

## A RIVER OF STORIES EDUCATIONAL DANCE PROJECT



Visual Statement is an award-winning Glasgow dance company renowned for its imaginative and innovative approach to introducing young people to the performing arts. The *A River of Stories Dance Project* is a 10 month education and performance programme run by Visual Statement and inspired by *A River of Stories: Tales and Poems from Across the Commonwealth*. Coinciding with the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games, the project is sponsored by the Commonwealth Education Trust, with additional support from Glasgow Life Education Department, Glasgow Life Culture and Sport and Glasgow 2014.

Performances have been created in response to three poems from the anthology: 'The Rain Maker' by Taia Teuai (Tuvalu), 'Woman's World' by Barolong Seboni (Botswana), and 'The March of the Hermit Crabs in the Rain' by Ashley Saunders (The Bahamas). The performances fuse movements and Scottish traditional dance, accompanied by audio tracks which blend the poems with traditional Celtic melodies. Performances by 20 young dancers from Visual Statement have been given at venues including Glasgow Cathedral, St. Enoch Centre, Glasgow, and the Commonwealth Day Observance at Westminster Abbey, London, before Her Majesty The Queen. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cLxcVBuQsGA>.

Over 700 local primary school children are participating in performances and workshops at The Bridge Theatre, Glasgow with the Visual Statement dancers and taking part in the cultural celebrations for The Queen's Baton Relay and the Glasgow Commonwealth Games.

