



Sarah Trist
Dance Management Agency

Born to Protest



*A Hip Hop dance work for outdoor settings by
Joseph Toonga. NEW FOR 2021*

Joseph Toonga works at the forefront of Hip Hop in the UK and internationally. He describes himself as being in a continual search for an authentic reason to choreograph, and frequently draws on real life stories which make his work resonate with people under-represented in audiences for mainstream arts.



Born to Protest is Joseph's first outdoor work for his company **Just Us Dance Theatre**. It is part of a Hip Hop dance theatre trilogy he is creating to highlight black excellence and challenge racial stigma. ***Born to Protest*** aims to dismantle presumptions about the black male figure based on intimidation, danger and isolation, revealing instead character traits around fragility, vulnerability and a constant battle to prove oneself. This hypersensitivity of the black male body in space is magnified by ***Born to Protest***'s cast of seven* performing *en masse* to a soundscape which sets up an intense energy with Hip Hop beats and voice over.

Born to Protest is a Stomping Ground commission which is an initiative of The Place, DanceEast, DanceXchange and Greenwich & Docklands International Festival. It will premiere in April/May 2021.

*A version for four dancers is available. Another version incorporates local dancers performing alongside the professionals (see Wraparound/workshops below).



Joseph Toonga, originally from the Cameroon, was born and raised in East London where he still lives. He founded his production company **Just Us Dance Theatre**, in 2007 with Ricardo Da Silva and Rudeen February. A major part of the company's ethos is to inspire, support and nurture others and it has established two mentoring programmes, Lets Shine and New&Notable, to provide tools and opportunities for young emerging hip-hop dance theatre artists.

'I feel a responsibility as a black male to empower the younger generation as a role model and example of how dance can provide a positive, successful route. Mental health and black men's experiences of it, are little discussed, which is why I am passionate about creating awareness to shift stigmas' – Joseph Toonga

Wraparound/workshops

Just Us workshops explore the fundamentals of popping, Krump and freestyle within a contemporary dance context, whilst looking at tension in the body, parts of the body in isolation, and intention behind movement. Workshop participants will learn repertoire from ***Born to Protest*** as part of the session.

Just Us is also committed to engaging with local youth groups and providing professional performance opportunities through curtain raiser performances. Joseph Toonga delivers this activity over two days in the immediate run up to the performance.



Booking Details

Availability:	upon request from April 2021
Touring Company:	seven dancers,* Joseph and Producer
Suitability:	12 + (monkey chants can act as trigger and are loud)
Running time:	35 minutes (approximate)
Get in	Minimum one hour before show
Performing Area	ideally 10m x 10 m (minimum 8 m x 8 m) smooth flat and clean surface, no cobbles, audience on three sides
Minimum technical requirements	Good quality sound system with CD player (for back up)
Technical staff required by promoter	one to set up and operate sound
Stewards to be provided by promoter	as required
Time between shows	At least 2 ½ hours
Video trailer (work in progress)	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_Us8OYsdVKE&t=2s
Work in progress (full length)	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IbSQ69gpcdQ&t=2s
UK touring fees	£3100 for two performances on same day and £4400 for four performances (2 on 2 consecutive days) plus travel, accommodation (single en suite rooms) and catering/per diem *
Overseas touring fees	£3100 for two performances on same day and £4400 for four performances (2 on 2 consecutive days) plus international travel, transfers, visa costs, accommodation (single en suite rooms) and catering/per diem, to be paid net of local taxes *
Fees for cast of four *	Reducing cast from seven to four reduces fee by £600 per day.
Fee for Curtain Raiser	£800 plus travel and accommodation for one person
Fee for masterclass	£300 plus travel and accommodation for one person (if scheduled on a different day to the performance)
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