

## Phoenix Dance Theatre

### *Inside Giovanni's Room*

Marketing Pack

#### Copy

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##### Short:

**Phoenix Dance Theatre** presents *Inside Giovanni's Room*, a full-length dance production inspired by one of the most important novels of the 20th century, **James Baldwin's** *Giovanni's Room*. Set in 1950s Paris, the new dance work follows Baldwin's narrative, influenced by its themes of love, sexuality, guilt, and self-acceptance.

##### Long:

**Phoenix Dance Theatre** presents *Inside Giovanni's Room*, a full-length dance production inspired by **James Baldwin's** groundbreaking 1956 novel *Giovanni's Room*.

Set in 1950s Paris, *Giovanni's Room* tackles themes of love, sexuality, guilt and self-acceptance. Baldwin was known for writing about the African American experience and was warned by his publishers that his exploration of sexual identity and depiction of same-sex relationships could alienate his audience and potentially end his career. Today the novel is celebrated as one of the most important literary works of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

To mark Baldwin's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, choreographer **Marcus Jarrell Willis** unpacks this thought-provoking novel in a narrative adaptation that examines how its themes are still poignant and relevant today.

Founded over 40 years ago by three young Black British men, Phoenix Dance Theatre's new production builds on their legacy of pushing cultural boundaries and using dance as a platform to ask questions that get to the very heart of what it is to be human.

**Age guidance:** 12+

**Content warning:** *Contains depictions of sexual activity and violence*

## Images & video

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Download high-res photo & video assets here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/2kzgwptmvx0tfcvox45i/ABcUKakRGYFs8Q1EDmmmRxxw?rlkey=xsyuutmb9zecm295i31cg4gqr&st=p20ayn1l&dl=0>

Credits:

- Photography – Drew Forsyth
- Video – Jonny Walton
- Design work – Split

*You will be notified as & when new content becomes available to download.*

## Press

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You can find an example press release here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/2kzgwptmvx0tfcvox45i/ABcUKakRGYFs8Q1EDmmmRxxw?rlkey=xsyuutmb9zecm295i31cg4gqr&st=p20ayn1l&dl=0>

If editing, please send proof to Ellie Grice, [ellie.grice@phoenixdancetheatre.co.uk](mailto:ellie.grice@phoenixdancetheatre.co.uk) for approval before distributing.

Press & journalists are welcome to attend performances. Please forward any reviews or features to the team.

### **Praise for Inside Giovanni's Room:**

★★★★★ (5 stars) “Inside Giovanni’s Room was a thought-provoking and enjoyable experience that showcased amazing talent on and off the stage.” – [Northern Arts Review](#)

★★★★★ (5 stars) “... moving, engaging, gripping and thought provoking from beginning to end” – [Fairy Powered Productions](#)

★★★★ (4 stars) – “This bold new version of James Baldwin’s landmark novel is intimate and expressive” – [The Times](#)

“Inside Giovanni’s Room is a serious, well-produced, meaningful piece..” – [British Theatre Guide](#)

“Phoenix Dance Theatre’s artistic director Marcus Jarrell Willis brings an urgency and groove to a tale of hunger, tenderness and sexual identity” – [The Guardian](#)

**Read more reviews here:** [Inside Giovanni's Room - Reviews Are In - Phoenix Dance Theatre](#)

## Social media

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**Instagram:** @phoenixdancetheatre

**Facebook:** @PhoenixDanceTheatre

**X:** @PhoenixLeeds

### Example posts:

- *This Spring, @PhoenixDanceTheatre bring their brand-new narrative dance work 'Inside Giovanni's Room' to [city/venue]. Witness this moving exploration of love, sexuality, guilt, and self-acceptance here on [date]. Tickets: [link]*
- *In celebration of James Baldwin's 100th birthday, @phoenixdancetheatre's Artistic Director Marcus Jarrell Willis presents his first full-length creation for the company, 'Inside Giovanni's Room'. Following the narrative of Baldwin's groundbreaking novel, Giovanni's Room, experience the live dance work here in [city/venue] on [date/time]. Book your tickets: [link]*

More example posts can be found here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/2kzgwptmvx0tfcvox45i/ABcUKakRGYFs8Q1EDmmmRxxw?rlkey=xsyuutmb9zecm295i31cg4gqr&st=p20ayn1l&dl=0>

## About Phoenix Dance Theatre

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Founded in 1981 by three Black British men from the Chapeltown area of Leeds, Phoenix Dance Theatre is one of the UK's leading contemporary dance companies.

For over 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 of 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 Learning & Development 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, pre-vocational training in the Youth Academies based in Leeds, Gateshead, York, Doncaster and Sheffield – 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.

## **Artistic credits & biographies**

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### **Marcus Jarrell Willis**

Choreography

### **Marc Strobel**

Music Composition

### **Jacob Hughes**

Stage Design

### **Luke Haywood**

Lighting Design

### **Melissa Parry**

Costume Design

### **Tonderai Munyebvu**

Dramaturguy

## Previous tour dates - Spring 2025

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**World Premiere Leeds Playhouse**

Thursday 6 - Saturday 8 March

[Book here](#)

**Birmingham REP**

Wednesday 28 May

[Book here](#)

**Dundee Rep**

Wednesday 12 March

[Book here](#)

**Liverpool Playhouse**

Thursday 5 June

[Book here](#)

**Northern Stage, Newcastle**

Wednesday 19 - Thursday 20 March

[Book here](#)

**Sadler's Wells East, Stratford, London**

Wednesday 11 - Saturday 14 June

[Book here](#)

## Marketing & PR contact

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