

FEBRUARY 2010



dance ireland

NEWS

Dance Ireland is the trading name of the Association of Professional Dancers in Ireland Ltd. Established in 1989, Dance Ireland is a membership-led organisation, operating on an all-Ireland basis, dedicated to the promotion of professional dance practice in Ireland. Incorporated in 1992 as a not-for-profit company with limited guarantee, the organisation has evolved into a national, umbrella resource whose core aims are the promotion of dance as a vibrant art form, the provision of support and practical resources for professional dance artists through our training and development programmes and advocacy on dance and choreography issues.

Dance Ireland manages DanceHouse, a purpose-built, state-of-the-art dance rehearsal venue, located in the heart of Dublin's north-east inner city. DanceHouse is at the heart of Dance Ireland activities, as well as being a home for professional dance artists and the wider dance community. Studios are available for hire. In addition to hosting our artistic programme of professional training and development, performances, exhibitions, special events and a fully equipped artists' resource room, DanceHouse offers a range of evening classes to cater to the interests and needs of the general public.

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### Disclaimer

Dance Ireland reserves the right to edit or amend all articles or notices published in this magazine. The views expressed are those of contributors and do not necessarily represent the views of Dance Ireland members.

Cover: *Katerine O'Malley – Rex Levitates;*

Photo: Rex Levitates

### Deadlines for next edition:

**March 2010** Copy & Photos: Friday 12 February; Inserts: Friday 19 February

*All photos submitted must be accompanied by appropriate credits and acknowledgements*



## INTRODUCTION

We are delighted to announce that Dublin City Council has awarded Dance Ireland a grant of €12,000 for 2010. This money is invaluable in helping us deliver our multi-faceted programme and we are grateful to the Arts Office for their support.

In other good news, we received an additional €40,000 from the Arts Council to deliver a programme of Multi-Disciplinary Exchanges and International Artist Exchanges. This award, which complements our annual grant, is recognition of the Council's commitment to nurturing choreographic development through exchanges, national/international residencies and mentorship opportunities. Under Multi-Disciplinary Exchanges, we will host three distinctive intensive courses with Martine Hamel (Body and Theatre) in March, and later in the year with Mark Coniglio/Dawn Stoppiello (Body and Interactive Digital Technologies) and Charles Atlas (Body and Film). Under the International Artist Exchange programme we will partner with Movement Research in New York and Le Pacifique/CDC in Grenoble and in new developments we are working on cultivating partnerships with Dance Base in Edinburgh, PAF in France and The Chocolate Factory in New York. Full details of the open call for expressions of interest, selection/application processes will be announced in the March issue of *Dance Ireland News*, ebulletin and on our website [www.danceireland.ie](http://www.danceireland.ie).

We are looking forward to confirming our 2010 programme later in the month; in the meantime, some highlights include the return of Peter Boneham, who will lead the Mentored Choreographic Lab in May and September and an exciting line-up of international guest teachers, including return visits from Elizabeth Corbett, Catherine Plomteux, Mariah Maloney and Iñaki Azpillaga. Our season has already kicked off with morning professional classes taught by our International Associate Artist Ted Stoffer, and continues this month with classes led by Grant McLay, Stephen Brennan and Katherine Lewis. In addition, two special events continue in February: *thinking, talking, writing dance* project with Jeffrey Gormly and our weekly Wednesday Contact Improvisation Jam. The month concludes with an Aerial Dance Forum presented in association with Fidget Feet.

As ever, it is not all happening at DanceHouse; nationally we carry news from our members' special events, performances and training opportunities including news from Dance Theatre of Ireland, Dublin Dance Festival, Maiden Voyage Dance Company; *Innerscapes Saturday Shorts* with Myriad Dance and an open call from Dublin Fringe Festival.

### Rescheduled

#### Members' Forum Meeting - Tuesday 09 February @ 12 noon

What shall we resolve for 2010? What potential does the year hold, and what threats? In light of the announcement of Arts Council funding decisions in late January we invite you all to attend a members' forum meeting on Tuesday 09 February at DanceHouse, 12 noon to 2pm.

Following on from the series of meetings we hosted last year – members' feedback suggests these gatherings are of enormous benefit – especially at a time of scarce resources and uncertainty. The members' forum meeting is an opportunity to come together, share issues of concern and maybe initiate a new idea or two. This is your opportunity to set the agenda. Please forward your point(s) for discussion to Inga Byrne by email to [admin@danceireland.ie](mailto:admin@danceireland.ie) by 05 February at 4pm.

# DANCE IRELAND PROGRAMME



Source: Dance Ireland

**Contact Jam**

## CONTACT IMPROVISATION JAM

Wednesdays @ DanceHouse  
11:30am - 1:30pm  
Price: €2

Following requests from our members; Tim O'Donnell's successful Contact Improvisation workshops last November and a well-attended jam in December, we are hosting, on a pilot basis, a series of Contact Improvisation Jams for two hours every Wednesday until 31 March.

Co-ordinated by Cindy Cummings, the jam will be lead in turn by a core group including Fergus Byrne, Deirdre Murphy and Paul Clancy. This open jam welcomes all those with Contact Improvisation and movement experience.

