

Why

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Balance

**Because** dance is the poetry of theatre. **Because** so much is gathered at the point of performance – phenomenal physical discipline developed through years of constant practice, astonishing feats of memory, everything mutually and crucially dependent on the precise care of others. **Because** body, mind and spirit are concentrated into a single moment that ennobles human endeavour; every body can respond to that. **Because** dancers dare to present themselves honestly before you, stripped of theatrical defences – the vehicle of narrative, the mask of character: their personalities, their sexualities, their intelligence naked on the stage. **Because** dance demands of you the closest concentration since it defies repetition or recording, slinging ideas through the flesh so fast that they are barely comprehensible. **Because** dance speaks across cultures and often melts them, needing no translation. **Because** dance can effortlessly encompass the diversity of democracies. **Because** dance reaches out as a natural collaborator. **Because** dance brings latest news from the front line, ideas in motion, letting you discover that yes, that's the way the world moves us now. **Because** of all the live arts, only dance can rival the speed and density of image of the new digital media. **Because** the exuberance of the dancer's youth is often endowed with the wisdom of the choreographer's experience. **Because** dance is group creation that requires the highest ensemble playing. **Because** dancers are the most modest of magnificent artists, humbled by the daily decline of their physical instrument. **Because** the integrity of dance is so rarely compromised.

**John Ashford, The Place, London**