

The Place and the Korean Cultural Centre present
A FESTIVAL OF KOREAN DANCE 2021 - live at The Place - 17 – 24 Sep



Company SIGA in Zero, photo by Aiden Hwang

The Place, Korean Cultural Centre UK, and the Korea Arts Management Service are excited to continue their partnership with a fourth edition of A Festival of Korean Dance 2021.

Not only will the return of A Festival of Korean Dance open the autumn season and mark a return to live performance for The Place, but it also offers two UK premieres of new works and the exciting return of international dance artists to London.

“The Place’s Korean showcase gives eclectic insight into (...) Korea’s thriving contemporary dance scene.” The Guardian, 2020.

Sung Im Her is a London-based Korean artist. The Place first introduced her work to audiences in 2019 with *Nutcrusher* and then again in 2020 during the online edition of the Festival of Korean Dance. As a choreographer she explores the essence of movements,

unburdened by cultural or personal meaning, using a minimalist, raw style of movement with strict, geometrical choreographies that are based on iteration.

This year she will present her new work **W.A.Y. (RE-WORK)**, a full-evening piece featuring four dancers and one live musician, exploring the tension between our need for individuality and our longing to belong to something bigger than ourselves. Uncompromisingly intense, both for the dancers and the viewer, the work cycles through a myriad of psychological and social geometries, illustrating our uncertainty and fear, but also joy and sense of growth when addressing this tension in our lives. **(17&18 SEP)**

Company SIGA are one of the most talented up and coming companies in Korea. SIGA is an acronym combining the two Korean words, “시나브로 [sinabro]”, which means ‘little by little’ and “가슴에 [gaseume]” which means ‘into the heart’. The company practice a democratic working style that puts the movements and thoughts of all members together into one complete piece of art. Company SIGA keep ‘Speed’, ‘Basic’ and ‘Body’ as the main three keywords of their group dance pieces, creating natural pace and flow. They will present a double bill of work on **23 & 24 SEP.**

Equilibrium is a duet playing on ideas of balance. Through energetic movements, performers express their evolved selves in relation to nature and the human persona that have gone through infinite cycles of equilibrium and chaos.

Zero is a beautifully crafted group piece for six dancers showcasing the ecstasy of moving towards a higher level of freedom, exceeding physical limitations, before returning back to “ZERO”.

Eddie Nixon, Artistic Director at The Place says *"We're delighted to be partnering with our friends at the Korean Cultural Centre and the Korea Arts Management Service to bring the best of the rich Korean dance scene to London once again. Both Sung Im Her and Company SIGA have, in different ways, intense, hypnotic styles of choreography and we're so pleased that audiences in London will get to experience this live."*

Jungwoo Lee, Director at the Korean Cultural Centre UK says *“We’re delighted about bringing back some of Korea’s foremost contemporary dance companies to The Place again and having a live festival in London this year. Company SIGA and Sung Im Her are very excited to perform in front of UK audiences at the festival. We hope that our dance festival will give UK audiences an opportunity to meet the incredible talent that exists within Korea’s contemporary dance scene.*

Doil Kim, Korea Arts Management Service President says *“We very much appreciate the efforts of The Place, the Korean Cultural Centre UK, and the respective artists who have worked so hard to introduce Korean contemporary dance to UK audiences despite the on-going Covid-19 global crisis. These artists have continued to adapt and develop even when the possibility for performance was restricted. I hope that the showcases of Sung Im Her and Company SIGA send a hopeful message to Londoners about the re-opening of live theatre.*

More information about A Festival of Korean Dance 2021 can be found here <https://www.theplace.org.uk/whats-on/collections/festival-korean-dance-2021>

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Note to editors:

The Place, London's creative powerhouse for dance development, has been leading the way in dance training, creation and performance for 50 years. In a changing landscape, our vision for the future remains steadfast: We are powering imagination through dance, championing new ideas, embracing risks and creating a dance ecosystem unlike any other in the world, with optimal conditions for dance artists and enthusiasts to realise their full potential. The Place is home to London Contemporary Dance School, an extensive theatre and artist development programme, education projects, a range of classes and courses and a nationwide touring model. As a pioneering dance organisation, we are committed to creating no-barriers access to exciting dance experiences and opportunities for everybody, offering a diverse and dynamic theatre programme for audiences, empowering artists and dance makers and giving young people access to the highest quality opportunities to touch their lives with dance. [theplace.org.uk](https://www.theplace.org.uk)

The Korean Cultural Centre UK, opened by the Korean Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism in January 2008 enhances friendship, amity and understanding between Korea and the UK through cultural and educational activities. As well as presenting a diverse range of monthly events focused on Korean performing arts, film, drama, education, cuisine, music and literature, the KCCUK regularly welcomes Korean luminaries from many cultural fields to discuss their work, organises annual film, music and dance festivals and throughout each year holds a number of exhibitions allowing artists to showcase their talent. From the KCCUK's central London location (just off Trafalgar Square), the institution's dedicated cultural team work to further develop established cultural projects, introduce new opportunities to expand Korean programmes in the UK and to encourage ongoing cultural exchange. kccuk.org.uk

The Korea Arts Management Service (KAMS) concentrates on provisions of support and services related to international exchange, and on enhancement of the competitiveness of the Korean performing arts. For that purpose, the KAMS forms various exchange strategies tailored for different regions, and helps tap on overseas markets through its network of international partners.

@KCCUK | @ThePlaceLondon | #Kdancefest | <https://www.theplace.org.uk/> | <http://london.korean-culture.org/en/welcome>

Listings information

A Festival of Korean Dance

17 – 24 SEP 2021

The Place, 17 Duke's Rd, London, WC1H 9PY

Tickets £17 (£13 concs)

020 7121 1100 | www.theplace.org.uk

Sung Im Her | *W.A.Y.*

17&18 SEP, 7.30pm

The Place, 17 Duke's Rd, London, WC1H 9PY

Tickets £17 (£13 concs)

020 7121 1100 | www.theplace.org.uk

Company SIGA | *Equilibrium/ Zero*

23&24 SEP, 7.30pm

The Place, 17 Duke's Rd, London, WC1H 9PY

Tickets £17 (£13 concs)

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