If you are in the area and would like to participate or indeed lead a session, contact [info@danceireland.ie](mailto:info@danceireland.ie) or pop along to DanceHouse on Wednesdays.

## THINKING, TALKING, WRITING DANCE

*A pilot writing project, led by Jeffrey Gormly*  
Workshop 2: 26 February 12 - 4pm  
Workshop 3: 26 March 12 - 4pm

Dance Ireland wishes to support a community of writers who engage in ideas about their own artistic practice, and the creative work of others across a wide range of disciplines. Jeffrey Gormly, editor of [choreograph.net](http://choreograph.net), will bring his experience as writer, dramaturge, editor and cultural producer to a process of discovering while addressing the needs of creative producers.

The aim of the pilot is to identify and address the needs of creative artists around writing. It is acknowledged that there are three general aspects to the use of writing in artistic professional practice and development:

- Writing as process: use of notebooks, reading and research as part of the creation of artistic material;
- Writing as interface: creation of texts for publicity, marketing, and artistic proposals;
- Discursive practices as a means of developing artistic 'working friendships', community and eliciting feedback: blogging, article writing, dialogical and discursive formats.

This pilot will involve raw thinking and talking, note-taking, discussion, and development of a critical, associative field of ideas relating to the particular thoughts and ideas occupying each participant's mind. The programme also incorporates space / time for free dance as an essential and constructive part of an embodied

[www.danceireland.ie](http://www.danceireland.ie)

thinking process. The final session of the workshop will include publishing texts and images produced by the participants in a raw thinking thread on choreograph.net, for those happy to do so. Open to all creative artists interested in exploring and developing their writing practice; €10 per workshop or sign-up for all three and pay €25. As places are limited, reserve your place by calling 01 855 8800 or email [reception@danceireland.ie](mailto:reception@danceireland.ie).

## AERIAL DANCE FORUM

*Aerial Technique Classes and Choreographic Lab*

22 February - 05 March

Dance Talks: Thursday 04 March @ 6.30pm

Studio presentation: Friday 05 March @ 1pm

Following successful *Aerial Dance Forums* in 2008 and 2009, Fidget Feet returns to DanceHouse with a series of aerial technique classes in fabric, aerial dance trapeze and an Aerial Choreographic Lab for professional dancers, circus artists and performers interested in aerial dance and contemporary circus with teachers Chantal McCormick and Lindsey Butcher (UK).

As part of our *Dance Talks* series we host a public talk between Verena Cornwall, the Arts Council's Circus Adviser, in conversation with Fidget Feet's Artistic Director Chantal McCormick and guest teacher Lindsey Butcher about all issues aerial. This talk will take place at DanceHouse on Thursday 04 March at 6.30pm.

During Fidget Feet's residency choreographer Muirne Bloomer will work with the company on a new aerial dance duet on trapeze. The residency will conclude with an informal showing of work created during the lab and a preview of the new Fidget Feet duet on Friday 05 March at 1pm.

### **Aerial Technique** (1-week course)

22 - 26 February

Warm up class: 9.30 - 10.30am

Aerial technique with Chantal McCormick:  
10.45am - 1pm

Aerial technique in cocoons, silks/fabric and aerial trapeze: open to dancers and aerialists



Source: Dance Ireland

### **Aerial Dance Forum**

with some experience and/or dancers and performers with no aerial experience but strong upper body strength.

Fee: €50 (DI members); €70 (non-members); participants must complete course.

### **Aerial Technique** (4 day course)

01 - 04 March

Warm up class: 9.30 - 10.30am

Aerial technique with Chantal McCormick & Lindsey Butcher: 10.30am - 12pm

Aerial technique in silks/fabric and aerial trapeze: open to dancers and aerialists with some experience, and those who have taken week one. No beginners.

Fee: €40 (DI members); €60 (non-members); participants must complete course.

### **Aerial choreographic lab** (1-week course)

01 - 05 March

Warm up: 9.30 - 10.30am

Aerial technique class: 10.30am - 12pm

Aerial lab with Chantal McCormick & Lindsey Butcher: 1-3.15pm

Aerial choreographic lab: this lab explores aerial choreography mixing aerial skills with dance

technique. Open to those who have completed week one of aerial technique, and/or those with one year of full-time aerial experience and/or has previously worked with Fidget Feet. All participants must submit their CV and cover letter outlining their aerial experience and what they want to get out of the course. The lab will focus on mentoring each participant to create a solo, duet or trio on one piece of aerial equipment, which will be shown as part of the sharing on Friday 05 March.

For the aerial choreographic lab, participants must forward a CV and cover letter to [chantal@fidgetfeet.com](mailto:chantal@fidgetfeet.com) by 31 January. For further information: [www.fidgetfeet.com](http://www.fidgetfeet.com) or telephone Fidget Feet on 085 7411098.

Fee: €100 (DI members); €120 (non-members); participants must complete course.

To reserve your place for aerial technique classes, Dance Talks and studio showing, please contact Dance Ireland at [reception@danceireland.ie](mailto:reception@danceireland.ie) or phone 01 855 8800.

