reach audiences. What really stood out was the level of collaboration and support they had for each other and the determination to keep going, despite the increasingly difficult situation.*

We all want and need our cultural sector to thrive and, if anything, our time away from the arts has shown just how important they are to us – bringing much needed pleasure and enrichment to our lives. Arts organisations are desperate to re-open

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and get back to what they do best, and we hope that this new funding will help many of them do exactly that.”

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For images, please see the following link. Please note the images expire on the 8th February: <https://we.tl/t-o8BHCvCuo0>

For media enquires please contact:

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Notes to editors:

Phoenix Dance Theatre

Founded in 1981 by three black British men from Harehills, Leeds, Phoenix Dance Theatre is one of the UK's leading contemporary dance companies. Over nearly four decades the company has grown to be internationally respected for their artistic programmes which encapsulate the diverse spirit of multicultural Britain. Each year the Company embarks on national tours presenting critically acclaimed dance productions to audiences throughout the UK and further - reaching up to 20,000 people and engaging with up to 6,500 people through the Company's extensive education provision.

Phoenix Dance Theatre is the longest-standing contemporary dance company outside London and one of few mid-scale contemporary dance companies to employ a permanent company of professional dancers. Phoenix Dance Theatre's aim is to create dynamic, diverse and relevant work that embodies the Company's rich Caribbean history and shines a light on cultural narratives which are often overlooked or untold.

Rooted in Nadine Senior OBE's principles of providing the highest quality, accessible dance provisions, the Company's Access & Education department is celebrated for inspiring and empowering people through the medium of contemporary dance. They are committed to providing opportunities for all through provisions which range from regular weekly classes as part of their Saturday School and Illuminate Dance programmes, prevocational training in the Youth Academies based in Leeds,

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Gateshead and York – to bespoke schools' packages working on Cross-Curricular or performance led projects.

Phoenix Dance Theatre's presence both on and off the stage continues to develop and establish diverse new audiences for contemporary dance.

Garfield Weston Foundation

Established over 60 years ago in 1958, the Garfield Weston Foundation is a family-founded, grant-making charity which supports causes across the UK and gave over £88 million last year. It has donated well over £1 billion to charities since it was established.

One of the most respected charitable institutions in the UK, the Weston Family Trustees are descendants of the founder and take a highly active and hands-on approach. The Foundation's funding comes from an endowment of shares in the family business which includes Twinings, Primark, Kingsmill (all part of Associated British Foods Plc) and Fortnum & Mason, amongst others – a successful business model that still endures today; as the businesses have grown, so too have the charitable donations.

From small community organisations to large national institutions, the Foundation supports a broad range of charities and activities that make a positive impact in the communities in which they work. Around 2,000 charities across the UK benefit each year from the Foundation's grants.

