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For Immediate Release

**Dance Consortium presents the UK premiere of Passagers from
one of Canada's leading circus companies, The 7 Fingers**

**An intoxicating mix of dance, physical theatre, acrobatics, circus skills and
original music**

**Six-venue tour opens at Birmingham Hippodrome on 21 - 22 September, coming
to Theatre Royal Plymouth 11 – 12 October**

***“Performances of death-defying feats...mixed with raw beauty and a celebration
of the human body that was breath-taking”* Boxing Over Broadway, USA**

Dance Consortium has been touring the very best international contemporary dance throughout the UK and Ireland for over 20 years. This autumn it presents the first UK tour for eleven years by Canadian contemporary circus trailblazers The 7 Fingers - one of the first international companies to visit our shores this year.

After performing with some of the world's best contemporary circus companies including Cirque de Soleil, The 7 Fingers' seven founders set up the collective in 2002. Their mission was nothing short of redefining circus, stripping the spectacle down to its thrilling essence and fusing it with dance, theatre, multimedia, music and storytelling. Since then, the company has gained a reputation for telling human stories with life-enhancing theatricality, warmth and humour.

In Passagers, show director and company co-founder Shana Carroll plays with our fascination with travel, both nostalgic and symbolic. A colourful and diverse group of strangers meet onboard a train. Through the course of their journey, in a temporarily-suspended reality, they get to know each other, sharing their stories and revealing their emotional states through virtuoso acrobatics - vaulting somersaults, breathtaking trapeze, daredevil balances on the highwire - along with contemporary dance, narrative, song and original music by Colin Gagné.

Stephen Crocker, Chair of Dance Consortium, *“After one cancellation, two postponements and 14 months of empty theatres, I am delighted - and very excited - on behalf of DC members to be announcing our next tour by one of the world’s leading performance companies. This is the first time that the Dance Consortium members have presented The 7 Fingers Company from Quebec and I can think of no better way of welcoming international artists back onto our stages than with their wonderful show Passagers - a beautiful homage to travel, love and the power of storytelling.”*

The 7 Fingers’ co-founder and Passagers director Shana Carroll says: *“Passagers was originally designed as an ode to travel - departure versus arrival, chance versus choice, familiar versus foreign, confinement versus border-crossing. Those themes have taken on a new meaning for us all these days, with the very idea of departing or arriving feeling like a distant pipe dream. Border-crossing is now fraught with risks, regulations and complications and confinement was the unifying theme for everyone. The show has now taken on a whole other dimension I’m not sure I could ever have imagined. I hope it will make us treasure the days of simple, liberating travel and celebrate a return to greater freedoms.”*

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For further information please contact the Media and Communications team on mediaandcommunications@theatreroyal.com / 01752 230439

Production photos can be downloaded here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/x4m9re6mqbfc4hs/AADVg60c1lleNpcWxDpIddFBa?dl=0>

www.The7FingersTour.co.uk

Notes to editors

1. Dance Consortium is a group of 18 large-scale UK venues with a shared passion for engaging people with the best contemporary dance from across the world. Since its formation in 2000, Dance Consortium has presented over 46 tours by 26 different companies (from Australia, Brazil, Canada, Cuba, France, The Netherlands, South Africa, Taiwan, Israel and the USA) to over 700,000 people. Their performances and



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education activities have been experienced by around 700,000 people across all parts of the UK. Dance Consortium receives investment as a national portfolio organisation of Arts Council England. www.danceconsortium.com

2. Dance Consortium members are Grand Opera House Belfast; Birmingham Hippodrome; Alhambra Theatre Bradford; Brighton Dome; Marlowe Theatre Canterbury; Wales Millennium Centre Cardiff; Bord Gáis Energy Theatre, Dublin; Festival Theatre Edinburgh; Eden Court Inverness; Sadler's Wells Theatre and The Peacock London; Milton Keynes Theatre; Theatre Royal Newcastle; Theatre Royal and Royal Concert Hall Nottingham with Dance 4; Theatre Royal Plymouth; The Lowry Salford; The Mayflower, Southampton; Hull, New Theatre; Norwich Theatre Royal.

3. Twitter @DanceConsortium / @The7Fingers, Facebook @DanceConsortium / @Les7Doigts, Instagram: danceconsortium / the7fingers

Theatre Royal Plymouth (TRP) is a registered charity providing art, education and community engagement in Plymouth and across the region. It engages and inspires with the aim of touching lives. Theatre Royal Plymouth presents a year-round programme of world class productions on all scales as the South West's principal centre for performing arts.

Theatre Royal Plymouth works with partners to understand the challenges people face accessing the arts, especially vulnerable and disadvantaged people. It creates pathways that are genuinely accessible to those who might otherwise never get to engage with the arts. They collaborate to co-create and co-author work that represents the community, creating the space needed for people to tell their story in their own way.

Theatre Royal Plymouth is the UK's largest regional producing theatre. With a focus on embracing the vitality of new talent and supporting emerging and established artists. It collaborates with a range of partners to provide dynamic cultural leadership for the city of Plymouth.