



'STORIES FROM A CROWDED ROOM' WINS BEST DANCE PRODUCTION AT THE 2016 WALES THEATRE AWARDS

31st January 2016

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Earthfall's 2015 immersive touring production, **Stories from a Crowded Room**, was last night presented with the **Best Dance Production Award** at the 2016 **Wales Theatre Awards**. The Wales Theatre Awards celebrate excellence in theatre, opera and dance. There are specific categories for each genre and where relevant in English and Welsh. The awards are chosen by a wide range of arts critics working in the media across Wales.

With the audience and ten performers sharing the performance space, this ambitious production celebrated Earthfall's 25th Anniversary and was the company's largest touring production to date.

Directed by **Jessica Cohen** and **Jim Ennis**, this production allowed the audience to feel the heat, sweat and touch of the performers in this highly physical dance piece, with audience and performers moving in the same space.

Speaking after the awards ceremony in Cardiff, Jessica Cohen said: *"The company took a risk presenting such a large-scale work, with ten performers on stage and live music, especially in the current climate. Our audiences and critics provided amazingly positive feedback during the tour and I'm proud that we took the risk – after all, Arts Council of Wales subsidised companies are encouraged to be risk taking."*

It ends a highly successful artistic year for the company after the startling news that Earthfall are not to be included in the new Arts Council of Wales (ACW) portfolio of Revenue Funded Organisations.

Jessica continued *"...not being part of the ACW portfolio from April means that we are having to scale down our company, move out of our studio and offices, all of us are made redundant, and will not be able to provide support for the independent dance sector in Wales, something that we have done for many years. We have however received incredible support from some venues and are currently negotiating with them for a new main-stage production for 2017. We will be striving to continue to produce performance works and deliver educational projects."*

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For further information, please contact Stephan Stockton, General Manager, Earthfall;
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Earthfall is revenue funded by Arts Council of Wales until 31st March this year. **Stories from a Crowded Room** was supported by ACW and Chapter, Cardiff.