## **MULTI-DISCIPLINARY EXCHANGE: BODY & THEATRE**

Martine Harmel

22 - 26 March

11am - 5pm

DanceHouse

€50 (DI members); €70 (non-members)

Public presentation: Friday 26 March, 4pm

Martine Harmel is Artistic Director and co-founder of the Théâtre de la Danse/En Corps et En Jeu Company, danseuse étoile for the Ballets Janine Charrat and lead dancer with the Ballet

Théâtre Joseph Russillo. She taught from 1989 to 2003 at the Théâtre National de Chaillot's acting school in Paris. In addition to choreographing numerous theatre productions Martine has been leading workshops in her Théâtre de la Danse studios for more than 20 years, and has been teaching for professional dancers in Paris-Centre Clichy, la Ménagerie de Verre, and for the international dance workshops of Châteauroux.

The objective of the workshop is to understand and feel the source of movement, to structure the body in order to become activate, vibrant and efficient. Participants will be asked to work on diverse themes and transform them into short synopsis. Dance-Theatre includes working on situations and characters as well as exploring the possibilities to free the sensations and emotions which become the choreographic research base. The Dance-Theatre's language is infinite, as are the human emotions which vibrate through time. Present or not, words are always at the genesis of the work.

Participants will be led through a sequence of exercises to examine, combine and broaden their movement and performance skills. The workshop will end with a presentation of unrehearsed 'Impromptus' based on the work developed during the week. This performance is open to all and free of charge, but requires booking in advance at [reception@danceireland.ie](mailto:reception@danceireland.ie).

Please note that workshop places are limited and will be allocated based on the applicant's suitability, previous relevant training and performing experience. Please send your CV to [audrey.houdart@danceireland.ie](mailto:audrey.houdart@danceireland.ie) by Friday 26 February at 5pm.



Source: Martine Harmel

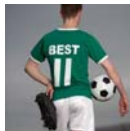
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## **2010 Choreographic Bursary Award Recipients @ DanceHouse**

This month two of our current  
Choreographic Bursary recipients are  
in residence at DanceHouse.

Jessica Kennedy 08 – 19 February  
Aoife McAtamney 22 February – 05 March

# COMPANY NEWS



## BRAY INSTITUTE OF FURTHER EDUCATION

*Move*

24 & 25 March @ 8pm

Mermaid Arts Centre

Price: €15/€12 Conc

[www.meirmaidartscentre.ie](http://www.meirmaidartscentre.ie)

Bray Institute of Further Education presents *Move*, an eclectic and engaging production from Encore Dance Company and Extreme Dance Company. They will be showcasing myriad dance styles including Classical Ballet, Jazz, Tap, Hip-Hop, Contemporary and Bollywood.

## COISCÉIM DANCE THEATRE

*Faun / As You Are*

Touring until 13 February

[www.coisceim.com](http://www.coisceim.com)

CoisCéim is delighted to continue their national tour of *Faun* by David Bolger and *As You Are* by Muirne Bloomer with performances across the country in Garter Lane Arts Centre, Cork Opera House, Backstage Theatre, Pavilion Theatre, Dunamais Arts Centre, Civic Theatre – Tallaght and Wexford Opera House.

The performances are accompanied by dance workshops led by CoisCéim. These sessions enable participants to work creatively and learn choreography from the show. Workshop bookings for groups are still available and can be made by contacting CoisCéim on 01 878 0558.

Back home, CoisCéim continue to offer a variety of enjoyable dance classes in their city centre studio. A new 8-week term of evening and Saturday classes for adults will start 16 March. These classes are for people of all levels in Contemporary, Ballet, Jazz and Musical Dance Theatre.

Drop-in dance classes for people aged 50+ take place on Wednesday afternoons in the Edith Stein Room, St. Teresa's Church, Clarendon Street, Dublin 2 and on Thursday mornings at Donnycarney Centre, St. John's Court, Malahide Road, Dublin 3.

Meanwhile, dancers in their young people's dance theatre group, CoisCéim Creative Steps, continue work on a part 2 of *Night of the Living Debs*. The group will be performing the piece in Dublin soon.

To book classes and workshops or to find out more about CoisCéim's activities contact [info@coisceim.com](mailto:info@coisceim.com) or 01 878 0558.

## DANCE THEATRE OF IRELAND

*Dance Performance Outreach Programme*

Southeast Schools Initiative

[www.dancetheatreireland.com](http://www.dancetheatreireland.com)

This month Dance Theatre of Ireland will be conducting workshops throughout the country as part of their *Dance Performance Outreach Programme* (DANCE POP). They are in residency in schools in Dublin, Wexford, Waterford, Kilkenny and Tipperary as part of the Southeast Schools Initiative, culminating in informal performances.

Dance Theatre of Ireland's *Block Party!* tour to Korea and the UK has received funding from Culture Ireland. This very popular outdoor performance, which was part of the Dancing Cities network last year in London, has received many invitations from festivals nationally and internationally. The company will be touring the work, which stars gigantic toy blocks, 6 dancers and 3 drummers, throughout Ireland, UK and Korea in spring and summer 2010.

