Dear Dance Attender

As Debra Craine, Dance Critic for The Times newspaper, said earlier this year *"I have never met a Brazilian who couldn't dance"* and nowhere is this more obvious than in Grupo Corpo, Brazil's oldest modern dance company. All 21 dancers are Brazilian and it's pretty clear when you watch them that they have rhythm flowing through their veins.

*"Individually and as a group, Grupo Corpo are a powerhouse of energy and control"*

The Sunday Times

Rodrigo Pederneiras, the company's choreographer, reckons that with Brazilian people the rhythm starts with the feet, then the hips and then the rest of the body follows like a wave. His dance style maybe rooted in classical ballet but it has a distinctive Brazilian feel which is mesmerizing to watch, particularly when coupled with the striking costumes and sets.

*"The lighting, by Paulo Pederneiras, is a stunning canvas of changing hues."*

The Times

Grupo Corpo (which means Group Body) was established 39 years ago in the city of Belo Horizonte by 3 brothers and a sister, all of whom are still very much part of the company. One brother is the choreographer, one the artistic director and one the technical director, whilst the sister heads up the company's community work. This is a family affair and the consequent ease and familiarity is reflected in the way the dancers move on stage. They are completely at ease with one another, with the cool precision of ballet and the virtuosic sassiness of Latin American dance.

*"Members of this astonishingly versatile Brazilian troupe are trained to pirouette as expertly as they can samba or shimmy, and the steps seem to pour out of their sleek, supple limbs with unstoppable force."*

The Guardian

On the rare occasions that the company has performed in the UK, audiences and critics alike have been completely bowled over by the sheer beauty of their dancing. This time, they’re performing two pieces which perfectly reflect their appeal. The first of these, *Sem Mim*, is a mesmerising ballet which, although there is no obvious story, is based on the experiences of women left behind in fishing villages as their menfolk go out to sea. The pattern of their movements reflects the ebb and flow of the sea, sometimes gentle, sometimes ferocious. The second piece, *Parabelo*, is a more blatantly Brazilian experience and is filled with hot rhythms and sassy syncopations. It’s really party piece and one set to leave the audience smiling with delight.

We look forward to welcoming you to this truly wonderful company.

Marketing Manager