

THE
PLACE

The Place and Extended Play present

HOW TO BUILD A UNIVERSE

AND HOW TO END IT



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ABOUT

Following the critical acclaim of *DONUTS*, **Extended Play** present **to Build a Universe and How to End It**. In his latest full-length piece, choreographer **Jamaal Burkmar** reimagines the formation of our universe with collective human experience at its core. Through a collision of music and movement, audiences are invited to uncover the elemental joy at the heart of **Extended Play**'s practice.

Formed of two parts, **How to Build a Universe and How to End It** opens with improvisation. Starting with a set of predefined parameters, seven experienced dancers and a guest participant unite in an intricate choreographic constellation. Embracing imperfection, witness a unique world come to life as each performance delivers its own distinct experience. The second half is the culmination of that creative process, **Extended Play**'s distinct style of visually striking, mesmerising dance to intoxicating music.

How to Build a Universe and How to End It centres an unrestrained love of music and movement into the fabric of this imagined universe.

Spring / Summer 2022:

- R&D with public performances at BIDE (outdoor)
- The Place's Playground Tour (outdoor children version)

Winter 2022 / 2023: Creation

Spring / Summer 2023: Previews

Autumn 2023 / Spring 2024: Touring



[Rehearsal Images](#)



[Watch Sharing Video](#)



PARTICIPATION

A key element of ***How to Build a Universe and How to End It*** is the integration of a guest participant into the first half of the show to create an improvised routine. During R&D to date, guest participants have included members of Critical Mass (an inclusive dance collective based across the West Midlands for young people aged 16-30), dance students and professional dancers.

Extended Play have crafted a responsive and inclusive model for improvising, with dancers guiding participants through a routine, to produce a thrilling performance every time.

HOW IT WORKS

- We will recruit a guest participant in advance, working with partners and responding to their audience priorities and the needs of their community.
- Participants will join for a 2 hour workshop in the morning before a performance, to learn **Extended Play**'s method and familiarise themselves with the show's format.
- During the performance, participants will join the dancers for the first half, performing an improvised routine for between 5 and 30 minutes.
- The dancers are trained to guide the participants through the improvisation, helping them enter and exit the stage as appropriate.



FORMAT

We are interested in presenting ***How to Build a Universe and How to End It*** in both traditional and non-traditional spaces, working with partners to adapt the piece for a broad range of locations and audiences, including:

- **Indoor Version:** a full-length, 60 minute piece for theatres, studios and other flexible indoor spaces.
- **Outdoor Version:** a 30 minute outdoor version of the piece with minimal technical requirements.
- **The Playground Tour:** a 15 minute duet version of the work adapted for young audiences will tour to Primary Schools playgrounds around the UK in Summer 2022. The Playground Tour is produced by The Place, with support from Applause, The Egg, Dance Reading and 101 Outdoor Space.

We are also willing to respond to commissions, adapting the work to respond to thematic briefs or festival formats.



EXTENDED PLAY

In 2019, Choreographer **Jamaal Burkmar** and Producer **Treacle Holasz** came together to create **Extended Play**, with the aim of bringing high quality dance directly from the stage to people, in a way that can adapt and inspire and instigate change.

Extended Play is known for embracing digital culture, with their *JUKEBOX* Reels series, available on Instagram as well as more traditional theatre, sight specific and online performances. Since forming, the company has presented work at Birmingham International Dance Festival, The V&A and is supported by The Place and Arts Council England.