Meanwhile Dance Theatre of Ireland continues rehearsals for their 2010 creation *Handle With Care*, a



*Faun*

Source: CoisCéim

double bill which will premiere later in 2010 with choreography by Robert Connor and Loretta Yurick, and the commission of a new work by choreographer Nick Bryson. Research and rehearsals continue with dancers Mirjam Gurtner, Cosimo de Tommaso, Iker Arrue, and Laura Vilar.

Dance Theatre of Ireland's new term of classes is just beginning and it's not too late to enrol in daytime, weekend & evening classes. For further information, registration and complete listings call 01 280 3455; email [info@dancetheatreireland.com](mailto:info@dancetheatreireland.com) or visit [www.dancetheatreireland.com](http://www.dancetheatreireland.com).

## DUBLIN DANCE FESTIVAL

07 – 23 May 2010  
[www.dublindancefestival.ie](http://www.dublindancefestival.ie)

It's that time of year again – time to start looking forward to what Dublin Dance Festival (DDF) will bring in May. Dublin Dance Festival is delighted with the smorgasbord of dance they have on offer during DDF 2010...and you don't have to wait much longer to find out who will be performing alongside the centrepiece performance of *Young People, Old Voices* by Raimund Hoghe and the premiere of *DAY*, commissioned by the Abbey Theatre, created by Tere O'Connor for Jean Butler.

If you want to be among the first to find out who else will be performing at DDF 2010 - and you want to benefit from complimentary tickets, discount offers and special events year round - then Dublin Dance Festival want you to be their Friend. DDF Friends enjoy a special place at the heart of the Festival. And what's more, if you are a new friend in 2010 your gift will be matched euro for euro by the Dublin Street Lane Challenge Grant – a matching fund established by a DDF board member. You will get amazing benefits as a Friend...and you'll help DDF to continue to present the best contemporary dance from Ireland and around the world.

You can start preparing your friends and loved ones for Dublin Dance Festival 2010 too. Give someone you know the gift of a breathtaking experience at DDF 2010 – with the remarkable artists we have in store, it'll be a gift they won't forget. Purchase your Dublin Dance Festival gift vouchers now at [www.dublindancefestival.ie](http://www.dublindancefestival.ie).

Don't forget you can keep up to date with the all the exciting things that are going on at the DDF nerve centre by becoming a Fan of Dublin Dance Festival on Facebook, following DublinDanceFest on Twitter and signing up for email updates on our website.

## DUBLIN FRINGE FESTIVAL

Open Call for the 2010 edition of Absolut Fringe  
Pre-application workshop: 10 February  
[www.fringefest.com](http://www.fringefest.com)

Dublin Fringe Festival is delighted to welcome submissions for the 2010 edition of Absolut Fringe, running from 11-26 September. For two weeks in September Dublin will be captivated by theatre, dance, music, visual art, live art and street performance from Ireland and around the globe.

Dublin Fringe Festival has always been a home of artists who are ambitious, adventurous, innovative and fearless, and who make work in all kinds of places and spaces around Dublin city. This year, a continued emphasis will be placed on new work that reclaims more of our city's empty spaces and experiments with performance and experiential arts on a grand and minute scale. In 2010 the festival will have a particular focus on works that engage with the theme of community, to be interpreted as liberally and imaginatively as possible by the artists they work with. Too often 'community' becomes a byword for disadvantage and exclusion where the myriad possibilities of community, both on and offline are ignored. Dublin Fringe Festival would like to re-imagine the idea of community in 2010. To do this, they need you, artists and thinkers, to make it happen. They want to hear your ideas whether you work in theatre, music, dance, visual art, street-art, film, multi-media or beyond.

All the relevant application information, links to the application form and FAQs can be found on the Dublin Fringe Festival website [www.fringefest.com](http://www.fringefest.com). The deadline for applications is Friday 12 March at 6pm. DDF will host a pre-application workshop on Wednesday 10 February at 6.30pm to answer all your questions about the festival.

## ECHO ECHO DANCE THEATRE COMPANY

*Studio performance by Steve Batts and Shahar Dor*  
21 February @ 6pm  
Echo Echo Dance Studio, Waterside Theatre  
[info@echoecho.com](mailto:info@echoecho.com)

Echo Echo's Artistic Director Steve Batts has invited movement and performance artist Shahar Dor to work with him on a research project as part of an Individual Artist Award from the Arts Council of Northern Ireland.

Shahar explores, performs and teaches the art of improvisational performance through movement, theatre, music live still photography and video. He is known for his character driven and cinematic approach towards the body and his corresponding eye



**Echo Echo Dance Theatre Company**

with other arts and crafts. His practice and exploration draws on a variety of movement-presence-performance techniques, vocal work, music & video, martial arts and the practice of meditation.

Steve and Shahar will work together in Echo Echo's Dance Studio in Derry before performing on Sunday 21 February.

Also this month Echo Echo welcomes back the talented Leilani Weis to teach her Authentic Tango on 13 & 14 February from 11am to 4.30pm.

