

## Dance United win a Koestler Award

October 2008

**The Koestler Trust received a record 5,130 entries for the 2008 competition and it was a breathtaking collection of talent and creativity - which makes Dance United's 'Outstanding' achievement for their performance of 'AEA' all the more impressive.**

The Koestler Trust are the UK's best-known prison arts charity. They award, exhibit and sell artworks by offenders, detainees and high security patients. Their aims are:

- to help offenders lead more positive lives by motivating them to participate in the creative arts;
- to demonstrate the power of arts activity in the criminal justice system.

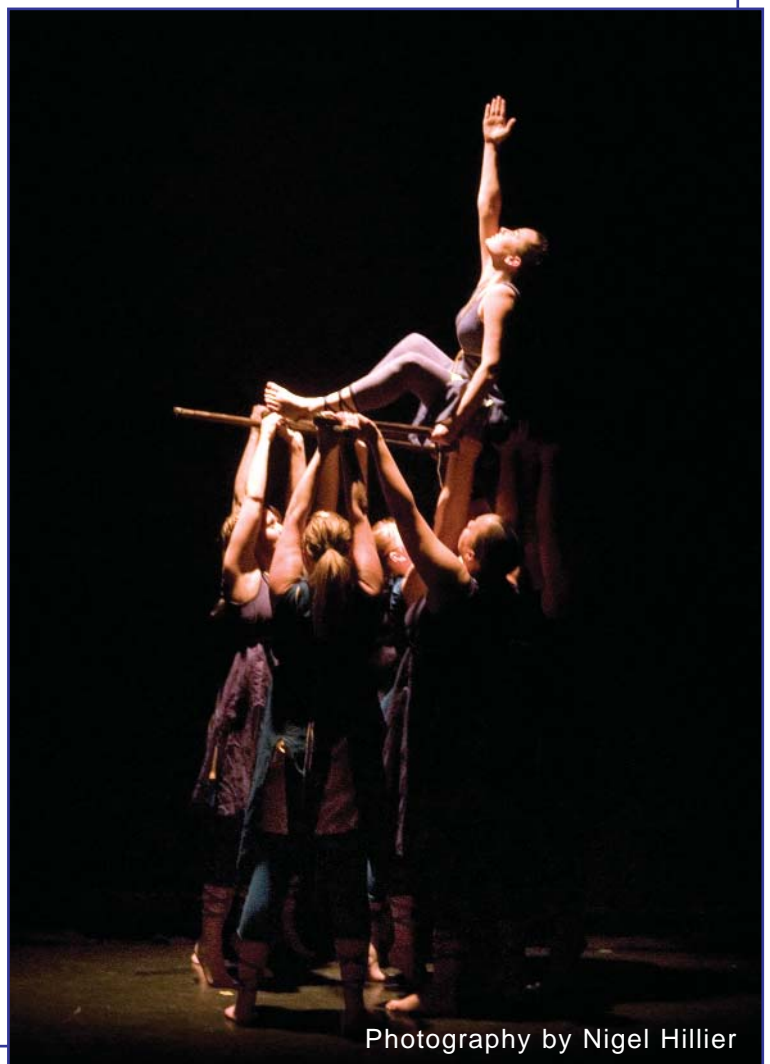
The Koestler Awards attract entries from inmates of prisons, young offender institutions, secure hospitals and immigration removal centres across the UK, as well as offenders supervised by probation and youth offending services. The entries come in 49 artforms, including

- creative writing
- film
- graphic design
- music
- needlework
- painting and drawing
- photography
- sculpture
- woodcraft

The awards have a profound impact on offenders' self-esteem, leading them to positive new directions in life.

The photograph is from the performance of 'AEA' at The Carriageworks, Leeds in 2007 which was choreographed by Claire Donaldson and Helen Linsell and performed by Cohort 4:

- Joanne Roxby
- Dahl Yates
- Antony Stead
- Jessica Roberts
- Ashton O'Brien
- Laura Miller
- Lynsey McNiell
- Stephanie Lofthouse
- Amy Farnhill
- Jennifer Corner
- Nicole Bradshaw
- Latoya Cooke



Photography by Nigel Hillier

**"Dance United winning an 'Outstanding' award represents a very significant moment for us. I would especially like to thank everyone at Bradford YOT for the role which you played in our receiving this award – which is very much appreciated by us all at Dance United."**

**Rob Lynden  
Associate Producer  
Dance United**