

MARCH 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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Photo: Fred Hecker

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April 2010 Copy & Photos: Friday 12 March Inserts: Friday 19 March

All photos submitted must be accompanied by appropriate credits and acknowledgements



INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the good news March issue of *Dance Ireland News*. Firstly, we are delighted to announce that the Arts Council has awarded Dance Ireland €405,000 for 2010. This represents a significant investment in our work and our members. In the letter of offer, the Council writes:

In making this offer the Council wishes to acknowledge Dance Ireland's essential contribution in advancing the profile of dance in Ireland. The organisation's support programmes are commended as an important factor in raising the professional standards and diversifying the width and scope of dance activities in Ireland.

The full list of major dance grants for 2010 is published on page 4.

In other good news we announce our involvement in two new European dance projects: Tour d'Europe des Chorégraphes (for emerging choreographers) and Modul-Dance (4 year pan-European initiative involving 18 partners from 14 countries) to be rolled out over the coming months and years.

As ever we carry news from our members, including information on Myriad Dance's *Innerscapes Saturday Short*, Kildare County Council's Laban Guild Dance Leaders Course, Fearghus Ó Conchúir's *Open Niche* touring, Echo Echo Dance Theatre Company's children's show *Undercurrent*, and the annual Longford Dance Fest.

The Dance Ireland programme continues with the Aerial Dance Forum, which includes Dance Talks with Chantal McCormick and Lindsey Butcher in conversation with Verena Cornwall on 04 March; morning classes taught by Fearghus Ó Conchúir, Multi-Disciplinary Exchange: Body & Theatre with the renowned Martine Harmel and later in the month our first International Guest Teacher for 2010, Catherine Plomteux making an much anticipated return to teach a week of classical ballet from 29 March. In an exciting development Catherine will also teach a piece of classical repertoire, immediately following the morning class, for those eager and hungry to challenge their classical technique. This development is in response to requests for Dance Ireland to continue to push the boundaries and address any imbalances in our programme.

Other highlights include the ongoing weekly Contact Improvisation Jam, the concluding *Thinking, Talking, Writing Dance* workshop with Jeffrey Gormly (26 March) and the introduction of another pilot, *Dance Research Reading & Discussion Group*, which kicks off on 16 March. Regionally we are delighted to partner with the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance on a two-day dance technique and composition workshop with Henry Montes in the University of Limerick campus.

DANCE IRELAND AGM

Sunday 18 April

The Board of Directors of Dance Ireland gives notice of the Annual General Meeting to be held on Sunday 18 April from 2pm to 4pm at DanceHouse.

In line with the Memorandum/Articles of Association three members of the current board will retire and are eligible to offer themselves for re-election. New nominations for the board are welcomed from performer/choreographer category members only. The closing date for completed nominations is Friday 09 April. For new nominations: the procedure is for a voting member (performer/choreographer) to nominate in writing another voting member (performer/choreographer). The nominated person must give notice in writing of his/her intention to go forward for election, and must speak to their nomination on the day.

Nominations and letters of acceptance of nomination must be made by Friday 09 April and may be submitted by post to Dance Ireland, DanceHouse, Foley Street, Dublin 1 or by email to Inga at admin@danceireland.ie (with Nomination in the subject line).

At the AGM voting members will vote on the Board of Directors, both those who put themselves forward for re-election and new nominations. Should a voting member not be able to attend the AGM they can vote by proxy. A proxy vote slip enables the eligible voting member to appoint someone else to vote on their behalf. Proxy slips are available on request. Final date for submitting proxy slips is Friday 16 April at 5pm.

ARTS COUNCIL DANCE PROJECT AWARD 2010

www.artscouncil.ie

The Arts Council will offer a Dance Project Award for activities commencing in 2010. The deadline will be 5.30pm on Thursday 01 April for applications that are submitted online. The deadline for applications submitted in hard copy will be 5.30pm on Thursday 25 March.

Guidance notes and an application form are available from the Arts Council website. The Dance Project Award will replace the project awards that were previously known as new work and once-off.

The Dance Project Award is open to individuals and organisations. Organisations in receipt of funding under any of the main Arts Council grant programmes (Regularly Funded Organisations, Annual Funding, Annual Programming Grant) will not be eligible to apply. However, dance organisations who have received funding for the first 4 months of 2010 but whose application for grant aid for 2010 was unsuccessful are eligible to apply.

A new online system for submitting application forms and supporting material will be in place to facilitate applications. There will be a second deadline for dance project awards in early autumn 2010 for activities occurring in 2011.