## FLUXUSDANCE

*Body Weather Workshops*  
Dublin & Cork  
[fluxusdance@ireland.com](mailto:fluxusdance@ireland.com)

Following the success of the nationwide *Echoes* Disability Dance Project in 2009 and its performance at The Helix, Fluxusdance continues its work in disability contexts. The company introduce new creative partners to their work, while continuing their collaborations with established dance partners, supporting inclusive dance arts practices in performance and training opportunities.

The company is delighted to participate as partners with Séamus Dunbar, in the work of Dutch dancer and choreographer Frank van de Ven, who will conduct two workshops in *Body Weather* practice in February, in Dublin and Cork. The Dublin workshop is titled *Strands of Movement and Language*; the field of inquiry is the interaction and symbiotic relation between language and movement from a *Body Weather*



**Movement for Life**

perspective. The theme of the Cork workshop is *From Touch and Manipulation to Performance and Dance*. Séamus is a long time collaborator with Fluxusdance and has been involved with *Body/Landscape* workshops in Ireland and abroad since 2006.

*Body Weather* is one of the strands of practice central to the training and choreography of the Counterbalance Integrated Dance Ensemble, currently in rehearsals for their production *Pieces of Elsewhere*. The title is inspired by the music of Ian Wilson whose music features in the multi-media promenade performance event. Counterbalance is a project of Fluxusdance having been developed and supported by Arts and Disability Ireland.

The *Body Weather* day long workshops take place at The Leinster Cricket Club, Observatory Lane, Rathmines, on 26 & 27 February and at the Firkin Crane Centre, Shandon, Cork on 20 & 21 February. For *Body Weather* information and reservations contact Seamus on [seamusd62@eircom.net](mailto:seamusd62@eircom.net) or 087 7850650.

The new year access programme includes the open class series *Integrating Dance and Disability* at DanceHouse and a new workshop series in Kildare, *Movement for Life*, in partnership with Crooked House Theatre Company. Fluxusdance continue their signature work in dance in education at local primary schools, with a particular focus on integrating the work with children with special needs. With the Kildare Arts Office Artists in Schools Programme the company is contributing to the development of supportive relationships between artists and schools.

## KAREN HENNESSY

Feldenkrais classes  
Thursday @ 6.30pm  
DanceHouse  
[www.feldenkraismethod.ie](http://www.feldenkraismethod.ie)

Feldenkrais *Awareness Through Movement* classes came to DanceHouse for the first time in January 2010. The 8-week course in *Awareness Through Movement* is designed for newcomers to the Feldenkrais method, as well as being beneficial to those who may already

have experience. *Awareness Through Movement* classes aim to develop a greater awareness of one's self and thereby improve flexibility, co-ordination, ease of movement and breathing, amongst many other benefits.

The Feldenkrais method is named after its founder, Dr. Moshe Feldenkrais (1904 - 1984), a world-renowned physicist, engineer, judo expert, educator and student of human development. The breadth, vitality and precision of Dr. Feldenkrais' work has seen it applied in diverse fields including performing arts, rehabilitation, sports, neurology and psychology.

Karen Hennessy, who has trained in the Feldenkrais Method in Switzerland, Italy and UK will teach the course. The 8-week course costs €128 with a 4-week option of €68 and a drop-in price of €18. *Dance Ireland News* readers who are interested in attending but find costs prohibitive should contact Karen by email on karenhennessy@mac.com to arrange a more appropriate cost.

## LEGITIMATE BODIES DANCE COMPANY

*Romeo and Juliet*

March

Birr Theatre and Arts Centre

[www.birrtheatre.com](http://www.birrtheatre.com)

Legitimate Bodies Dance Company is the resident dance company in Birr Theatre and Arts Centre, where December saw the second successful *If Only* Festival of contemporary dance solo performance from home and abroad. There was also a Contact Improvisation workshop led by Jeff Wallace who had journeyed from Indiana, USA. Cristina Goletti and Nick Bryson would like to thank all those who travelled to Birr to perform and in so doing support this new feature on the dance landscape.

In February the company is resuming their educational activity by embarking on a dance and drama devised and scripted production of *Romeo and Juliet*, in a work which will engage fully with young people's lives. Cristina, Nick and Macdara Deary are working with the transition year students of Gallen Community School in Ferbane, County Offaly, in this unique production. At the end of March the students will have the chance to perform what they have created at Birr Theatre and Arts Centre, which is kindly supporting the production.

## MAIDEN VOYAGE

*Best*

18 February - 05 March

Touring

[www.maidenvoyagedance.com](http://www.maidenvoyagedance.com)

Maiden Voyage kicked off 2010 in January with a

site specific performance commissioned by Arts & Business for their awards evening in the newly refurbished Ulster Museum. *Perspectives*, choreographed by Suzannah McCreight was performed by Jennifer Thornton and Ryan O'Neill to live music from Brian Irvine.

