

## ZooNation

### Into the hoods

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#### 1. Press release

## ZooNation INTO THE HOODS

Peacock Theatre, London WC2  
Thursday 20 - Sunday 23 July 2006  
Press night Thursday 20 July 2006 at 8pm

E4 UdderBELLY  
3 – 28 August 2006 at 3.45pm  
Previews Thursday 3 and Friday 4 August 2006  
First press performance Saturday 5 August 2006 at 3.45pm

Following sell-out success at the Peacock Theatre earlier this year, UK Hip Hop dance company **ZooNation** play another short run at the London venue prior to storming into Edinburgh with the hit urban streetdance fairytale, *Into the Hoods*.

The performance in Edinburgh will take place at the brand new venue from the Underbelly Organisation – The UdderBELLY.

***'one of the UK's hottest young dance companies'* The Independent**

ZooNation presents its own humorous and energetic take on Sondheim's subversive musical, *Into the Woods*. Using their trademark narrative streetdance theatre style, the company updates the action to an urban setting, telling the story of two children lost in the 'hood'. An evil landlord befriends the children and they are offered a room in his tenement block on the condition that they work for him. Reluctantly, the children embark on their mission which leads them to the flats of Spinderella, where they discover gold adidas trainers; Lil Red, the owner of the bright red hoodie; Rapper, the producer of the finest quality long weave (hair extensions) in the city, and Jaxx (who lives in the basement...), the owner of a white Ipod. But is stealing really the way to get out of the hood?

***'An inclination to brilliance.... Sondheim gets an update in a witty hip hop rendition of Into the Woods'* The Observer**

ZooNation is widely respected for their work in motivating young people through Hip Hop and street dance and the Edinburgh dates will be accompanied by regular Hip Hop workshops. The dancers range from ages 7 – 30 and the principal dancers are aged eleven and twelve. Under the direction of Kate Prince, ZooNation helps young people through scholarship programmes and workshops and brings Hip Hop culture to a wider audience by developing narrative street dance theatre. When not performing with ZooNation, the professional dancers from the crew perform internationally with *Jamelia*, *Black Eyed Peas*, *50Cent*, *Beyonce* and on tour with *Bounce*.

**'Kate Prince has a sit up and take notice talent' Donald Hutera, Dance Europe**

Director Kate Prince regularly choreographs for TV and work includes the popular BBC series *Strictly Dance Fever*, hosted by Graham Norton, and MTV's *Bust-a-move* with Chris Judd. She says: "The whole point of ZooNation is to try and get kids involved in dance projects. And we have so many group members who act as a positive influence for any young people wishing to get into dance. Everyone in the adult group is a pro-dancer who makes their living through dance and we just want to show young people that if you work hard enough, you can make a living through street-style dance."

[www.zoonation.co.uk](http://www.zoonation.co.uk)

**For further information please contact Ben Chamberlain/Jill Cotton at Chamberlain AMPR on 020 7240 5220/ 07838 144 992 or email [admin@chamberlainampr.com](mailto:admin@chamberlainampr.com)**

**For press tickets please call the Underbelly Press Office on 0870 745 3078 or email [press@underbelly.co.uk](mailto:press@underbelly.co.uk)**

**Listings**

ZooNation '*Into the hoods*'

Peacock Theatre, London WC2  
Run: 20 - 23 July 2006  
Tickets £15-£18  
Box Office 0870 737 0337  
Book online [www.sadlerswells.com](http://www.sadlerswells.com)

E4 UdderBELLY, The Pasture, Bristo Square, Edinburgh  
Performance time: 3.45pm  
Previews: 3 & 4 August  
Run: 5 - 28 August (not 15 August)  
Tickets £6 - £13 (conc.£6-£12)  
Box office 08707453083  
Book online: [www.underbelly.co.uk](http://www.underbelly.co.uk)  
Workshops: 4 - 27 August, £5 per person, see [www.underbelly.co.uk](http://www.underbelly.co.uk) for further details

## **2. Company history**

2005 saw ZooNation performing in theatres and festivals across the country, on television, in music videos, and featuring in magazines and on radio.

After returning to perform at *Breakin Convention* - International Festival of Hip Hop Dance Theatre for the second time and with the support of Sadlers Wells, ZooNation have performed at West End Live in Leicester Square (billed alongside *Chicago*, *Mary Poppins* and *Mama Mia*), at the Mayor of London's *The City Speaks* Concert in

Trafalgar Square, at the *Celebrate Oxford Street* Festival (billed alongside Rachel Stevens and Liberty X), and at Big Foot Production's Summer Dance Festival for Peter Newton and Chris Baldock. ZooNation also performed supporting Heather Small at the Official Olympic Celebration live in Trafalgar Square.

