



Sean Graham (standing) and troupe in Tony Adigun's *Illegal Dance*

Photograph © Carole Edrich

Dance battle competitor Dickson would like his film to be in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia because, as he puts it, “the best thing I did was study dance at university. It opened so many different doors. Ulaanbaatar would do the same because it’s so different to my home in London.”

**H**eading back to the West End, I met Cindy Claes, who danced the part of an office worker in “One Man Walking”. Describing herself as a dance backpacker, Cindy is on a mission. “Hip hop dance theatre is our power,” she declares. “We don’t have to mix with contemporary. Our vocabulary – dancehall, krump and hip hop – is so rich that we already have enough to explore!”

Cindy travels a lot for her work, and her last full-length piece, *Voices in the Alley*, was the result of a recent research trip to learn krump at its source. She has since successfully developed dance theatre in Jamaica, and is now doing the same in Los Angeles.

My tour finishes in London’s East End at the offices of casting agency HeadNod and its owner Nana Klimek, who would base her film around the roots of street dance and folklore, fusing butoh and krumping in Tokyo – where small ancient buildings stand next to modern skyscrapers.

Her partner Pat Cesar, who has been locking since the 1980s and who worked with her on the Make Dance apps (featured in

the July issue of *Dance Today*), describes himself as “a locking teacher of London history and philosophy” and would create his film using street dance styles in Paris, London, Tokyo, Munich and New York. “Shooting in black and white would unify the city and my film would show that everywhere we go through the same struggles and tensions.”

Whether purists, selective adopters of new trends, or on an ever-expanding voyage of discovery, all the artists I met are strongly motivated people with different ideas, perspectives and methods. They are united by their art and by their home, in London, and I would like to see the next urban dance film concentrate on them. ●