

Indoni Dance Academy at the Magnet

UKWHAKHA Part 1, choreographed by Sbonakaliso Ndaba, will be presented by the Indoni Dance Arts and Leadership Academy, at Magnet Theatre, from September 15 to 17.

Ukwakha means 'to build' and Ndaba is constantly striving to build skills in her trainees, build their sense of self worth, build relationships, exploring and pushing the boundaries of human movement.

Ndaba has achieved much recognition for her vibrant, athletic and unique contemporary African choreography, including a number of awards this year. Her works are developed organically over time, responding to current events, ideas and thoughts.

From the age of six she began dancing with friends in her mother's kitchen. She was always the leader and choreographer and used to take advantage of her mom's trip to the shops to quickly move the furniture, practice dancing and have everything spotlessly back in place (aided by her carefully placed guards) before her mom returned.

She spent her childhood creating, observing, building, carving, which has prepared her ability to generate amazing works of art.

Meike Holzman, a German-born musician, has been sponsored by British Council/Arts Council England's Artist International Development Fund (AIDF) to compose original music for this dance work.

Holzmann studied music at the Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts (LIPA) and currently works as a songwriter, piano tutor and musical director, as well as recording with various bands on piano, bass, guitar, percussions and vocals.

Since 2014 she is also the musical director of the Choir With No Name Liverpool, a charity for people experiencing homelessness and others on the edge of society.

Holzmann and Ndaba first met in Liverpool while working with Nu Crossroads Dance Theatre in 2000 and after visiting Ndaba in Durban the following year, where she was running the Phenduka Dance Company at the time, the idea for a collaboration in South Africa was born.

Indoni recently won the Impumelelo Award for Social innovation and has been invited to Australia in October to perform at the Out of Africa Festival. - Staff Writer

● *At the Old Match Factory, Lower Main Road, Observatory. Nightly at 7.30pm, plus on Saturday at 3pm. Book: Webtickets.*