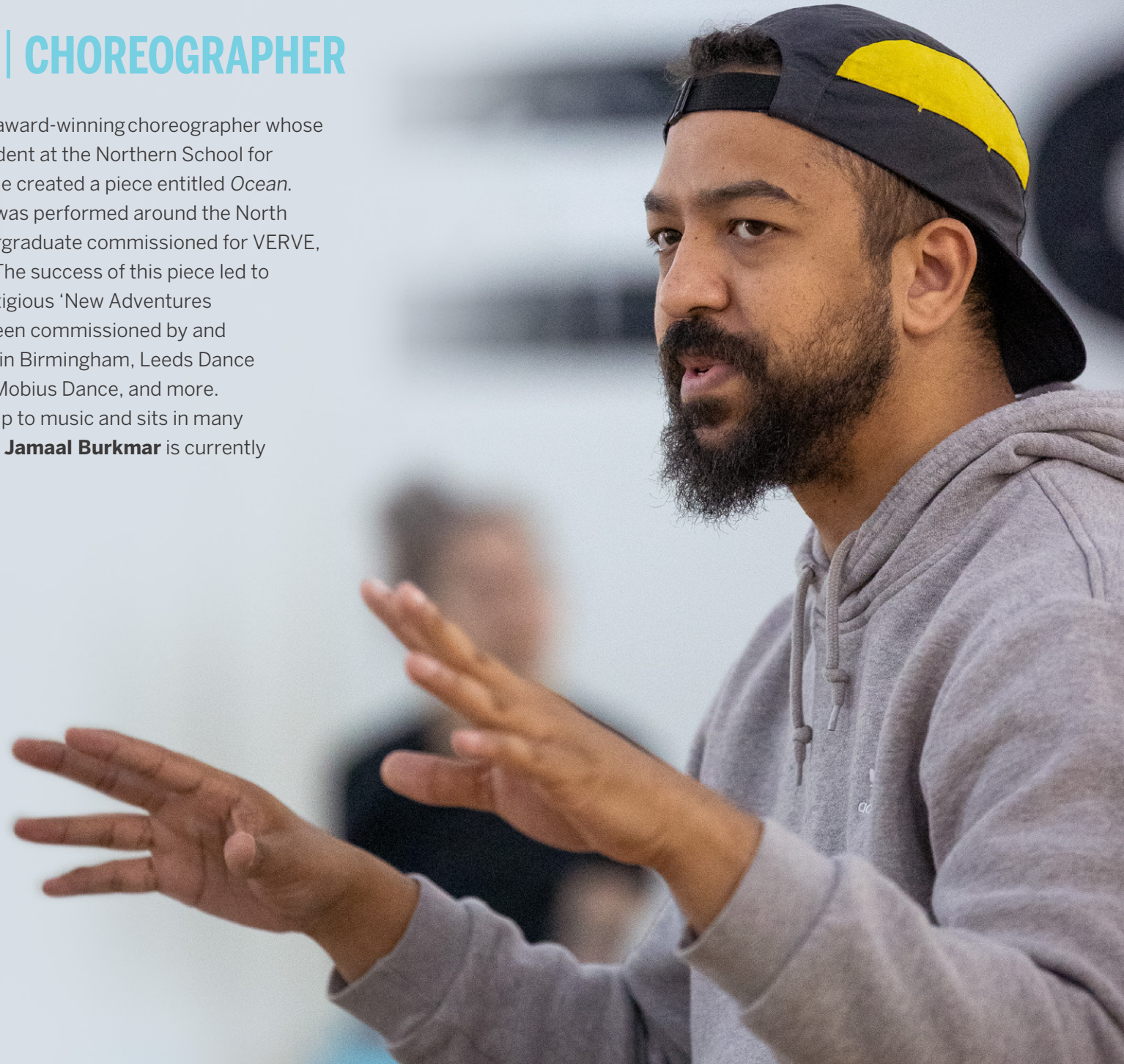
Follow Extended Play on Instagram



JAMAAL BURKMAR | CHOREOGRAPHER

Jamaal Burkmar is an internationally award-winning choreographer whose first creation was as a second year student at the Northern School for Contemporary Dance (NSCD) where he created a piece entitled *Ocean*. The piece gained critical acclaim, and was performed around the North until it became the first and only undergraduate commissioned for VERVE, the postgraduate company at NSCD. The success of this piece led to Jamaal being awarded the highly prestigious 'New Adventures Choreography Award'. He has since been commissioned by and received support from the Dance Hub in Birmingham, Leeds Dance Partnership, Phoenix Dance Theatre, Mobius Dance, and more.

