

Akeim Toussaint Buck

Sarah Trist
Dance Management Agency

Free



**An adaptive, immersive performance of
contemporary dance inspired by
reggae dub culture**

“a joyful celebration of reggae culture”

The Guardian

Free is an energetic immersive performance in a dub reggae party setting which gets the audience on their feet to share with the five dancers their message of hopeful freedom and defiant joy.



Free is the latest creation by **Akeim Toussaint Buck**, an award-winning interdisciplinary performer and maker, born in Jamaica and raised in England. He began making his own work upon graduation from The Northern School of Contemporary Dance, launching his own company Toussaint To Move as a vehicle to create moving, thought provoking, accessible and free-spirited projects. The work aims to reflect on socio-political issues, with a humanitarian focus.

Free aims to blur the boundary between watching dance and dancing itself. A must for reggae lovers, the cast perform a contemporary-infused version of skank dancing against a loud, bass-heavy recorded soundtrack of reggae and jazz, written and sung by Buck himself for the show with his band, the Magnificence. The mood is warm and communal, with moments of political activism intervening from time to

time. The set, designed and fabricated by Robyn Hughes and Rhian Kempadoo Millar, is a wall of speakers and banners, and masks and an Ankh cross suspended above the performance space.

For settings without theatre seating, the audience stand or sit on beanbags, taking up the invitation to join the dance at given moments, but there is equally the option to perform **Free** in traditional theatre settings, with the audience seated in the auditorium in the usual way. There is a further option to integrate a community cast on stage, bridging the fourth wall, and encouraging the audience to join the experience as dancers.



“The show’s true strength lies in its willingness to take risks, to disrupt expectations, and to use the power of collective movement to amplify a message of hope and resistance.”

Memesita

“a truly cathartic and communal experience.”

Lou Reviews

Awards and Accolades for Akeim Toussaint Buck include:

Irie Dance Theatre's, Artist in Residence for 2019-2020

Artist for Northern School of Contemporary Dance/Yorkshire Dance/ Spin Arts' Catapult Programme 2019.

Associate Artist 2020-2022 at Deda in Derby.

Associate Artist at Geraldine Connor Foundation.

Recipient of Arts Foundation Futures Award for Dance Theatre, 2023.

Continued support from Yorkshire Dance, Leeds Playhouse, Leeds Inspired, IRIE! Dance Theatre, Transform Festival, ARC Stockton, NSCD, Sadlers Wells and Arts Council England.



Booking Details

Running time:	70 minutes (no interval)
Age guidance:	12 upwards
Number on stage:	5
Number on the road:	7
Get in:	On day before the performance
UK touring fee:	£2200
Overseas touring:	Details on request
Trailer:	https://youtu.be/sd2jqBG0haA
Full length:	https://youtu.be/stCKtMj7f5w
Workshops:	<p>Accompanying workshops explore history and personal narrative as creative tools in dance theatre.</p> <p>Sessions make use of the collaborative expression of the voice and body using Beatmotion, a practice that uses the voice as a musical instrument and for the delivery of text whilst the performer is dancing.</p> <p>Sessions available from 2 hours to 5 hours.</p> <p>Can be used to rehearse community cast</p>
Technical requirements:	<p>Minimum performance space of W 8m x D 6m Clean black harlequin dance floor to cover the entire performance area, free from any holes or breakages. black box masking and full blacks at the back</p> <p>Full range PA system and professional lighting with provision for side lighting</p>
Contact:	<p>Sarah Trist at Sarah Trist Dance Management Agency sarah@stdma.com 07757 654790</p>