

LUCA SILVESTRINI'S
PROTEIN
PROTEINDANCE.CO.UK

**Winner National Dance Awards 2011
Best Independent Company**

Border Tales



Touring 2015

“Excellently performed by a multi-talented, international cast, *Border Tales* is a big, brave, cacophonous attempt to show what it means to live in multicultural Britain today.”

Judith Mackrell, *Guardian*

Protein and *Border Tales*

Currently one of the most distinctive voices in British dance theatre, Protein uses a blend of original choreography, humour and music to entertain and provoke audiences. Artistic Director Luca Silvestrini's desire to connect theatrical experience with real life stories results in witty shows, both on- and off-stage, that reflect the absurdity in everyday situations and experiences.

Seating the audience on all four sides of the stage so that they are truly involved, *Border Tales* takes a hard and honest look at the messy melting pot of multicultural Britain.

Seven dancers and a musician from around the world are brought together to explore the 'Welcome' they find in Britain. Words, comedy and dance, ranging from moving solos to powerful and uplifting group sequences, are used to tell their stories. The piece takes ideas of identity and stereotype and views them from different perspectives and through the eyes of others.

The stereotypes are funny and the audience recognise them and laugh, but they're not parodies - rather the dancers are reflecting back to the audience what 'you think I think...'



Protein focuses on body language and the awkward physical exchanges between British people and everyone else. Greetings and handshakes inform material for duets, while much of the choreography draws attention to space and how we occupy it; what we assume is 'ours' and what we want 'theirs' to be.

Silvestrini says: "I've travelled across England, Slovenia, Denmark, Spain, Germany, Palestine and India, and learned that there's a common, complex and unresolved space between people...between 'them and us', 'me and the other'. This emotional, sometimes physical, sometimes socially awkward space, is strongly influenced by a restless collision of cultures, traditions, religious views and political interests. I have nothing to teach or preach about, but I've been moved by the simple desire to share the many tales I've heard and experienced along the way."

Press comments:



“Through explosions of rumbustious movement and continuous text, compiled from interviews and the dancers’ personal experiences, Protein shares with us stories and scenarios that make us laugh, cringe and reflect.”
Londondance.com



“Performed in the round, the dance was perfectly accessible to the audience, and beautiful to watch thanks to the marriage of choreography and the spoken word.”
everything-theatre.co.uk

“...the whole thing is superbly staged and performed.”
Daily Telegraph

Audience feedback:

“It was stunning, brilliant. I had no idea what to expect. Nearly went to the cinema... glad I didn't.”

“An intimate piece that scratches the surface of what I believe to be much broader tales. The intimate proximity to the stage brings to light just how real these issues are in all our lives. Portrayed with majesty and unabashed humour.”

“Amazing performance tonight! I'm not very 'dance aware' but I thoroughly enjoyed this amazing dance piece with some wonderful music and acting too!”

@proteindance @ThePlaceLondon
Stunning, beautifully crafted choreography & storytelling on stage tonight. #BorderTales

Beautiful dancing & wonderful music tonight in @proteindance #BorderTales, & great to see the performance at close quarters

Just been majorly, mind blowing inspired by the movement, passion and brains, everything behind this @proteindance

@proteindance @ThePlaceLondon
really great performance this eve #bordertales thought-provoking, and visually stunning

Booking Details

Availability:	Spring/summer 2015
Touring Company:	8 performers, 2 technicians, tour manager, Director
Running time:	90 minutes
Venue specification:	Set in the round with seating on all four sides. Performing area 10m x 10m plus seating. Dance floor, lighting and sound equipment as standard
Age suitability	12+
Education and access:	Fee includes a free workshop and pre-performance “debate” or traditional post-show talk
Contact:	Jo Towler, General Manager jo@proteindance.co.uk , 020 8269 2394
Website:	www.proteindance.co.uk

In the future...

In 2015-18, Protein has plans for some new exciting projects:

- **Feast (2016/17):** This site-specific experiential performance with live music composed by Orlando Gough centres on social occasions and life at mealtimes. Takes place in large theatre studios or restaurants/hotels and involves audiences having a real dinner during the performance.
- **Insta-dance (2016):** A location-based two-week-long outdoor performance intervention, using input from passers-by to develop the action over the two weeks, and will include local dance and street performance groups.
- **Real Life Real Dance:** A project for refugees and asylum seekers. Inspired by the extensive research conducted for the making of *Border Tales*, this new participatory project intends to use theatre-making and performance to engage or re-engage distressed/displaced people whilst bringing to the audience an insight into the complex lives of people arriving and settling in the UK.
- **Dance Film:** First ever dance film for Protein. Filmed in a packed underground train, this short dance film will use concepts and stories from *Border Tales*
- **Revival (2017/18):** A new touring show to celebrate Protein’s 20th anniversary. This collection of Protein’s highlights will be framed by new material exploiting the meaning of reviving or resuscitating.