In February Maiden Voyage will be premiering *BEST*, a new work celebrating the life and football genius of George Best. George Best was the first true celebrity footballer and an unforgettable sporting legend whose skill, style and grace on the pitch set him above his fellow players inspiring Pele to describe him as *the best player in the world*. Choreographed by Andy Howitt with sound score from David Goodall, *BEST* leads the audience through glimpses of George's life, loves, lows and triumphs spanning a 40 year period. The project has been principally funded by the National Lottery through the Arts Council of Northern Ireland; Belfast City Council has the support of the Irish Football Association and the George Best Foundation. Maiden Voyage will also be delivering a dedicated outreach programme to disadvantaged youth in conjunction with the touring performance which has been funded by the Lloyds TSB Foundation in Northern Ireland.

Coming up in March, dancer and choreographer Omar Gordon returns to his North Irish roots to create the first *Dance Exposed* commission. *Dance Exposed* is Maiden Voyage's new audience development initiative that aims to bring dance to public spaces and non-theatrical settings, giving people a chance to experience dance up close. Details will be available on [www.maidenvoyagedance.com](http://www.maidenvoyagedance.com).

Each week, Prodance classes continue on Wednesday nights 6.30-8pm at Dance Resource Base Studio in Belfast with company dancers and guest tutors.

## MERMAID ARTS CENTRE

National Dance Company Wales

(Formerly Diversions)

25 & 26 February @ 8pm

Price: €18/€16 Conc

[www.meirmaidartscentre.ie](http://www.meirmaidartscentre.ie)

Making their first visit to Bray under their new name, National Dance Company Wales, the award-winning company presents a double bill by leading figures Itzik Galili and Andonis Foniadakis. Full of pulse raising energy, you will be drilled to your seats as the dancers surf the music. This dynamic company regularly sells out at Mermaid Arts Centre and these performances mark the start of their Irish tour.

# BEST

maiden voyage  
CONTEMPORARY DANCE

Dance theatre celebrating  
the life of a football genius

*"I always felt like an  
entertainer... I could  
get the crowd excited...  
it was pure theatre"*

GEORGE BEST



Northern Ireland tour  
18 February–5 March

- > Belfast > Armagh
- > Derry > Lisburn
- > Omagh > Downpatrick

Visit [www.maidenvoyagedance.com](http://www.maidenvoyagedance.com)  
for more details including venue and  
ticket information



This production is supported by the  
George Best Foundation

## MYRIAD DANCE

*Innerscapes Saturday Shorts*

27 February @ 10am - 4pm

Jerome Hynes Theatre, Wexford Opera House

Price: €30/€25

[www.myriaddance.ie](http://www.myriaddance.ie)

Myriad Dance Artistic Director, Deirdre Grant, will commence the first in a series of Saturday workshops entitled *Innerscape Shorts*, on 27 February at Wexford Opera House. These workshops are aimed towards professional artists and students.

In this first workshop, Deirdre will focus on a mix of improvisation, play and somatic study material in order to explore instinctual movement practices, a new methodology that she is exploring for both the company and her own choreographic work. This workshop will be a wonderful opportunity for participants to workshop with the Artistic Director and experience the inclusive and creative style that is Myriad.

Myriad Dance is also delighted to announce guest artist Mary Nunan, M.A. Director in Dance at the University of Limerick, who will be leading another *Innerscapes Shorts* in March. Dates and times for this workshop will be confirmed at a later date.

The workshops are open to a diverse mix of dance and performance artists, body based workers and dance students. For further information and to book your place, contact Myriad Dance on 053 917 4665 or email [info@myriaddance.com](mailto:info@myriaddance.com).

## PROJECT ARTS CENTRE

*House of Crossed Destinies*

5 solo dances choreographed by Deborah Hay

03 – 06 February (Preview 02 February) @ 8pm

Project Arts Centre, Space Upstairs

€12.50/€10 Conc/DI Members

[www.projectartscentre.ie](http://www.projectartscentre.ie)

*House of Crossed Destinies*: Five adaptations of four solo pieces choreographed by Deborah Hay; *Beauty, Room, The Runner* and *I'll Crane for You*.

...30 feet from the theatre the dancer begins to sprint towards the same dancer standing in the wings looking out onto an empty stage...

Deborah Hay is well known as a member of the Judson Dance Theatre, one of the 20th century's most radical and explosive art movements. Her work challenges the prevailing canon of modern choreography – from who dances to the very notion of what constitutes dance.

Adapted and performed by Ella Clarke, Cindy Cummings, Emma Fitzgerald, Julie Lockett and Áine Stapleton, and directed by award-winning director



Source: Viktor Cibulka

### *House of Cross Destinies*

Jason Byrne, this collaboration is as radical in its approach to choreography and dance as it is to theatre-making and performance.

*House of Crossed Destinies* opens in Project Arts Centre before transferring to the Siobhan Davies Studios in London.

## REX LEVITATES DANCE COMPANY

*All Weather Project*

University of Limerick

[www.rexlevitates.com](http://www.rexlevitates.com)

In January Rex Levitates performed *Quintet* from *12 Minute Dances* at the Baryshnikov Center New York as part of the Culture Ireland Contemporary Dance Showcase at APAP.