Television credits have included two appearances on Ginger TV / Sky One's teen morning show *Whatever* (including a live performance in the studio and interview with Kate Prince), creating the opening sequence to the re-launch and new series of *Popworld* on Channel 4, and appearances on BBC News, Sky News and LondonTonight from the *Olympic Celebration* and *Celebrate Oxford Street*.

As a troupe ZooNation performed in Will Young's new DVD/video *Happiness* choreographed by Ashley Wallen. ZooNation were also selected as one of three companies/choreographers to take part in HotHouse 2005 at The Place, along with Jonzi D and Frank Wilson, led by the highly respected and experienced Bboy Storm. The company was also featured in an interview and shoot for Company Magazine and were guests on an hour long show on BBC Radio London discussing Hip Hop and Dance. Our highlight of the year however was performing at the Choreographer's Carnival Ball at Cirque Hippodrome in May where we performed Teardrop for the first time.

ZooNation are very proud to have had so many of our company successfully audition and tour with *Bounce - The Street Dance Sensation* in both 2002 and 2005, particularly Amy Butterfield who worked as performer, Dance Captain and eventually Resident Director on the show and Teneisha Bonner who will be joining the original Swedish company to tour their new show in 2006.

ZooNation is an extension of Zoo Theatre Company (ZooTC), founded by Kate Prince in 1993 when she directed Alan Ayckbourne's *Woman in Mind* at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe at the age of 18. ZooTC produced many shows at the Edinburgh Fringe including *42nd Street*, *Girls R Tapping* and the hip hop/street revival of *Little Shop of Horrors* (see Reviews). ZooNation was created in 2000 when Kate started teaching at Pineapple Dance Studios in London, which led to their debut performance in London of *BoxBeat* at the Lilian Baylis Theatre at Sadlers Wells in 2002. Whereas ZooTC mainly produced musicals the emphasis with ZooNation is dance, choreography and creating narrative in Hip Hop Dance Theatre.

The company ZooNation is comprised of 10 core members who are:  
Kate Prince, Teneisha Bonner, Shaun Niles, Roger Davies, Rowen Hawkins, Amy Butterfield, Chantal Spiteri, Jeffrey Felicisimo, Sacha Chang, DJ Walde

ZooNation is very excited about the cast of *Into the Hoods* who are joining them in 2006, from performers as young as 7 years old to the highly respected director of *Boy Blue*, Kenrick Sandy, choreographer Frank Wilson, film director Felix Harrison and dancer Caramel.

### **3.Kate Prince**

#### **KATE PRINCE – CHOREOGRAPHER/ DIRECTOR**

##### **Commercials / Idents**

Kelloggs Poptarts (Dir: Sacha Moore, Emap), Levis (Dir: Dave Edwards, Flextech), Bump n Grind (Dir: Dave Edwards, Flextech) Mary-Kate & Ashley Weekend (Dir: Neil Bennett, Nickelodeon)

##### **Television**

Strictly Dance Fever (BBC), Mighty Truck of Stuff (Endemol / Initial, BBC 2) Bust-a-Move (assistant to Chris Judd - MTV) Nike Rockstar - MTV '4 to the Floor' (Judge-

MTV), Faking It (Teacher – RDF, Channel 4), Smash Hits Pollwinners Party (Emap, Channel 4) Christmas in Popworld (At It Productions, Channel 4), Disney Kids Choice Awards (Albert Hall, Disney), Top of the Pops (BBC 1), Top of the Pops Saturday (BBC 1), CD:UK (Blaze, ITV), Discomania (ITV), Pop World (At It Productions, Channel 4), Ministry of Mayhem (ITV), Whatever (Ginger TV, Sky One), The Agents (Endemol, CBBC), Britney...Baby One More Times (At It Productions, Channel 4), Fanatic...Blue (MTV).

#### **Music Video**

Can U Feel it (Dir: Ben & Otis, Alchemy), Hip to Hip (Dir: Phil Griffin, Alchemy), Blood, Sweat & Tears (Dir: Phil Griffin, Alchemy), The Alias – Border Crossing ft. JEHST (Dir: Mark Jay, Full On Films).

#### **Tours / Live Shows**

Busted UK Arena Tour (support act 'V'), McFly UK Theatre Tour (support act 'V') V Live - Shepherds Bush Empire (V Showcase).

#### **Theatre**

NHS - The Musical (Theatre Royal, Plymouth), Snow - The Musical (Sound Theatre, Leicester Square) All You Need is Love – The Beatles Musical (Queens Theatre, West End & Tour) Jesus Christ Superstar – Mountview (Covent Garden), Little Shop of Horrors (Zoo Theatre Company, Edinburgh Palladium), Oklahoma (Guinness World Record, Edinburgh Playhouse), Girls R Tapping (Zoo Theatre Company, Queens Hall Edinburgh), 42 Street (Zoo Theatre Company, Southside Theatre Edinburgh), Chicago (E. U. Footlights, Churchill Theatre Edinburgh), Bugsy Malone (E. U. Footlights, Churchill Theatre Edinburgh), Oz – King of Clubs (Ozmosis Productions Café Graffiti Edinburgh).

