

DANCE: Danceworks '95 spans a five-month period and is the biggest yet. Jane Tadman reports

DW95

danceworks

Let's dance

DW95

danceworks

RUNNING alongside Dance Works '95 are a large number of varied dance classes, workshops, community initiatives, pre and post show talks and specialist choreography sessions.

Antony Waller of Rotherham and Sheffield Dance Project has organised a number of classes taking into account different ranges and levels of experience.

Guille Tavares, a dancer, drummer and painter from Guinea Bissau leads an African dance class at The Hub in Sharrow, with a new performance group for teenagers, teaching contemporary techniques and choreographic work at Rotherham Arts Centre. Experienced dancers who want to improve are catered for in a new class run by members of Dance Republic at St Mary's Community Centre.

Numerous dance groups of children and young people are being set up in schools and youth clubs, with a performance group for teenagers at The Leadmill.

One of the highlights of the community dance programme is Sussed, a new performance group for adults and young people in the Lyceum rehearsal space taught by Kathak dance Nilan Panchal combining South Asian and Western dance styles, starting in February.

And the most innovative is a collaborative arts event at the Mappin called Catch Your Drift, a storytelling project for the public using large-scale cartoons, drawings, animation, sound and movement.

The four-part session will be led by Fi Frances (cartoonist/writer), Deborah Mugan (animations) Lisa O'Brien (music/sound) and Antony Waller (movement/action), and the project will culminate in a public performance at the Mappin in April.

For more details on individual classes contact Antony Waller at The Dance Project on 01709 823652.

THIS year's Danceworks '95 is the biggest and most ambitious programme of dance in its four year history, with more than 25 events to be held in Sheffield and Rotherham between February and June.

Nearly all the big names in contemporary dance are lined up including well-known choreographers Siobhan Davies with a world premiere of a new work, Nigel Charnock, Richard Alston and Gillian Lyne, with companies represented ranging from Phoenix to The Featherstonehaughs.

The current festival has grown substantially since the first Danceworks four years ago was held at the Crucible. This year venues include the Mappin, the Merlin, the Crucible and Lyceum as well as Rotherham Arts Centre in a programme put together by the South Yorkshire Danceworks Consortium.

The highlight of the five-month season is the Lyceum premiere of Wild Translations by Siobhan Davies, one of the country's most celebrated and influential choreographers.

She is joined in the festival by Yolande Snaith whose company visit in April, and Richard Alston's new company (formed since the demise of London Contemporary Dance Theatre) in May.



The Union Dance company are celebrating their 10th anniversary

The winner of the Prudential Award 1993, Shobana Jeyasingh, makes a welcome return to the Crucible with a new double bill of Indian dance, regulars Northern Ballet are back with Gillian Lyne's version of The Brontes, and London City Ballet perform Giselle.

Male values are on the agenda in a number of performances, with Nigel Charnock, formerly of DV8, launching

the festival with a new piece called Hell Bent. Sheffield-based Vincent Dance Theatre present Intercourse at the Mappin, and Side by Side, also based locally, are Emasculating Masculinity.

Lea Anderson choreographs a darkly glimmering new show for her all-male troupe The Featherstonehaughs in Go Las Vegas, with Man Act bring The Sweatlodge to the Crucible.

working with a group of six performers employed by Meadowhall Entertainment.

Tickets for all performances can be booked at the Crucible Theatre on 276 9922, except Northern Ballet Theatre and London City Ballet at the Lyceum which will open for booking at the end of March.

Ruskin showcases Work Ethics

On a theme

THE third and last in the series of three exhibitions featuring the work of Fine Art and Design staff at Sheffield Hallam University goes on show at the Ruskin Gallery tomorrow.

Work Ethics: Industrial Design showcases the skills of staff in Art and Design following two earlier shows demonstrating the work of staff in Metalwork and Jewellery and Fine Art.

The design projects range from electric cars for disabled people to disposable scissors used by the medical profession and all the items on display share a common denominator of being both stylish and practical.

One of the most innovative projects is the production of a mobile gas heater developed by product designers at Hallam in conjunction with redundant miners at Thurcroft Colliery.

Together they have come up with a look-a-like traditionally-styled log burning stove, that runs off bottled gas. It looks good, is extremely efficient, and has had won the admiration of Calor, who have offered to market the fire on their behalf.

The miners are now in the process of setting up their own firm, The Black Earth Manufacturing Company and from April when final tests are completed, they hope to make up to 1500 appliances this year, retailing at around £200 and creating about eight jobs.

Another unusual project involved the development of a composite glass and cement material which could have wide use in the building and construction industries, as well as being used for furniture and tiling.

●Work Ethics runs until February 11.

Jane Tadman



The design team with the Thurcroft portable gas fire

THE Graves Gallery in Surrey Street currently is showing a series of themed exhibitions comprising work from the city collection augmented by pieces on loan.

Some great names - Cezanne, Gauguin, Bonnard, Picasso - are represented, along with sections devoted to contemporary drawings and sculptures, allowing keeper Anne Goodchild to claim they are offering both a challenge and relaxation for visitors.

A loan collection of 16 oil paintings and five watercolours by Sir Matthew Smith is regarded as a unique group of work by the leading 20th century British artist who died in 1959, second only to the Barbican's.

Complementing this display is an exhibition of late 19th and 20th century French and British Art which points up the similarities and differences between art in the two countries over the last century and which also shows the French influence on Smith's art.

It includes the Joan Miro Samurai, Rouault's Head of Christ, and Gwen John's Corner of the Artist's Room in Paris. Hats form the common link in an unlikely grouping of Bonnard nude, a litho poster, and a painting by Sheffield's own Sir William Rothenstein.

Other galleries represent more variety on the theme of Old Masters from the National Loan Collection, Pictures for Winter, Pattern, and Contemporary Drawings and Sculpture.

Ian Soutar