Rex Levitates then began their research series from 18 – 29 January at DanceHouse, Dublin. These research groups, which they hope to meet a further two times throughout 2010, give the opportunity to research new ideas and develop base material for upcoming works, including a new piece for the Dublin Dance Festival this May. It is also an opportunity to make contact with established and younger dancers working in Ireland today. Dancers taking part in this research session were: Liv O'Donoghue, Angie Smalis, Clíodhna Hoey, Jessica Kennedy, Katherine O'Malley, Justine Cooper and Christina Goletti.

Throughout February and March Liz Roche and Katherine O'Malley will again be working with the students of the MA in Contemporary Dance at the University of Limerick re-staging and re-working elements of the All Weather Project. On 12 May the students will be performing a programme of ensemble choreographies by Liz Roche, Mairead Vaughan and an ensemble improvisation by Elena Giannotti with solos that they have choreographed themselves with feedback from Colin Dunne, Mary Wycherley and Mary Nunan throughout the year.

[www.danceireland.ie](http://www.danceireland.ie)

## OTHER DANCE NEWS

### HELEN LEWIS: NORTHERN IRELAND'S FIRST LADY OF MODERN DANCE



Dance Ireland has learned with regret of the death of choreographer, teacher and author, Helen Lewis MBE, who died on New Year's Eve at the age of 93. Helen had an enormous influence on the development of modern dance in Northern Ireland and is remembered fondly and with great respect by her many former students, colleagues and friends. On behalf of them all, we publish this tribute from Mary Brady.

### Helen Lewis – in memoriam

On the 31 December, 2009, Belfast-based choreographer, modern dance teacher and writer, Helen Lewis, aged 93 years passed away.

A native of former Czechoslovakia, prior to the Second World War Lewis had studied dance in Prague with Milcá Mayerová, a student of Rudolph Laban. A survivor of Auschwitz concentration camp, she arrived in Belfast, in 1947. According to Lewis modern dance was a style then unknown in Northern Ireland. In conversation with a former pupil and close friend, Maddy Tongue, Lewis explains, *"I started on my own, it was completely from nowhere, and the other name for that 'nowhere' was Laban"*. By the late fifties she had established herself as a modern dance teacher in Belfast.

Her development as a modern dance teacher converged with a similar kind of development in the formation of the Lyric Players Theatre in Belfast. Founded by Mary O'Malley, the Lyric Players was a collection of theatre practitioners and associate artists who came together to

support each others' work and present and produce Irish Theatre. Lewis worked with O'Malley and visual artist, Alice Berger Hammerschlag, a fellow refugee from Nazi Germany who became a life long friend of Helen's. Through the Lyric she developed a long association with theatre director Sam Mc Cready, teaching movement to his theatre studies students at Stranmillis College of Further Education as well as collaborating with him on productions. She gathered around her an eclectic circle of individuals both from the world of theatre (writers, directors, actors) and friends from the Belfast Ballet Club which she attended when she first came to Belfast. Many of the individuals, through these first encounters, joined her, perhaps even encouraged her, to set up her own classes in modern dance. (I imagine that Laban's work in educational dance was already known through the PE curriculum programme and here, in Belfast, there was now a person who had been taught Laban's work by an assistant of his.)

Lewis' newly-established Belfast Modern Dance Group worked from the early sixties through to the late seventies on productions, dance concerts and performances, as well as meeting for a weekly dance class. Lewis' first public outing as a choreographer was for Smetana's opera, *The Bartered Bride*. More collaborations were to follow. Through Belfast Modern Dance Group, partnerships were forged within the world of music most notably with Havelock Nelson, Raymond Warren and BBC N.I. television producer and music conductor, Alan Tongue.

Helen's diminutive size, her natural charm, integrity and generous disposition all belied her growing reputation and stature as a major contributor to the arts in Northern Ireland and beyond. Her exceptional talents as a teacher, choreographer and mentor arose, I believe, out of a deeply held conviction in the potency of dance - creatively empowering both the personal and interpersonal - deepening our sense of self as well as of our shared common humanity. I was to learn only later, on reading of her extraordinary life growing up in Czechoslovakia, of her imprisonment during the Second World War, of the role dance played in helping her through her most bleak periods, eloquently described in her personal memoirs, *A Time To Speak* (Blackstaff

Press 1992). Prior to her going public I had been aware of her past life mainly from the oblique reference of the prison number tattooed on her arm and from chance remarks.

Her time in Belfast was a period of creative renewal, not a time to dwell on the past - although it indelibly marked both her personal and professional life. She remarried a childhood friend, Harry Lewis. (Her first husband, Paul, did not survive the prison camp.) The subsequent births of her two sons, Michael and Robyn, brought her immense joy and fulfillment. Anyone who came in contact with her through her dance classes, or dance productions, or simply enjoying an engaging afternoon at her home, knew they were in the presence of an exceptional woman.