#### **ZooNation UK Dance Company**

Into the Hoods (Peacock Theatre, Sadlers Wells), Harry Popper and the Hip Hop Battle (Breakin Convention 06 Sadlers Wells), Avant Garde Collabo (Stratford Circus, London), Breakin Convention 05 (Sadlers Wells), Choreographers Carnival (Cirque, Leicester Square), Dance:Beats (The Place), Fresh (The Place), Giggin (Breakin Convention 04, Sadlers Wells), Resolution (The Place), BoxBeat (Lilian Baylis Theatre Sadlers Wells), Official Olympic Celebration (Trafalgar Square), West End Live (Leicester Square), Celebrate Oxford Street (Oxford Circus), The Mayor of London City Speaks Concert (Trafalgar Square), Damilola Taylor Tribute (Damilola Taylor Centre)

#### **DVD**

FunkFusion – Dance Masterclass (Pineapple Dance Studios)

#### **FASHION**

Tribe 2005 - L'Oreal Redken (Shepherds Bush Pavilion, Salon International, Excel)

#### **TEACHING**

Pineapple Dance Studios, London Studio Centre, Arts Educational School, National Youth Music Theatre, Italia Conti School, Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts, Mountview Conservatoire Performing Arts

#### **QUALIFICATIONS / COURSES**

MA in General Arts – Edinburgh University

#### **DANCE TRAINING**

The Edge, Millennium Dance Studios, Debbie Reynolds Studios Los Angeles, Broadway Dance Centre, New York, Pineapple Dance Studios, London

## **4. Workshops**

ZooNation is a professional dance company but we also have two training groups within the company. For dance students there is 'TNG' (The Next Generation) and for Under 16s our 'Youth Group'. We rehearse with the two groups separately once a week for 3 hour sessions, giving them free training and guidance and preparing

them for roles in the company as they get older and their skills develop. For information on how to audition for either of these groups sign up to our mailing list and you will receive news updates on performances, workshops and auditions.

To accompany the performance of *Into the hoods* in Edinburgh there will be a series of hip hop workshops which are open to ...

For further information please go to [www.underbelly.co.uk](http://www.underbelly.co.uk) or call the Underbelly Box Office on 0870 745 3083

## 5. Biographies

### **SACHA CHANG, DANCER**

**Theatre:** Bounce - The Street Dance Sensation International Tour 2005, Breakin Convention 2004 Sadlers Wells, Dance:Beats 2004 The Place, Fresh 2004 The Place

**TV:** CD:UK, Top of the Pops, Popworld, Smash Hits Pollwinners, Blast Advert BBC, Vodafone Advert, Crash My Bash MTV, MTV Ident

### **ROGER DAVIES, DANCER**

**Theatre:** Simply Heavenly Trafalgar Studios, Beggars Opera National Youth Music Theatre, Breakin Convention 2004 Sadlers Wells, Resolution 2004 The Place

**TV:** Family Affairs Channel 5, Renford Rejects Nickelodeon, Dream Team Sky One, Spit Game BBC, Girls in Love ITV, Top of the Pops, Pepsi Chart Show

**Artists:** Ms Dynamite, Mel B, Oxide and Nutrino

### **JEFFREY FELICISIMO, DANCER**

**Theatre:** Bounce - the Street Dance Sensation International Tour 2005, Dance:Beats 2004 The Place, Fresh 2004 The Place

**TV:** Top of the Pops, Smash Hits Pollwinners Party, CD:UK, Popworld, MOBO Awards, Brit Awards, Disney Channel, BBC Ident, Bump n Grind Ident, Levis Ident

**Artists:** V, Sugababes, Misteeq, Waynes Williams, Boniface, ShyFX

### **ROWEN HAWKINS, DANCER**

**Theatre:** Bounce - The Streetdance Sensation International Tour 2005, Breakin Convention 2004 Sadlers Wells, IDance:Beats 2004 The Place, Fresh 2004 The Place, Resolution 2004 The Place, BoxBeat 2002 Lilian Baylis Theatre, Intoto Contemporary Dance Company UK Tour

**TV:** Trouble TV Ident Bump n Grind, Top of The Pops, CD:UK, SmashHits Pollwinners, Popworld, Discomania

**Artists:** Javine, V, Three of a Kind, Girls Aloud

### **MORE BIOGS TO COME**