

Lincolnshire Echo



AN AMBITIOUS new dance project, fusing flamenco and contemporary dance and inspired by a Mexican festival celebrating life, will soon be ready to take the stage.

Vida is an adventurous piece of dance theatre co-created by local choreographers Diane Pickard of Fiesta Flamenco and Nikki Mclusky of FreeSpirit Dance Company and will be performed for the first time at Lincoln Drill Hall at the end of January.

Rehearsals have been under way since September, with a recent work-in-progress performance at The Terry O'Toole theatre in North Hykeham. The piece features professional and amateur dancers from across

Lincoln, along with performances created especially for local youngsters.

Vida, meaning life, is inspired by the Mexican festival – El Dia de los Muertos (The Day of the Dead) – a beautiful and ancient ritual to lovingly and happily remember the lives of dead relatives and give meaning and continuity to human existence.

“I wanted to work with Fiesta Flamenco since we met at the European House of Arts festival at Lincoln Performing Arts Centre (LPAC) during the summer” said Nikki

“The two very different styles of dance lend themselves perfectly to the Day of the Dead festival, with the contemporary dancers representing the souls and the Flamenco dancers representing the living.”

“We wanted to tell a story, rather than present a number of random dances. We also wanted to include as many people as possible.”

Diane, speaking about the challenges of creating something truly unique, said “We hope that a project like this will encourage more people to access the Arts, and particularly dance, as it can have a lasting and transforming effect on many aspects of people's lives.”

“*Vida*, has developed from a genuine desire to offer performance opportunities to those that might otherwise have never considered it a possibility and that's why we agreed, from the outset, that participants should not have to pay to take part.”

With only a few more weeks to go before the performances, Nikki adds: For some it will be another chance to perform to an audience. For others, it will be their first time on stage. But for everyone, it will be an opportunity to bring their passion for dance to the stage in spectacular style.”

As well as the performances, there is an opportunity to take part in contemporary and Flamenco workshops which will run on Saturday 29th January at 1pm and 2.30pm