Helen's classes were joyous occasions. Her approach, her wide appeal, attracted people of all walks of life, abilities and social backgrounds to attend her classes - classes that were only advertised through word of mouth. The format of her classes appeared simple: beginning typically enough - like most classes - with a series of warming up and strengthening exercises, and always concluding with a completed group dance. Something happened during the course of each class that held both a profundity and a

lightness to it. It is difficult not to use the term "magical". There was nothing overtly spiritual about her teaching methodogly - nor, indeed, political - yet these two attributes were profoundly present. Over the years - in particular through the more advanced Tuesday Group (the group from which the Belfast Modern Dance Group had been founded) - we forged deep friendships (familial ones that have stood the test of time over the past 30 years, or so). Helen's approach was to celebrate our shared humanity, in the face of the deep-seated bigotry and violence that permeated everyday life at that time in Belfast and Northern Ireland. Her altruistic style of teaching I have rarely seen replicated.

Her legacy, through both her published writing and the dances she created and the many people she taught, is her enduring belief in the power of dance and the arts to be the most essential and creative expression of individual and collective self - determination. She had little time for monolithic, nationalist expressions of cultural identity. Hope, personal freedom and collective responsibility found creative outlets and were celebrated in and through dance. It is with deep appreciation and gratitude that we see her legacy grow and flourish.

## CHOREOGRAPH.NET

The raison d'être of the company is to empower artists. Many artists have made the courageous decision to live without financial security for the sake of their creativity, and they are existentially vulnerable. This is the draconian choice that the capitalist mode of production forces on nearly all of us: be a financially secure cog in a corporate machine or be a starving artist. Artists deserve our deepest respect and support. The artist is the role model for the successor to the worker in the post capitalist mode of production. His activity is expressive, spontaneous, creative, playful, audacious, breaking of taboos, self-managing, flexible, inflexible, and grounded in freedom.

from *Play, Don't Work in a Pragmatic-Utopian High-Tech Enterprise*

by Alan N. Shapiro / [www.choreograph.net](http://www.choreograph.net)

[www.danceireland.ie](http://www.danceireland.ie)

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FAUN

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AS YOU ARE

BY MUIRNE BLOOMER



TOURING TO	DATE	BOOKING	TICKETS
GARTER LANE ARTS CENTRE   WATERFORD	SAT 30 JAN	051 855038	€20/15
CORK OPERA HOUSE   CORK	TUE 02 FEB	021 4270022	€21
BACKSTAGE THEATRE   LONGFORD	THUR 04 FEB	043 3347888	€16/14
PAVILION THEATRE   DÚN LAOGHAIRE	SAT 06 FEB	01 2312929	€19/17
DUNAMAISE ARTS CENTRE   PORTLAOISE	TUE 09 FEB	057 8663355	€14/10
CIVIC THEATRE   TALLAGHT	THUR 11 FEB	01 4627477	€20/16
WEXFORD OPERA HOUSE   WEXFORD	SAT 13 FEB	053 9122144	€16/12

## DANCE IRELAND CLASSES @ DANCEHOUSE

01 – 05 February	Grant McLay	Contemporary
08 – 12 February	Stephen Brennan	Ballet
15 – 20 February	Katherine Lewis	Ballet

**Fees:** DI Members: €7 / Non-members: €10 per class (Class card available)  
**Time:** 10 - 11.30am

Every Wednesday	Contact Improvisation Jam	€2 contribution
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**Time:** 11.30am – 1.30 pm

## AERIAL DANCE FORUM @ DANCEHOUSE

### 22 February - 05 March

22 – 26 February	Aerial Technique	Chantal McCormick
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**Fees:** DI members €50 / Non-members €70  
**Time:** 9.30am – 1pm

01 – 04 March	Aerial Technique	Chantal McCormick & Lindsey Butcher
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**Fees:** DI members €40 / Non-members €60  
**Time:** 9:30am – 12pm

01 – 05 March	Aerial Choreographic Lab	Chantal McCormick & Lindsey Butcher
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**Fees:** DI members €100 / Non-members €120  
**Time:** 9:30am – 3.15pm

## PROFESSIONAL CLASS AT FIRKIN CRANE with Dance Ireland

Every Wednesday	Contemporary	Firkin Crane, Shandon, Cork
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**Time:** 11am – 12.30pm

**Fees:** DI Members: €7 per class / Non-members: €10 per class  
For more information: Firkin Crane @ 021 450 7487

## PROFESSIONAL CLASS AT SIAMSA TÍRE with Dance Ireland

Every Tuesday	Contemporary	Siamsa Tíre, Tralee, Co. Kerry
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**Time:** 9am – 11am

**Fees:** DI Members: €5 / Non-members: €8 per class  
For more information: Catherine Young @ 087 266 0012

## MAIDEN VOYAGE PROFESSIONAL CLASS with Dance Ireland

Every Wednesday	Contemporary	Dance Resource Base Studio, 35 Donegall Street, Belfast
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**Time:** 6.30pm – 8pm

**Fees:** DI Members: £4 per class / Non-members: £5 per class  
For more information: Maiden Voyage @ 0044 2890 330925

## MYRIAD DANCE PROFESSIONAL CLASS with Dance Ireland

Every Wednesday	Contemporary	Myriad Dance Studio, Wexford
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**Time:** 10am – 12noon

**Fees:** DI Members: €8 / Non-members: €10 per class  
For more information: Myriad Dance @ 053 9174 665