Jamaal's work has a strong relationship to music and sits in many spaces, outdoor, theatrical and online. **Jamaal Burkmar** is currently a Work Place Artist at The Place.



PRESS



‘SO MUCH TO ENJOY AND ADMIRE ABOUT JAMAAL BURKMAR’S PIECE’

The Reviews Hub

‘WARM, FUN AND VERY WATCHABLE’

The Guardian

‘THRILLING AND JOYFUL’

Greenwich Visitor

(Praise for DONUTS, 2021-22)



MARKETING

KEY SELLING POINTS

- **How to Build a Universe and How to End It** is the latest piece from internationally acclaimed choreographer, **Jamaal Burkmar**. **Burkmar**'s latest piece follows the success of *DONUTS*' extensive UK tour, praised for **Extended Play**'s vibrant and joyful style of contemporary dance.
- **Extended Play** is an innovative company with a strong social media presence.
- **Audience Journey:** Audiences will be drawn into the thematic narrative that reimagines the creation of the universe with relatable human experiences and emotions at its core.
- **Dynamic Style:** An upbeat dance style that combines technical excellence with a vibrant and engaging performances.
- **Unique & Thrilling:** The inclusion of a new, local participant in each venue to create an improvised sequence (known in **Extended Play**'s practice as a 'universe') makes each show distinct and different every time. Welcoming participants across a broad range of dance backgrounds and abilities heightens the sense of dramatic tension the audience will feel, not knowing the outcome.

TARGET AUDIENCES

- **Contemporary Dance:** Audiences with an existing relationship with contemporary dance will be fascinated by **Extended Play**'s dynamic and exhilarating practice, appreciating the tension of the improvised sequence more than others.
- **New To Dance:** **Extended Play**'s style of dance combines an exciting soundtrack with aesthetic precision, which makes the piece an accessible introduction to contemporary dance for younger, occasional, or cross-genre dance bookers.
- **Dance Students:** The company has strong connections to dance schools, including **Jamaal Burkmar**'s previous work and performances from recent graduates. We also offer workshops to deepen our connection with local dance schools and groups.
- **Young, Digital Audiences:** **Extended Play**'s social media presence has generated a strong following, which continues to climb due to the popularity of their content. A digital campaign aimed at younger audiences, combined with endorsements with other local accounts and supported by word-of-mouth posting online, will encourage followers to see their *How to Build a Universe* style of improvisation, often featured online, on stage.
- **Music Interest:** **Extended Play** place music at the heart of their creative process, drawing on **Jamaal Burkmar**'s rich relationship with it. **How to Build a Universe and How to End It** promises an exciting soundtrack from across a broad range of musical influences.

AUDIENCE DEVELOPMENT

PARTICIPATION

The inclusion of local participants in the first half of this piece is an exciting audience development opportunity. Responding to our partners priorities and their communities needs, we aim to work in partnership with venues to create a meaningful relationship with the selected participant, in order to create a piece that will resonate with their community.

LOCATION

We are interested in exploring performances in non-traditional spaces.

How to Build a Universe and How to End It has been purposefully created to be able to adapt to spaces, allowing us to reach audiences where they are found.

ACCESS

We are planning to develop an audio description of the work and would like to offer support in arranging BSL performances for venues. Please let us know if you would like to program the performance with AD or BSL.

WORKSHOPS

Extended Play offers workshops for a range of ages and abilities. If you are interested in arranging a workshop, please let us know.





CREDITS

Extended Play and **The Place** present
How To Build A Universe and How to End It

Choreographer: **Jamaal Burkmar**

Performers: **Lou Ditaranto, Dorna Ashory, Maya Carroll,
Fern Grimbley, Ruby Abbas, Nana Appiah** and **Iolanda Portogallo**

Company Producer: **Treacle Holasz** / Maternity Cover: **Zöe Grain**

Images & Video by: **Genevieve Reeves**

How to Build a Universe and How to End It
is co-produced and co-commissioned by The Place.



ABOUT THE PLACE

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

CONTACT

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