

# Destino Launch - A New Dance Initiative

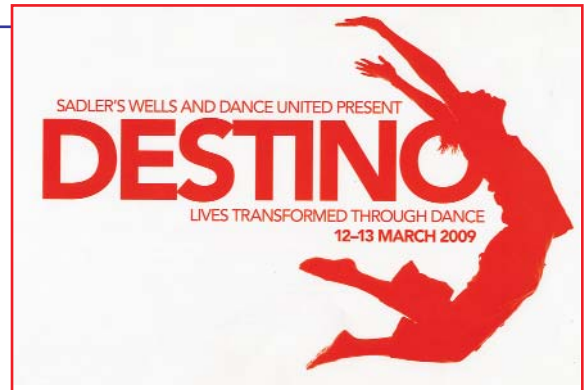
July 2008

**Paul O'Hara was pleased to represent Bradford at the launch of the joint Dance United/Sadler's Wells Destino launch at the Royal Society of Arts in London on 2nd July 2008.**

The first part of the launch was a presentation on the work of 'The Academy' in Bradford and included contributions from two young people from Bradford who have gone through the project who joined Sir Christopher Frayling Chair of Arts Council, Professor Rod Morgan ex-chair of Youth Justice Board and members of Dance United to discuss the project to an audience of approximately 150 people from a range of Art/Criminal Justice Agencies. Darryl and Danny did a great job in describing the positive impact the project had on their lives and how they were trying to stay out of trouble.

The event then moved on to the 'Destino Project' which is a major initiative involving both companies. The work will feature the award-winning Ethiopian dancer Junaid Jemal Sendi (who has visited Bradford and worked with young people at the Academy).

The project will go on tour and will do six weeks long residencies around the UK. The show in Yorkshire and Humberside will be at the Askham Grange (Open) Prison.



**'Destino' will bring 150 performers drawn from a range of communities (including the Bradford Academy) who will perform on the main stage of Sadler's Wells on the 12th and the 13th March 2009.**

**This is an exciting project which will be a unique experience for the Bradford young people who take part.**



## **Destino is a Dance United & Sadler's Wells Co-Production**

Sadler's Wells is renowned for its dynamic artistic work and the unparalleled reputation of its community and education programme, Connect.

Dance United has a formidable track record working with the disadvantaged and the marginalised - a journey that has taken the company from the streets of Ethiopia to the heart of the criminal justice system in the UK.

Both companies believe deeply in the power of dance to influence - and sometimes radically change - lives. Destino is an ambitious artistic collaboration that will bring to the Sadler's Wells main stage over 150 performers drawn from the communities who live, work or study in Islington and East London, together with young people from Kids Company, Weekend Arts College and Dance United's Academy in Bradford.