2010 ARTS COUNCIL MAJOR DANCE FUNDING DECISIONS

The Arts Council has made its major grant allocations for 2010, distributing in excess of €49m to more than 350 arts organisations, of which 18 are dance companies and organisations. Under the three major grants programmes – Regularly Funded Organisations, Annual Funding and Annual Programming Grants, which also includes three youth dance companies (funded under Youth People, Children and Education), and one aerial dance company (funded under Circus) is €2,761,900. Below is the full list of grant allocations made to Dance Ireland company and organisation members:

Company	2009 grant	2010 grant
Ballet Ireland	257,000	240,000
Cork City Ballet	75,000	40,000
CoisCéim Dance Theatre	430,000	350,000
Daghda Dance Company	250,000	160,000
Dance Ireland	413,000	405,000
Dance Theatre of Ireland	280,000	140,000
Dublin Dance Festival	455,000	450,000
Dublin Youth Dance Company	20,000	19,400
Fabulous Beast Dance Theatre	259,000	240,000
Fluxusdance	56,200	12,500
Fidget Feet Dance Company	57,500	52,000
Firkin Crane	95,000	90,000
Irish Modern Dance Theatre	251,000	200,000
Irish National Youth Ballet Co.	65,000	55,000
Myriad Dance Company	85,000	60,000
Rex Levitates	173,000	173,000
Shawbrook/LD Dance Trust Teo	71,000	65,000
Youth Ballet West	New	10,000

DANCE IRELAND PROGRAMME



ARTS COUNCIL AND DANCE IRELAND MEMBERS' MEETING

Date for your diary: Tuesday 09 March 12 - 2pm

Following our members' meeting, we are delighted to confirm a follow-up meeting with the Arts Council. As agreed, our purpose for calling the meeting is to initiate an open and constructive dialogue between the Arts Council and the dance sector. The agenda will be circulated in advance, and will be informed by some of the points raised at the 09 February meeting.

As we anticipate a good response, it is essential that you RSVP to reception@danceireland.ie or call 01 855 8800 by Friday 05 March @ 5pm.

NEW EUROPEAN DANCE PROJECTS

Dance Ireland is delighted to announce its involvement in two new European dance projects: *Tour d'Europe des Chorégraphes* and *Modul-Dance* which will be rolled out over the coming months and years.

Tour d'Europe is a pilot training project for emerging choreographers taking place for periods from September 2010 to June 2011. A five-way partnership between Le Pacifique/CDC (Grenoble), K3 Zentrum für Choreographie (Hamburg), Lubelski Teatr Tanca (Lublin), Centro Coreografico Galego (La Corua) and ourselves, Tour d'Europe will focus on assisting emerging choreographers to develop and learn through tailor-made modules and training programmes to take place in each of the partner countries, and on an e-learning course in arts administration and European cultural policies. Tour d'Europe aims to equip 10 young choreographers (2 from each partner country) with the tools to find support, funding and eventually present their work internationally. The project is funded by the EU under the umbrella of the Leonardo *Lifelong Learning* programme.

Two Irish choreographers will have the opportunity to take part. Full details of the Open Call will follow shortly. Please note that selected choreographers will need to be available for periods between September 2010 and June 2011.

On a much larger scale and lasting over four years, Modul-Dance is a major pan-European dance project involving 18 partners from 14 countries. Modul-Dance is funded by the EU, under the Culture Programme (2007-2013), Strand 1.1 – Multi-Annual Co-Operation Projects. Commencing later this year, the vision for Modul-Dance is for dance to continue to flourish as a confident, innovative and vital contributor to contemporary culture at all levels of engagement, within and across Europe and beyond. Using a modular system involving presentations, productions, residencies, film screenings, conferences and think tanks, this is the first time Dance Ireland has partnered with other European dance houses and dance institutions on such a scale.

Guiding the project are some key objectives, including: responsibly facilitating the mobility of independent dance artists internationally; broadening and extending the audience base for, and public access to, dance at local and international level; identifying and advocating for a broad-based dance aesthetic. Central to Modul-Dance is participation in ongoing cross-border communication amongst established and emerging dance institutions in the support of local artists, audience development and international exchange. Of equal importance is the aim to devise flexible systems that are sufficiently adaptable and inclusive of institutions of varying size, scales of operation, and financial means.

Following a series of planning meetings over the coming months, we will report back in greater detail about next steps and over the lifetime of the project document the work in *Dance Ireland News* and on our website: www.danceireland.ie.

www.danceireland.ie

RE-PRESENTING IRELAND 2010

Re-Presenting Ireland a showcase initiative by Culture Ireland, Dance Ireland and Dublin Dance Festival, will take place during the Dublin Dance Festival at DanceHouse on Fri 14, Sat 15, Fri 21 and Sat 22 May.

The programme is comprised of two mixed bills, featuring:

Mixed Bill 1 / 1pm

Liv O'Donoghue with *This Woman I Met* (solo);
Dance Theatre of Ireland with *Handle with Care*
(work-in-progress/quartet);
Elena Giannotti with *The Crow* (solo)

Mixed Bill 2 / 3pm

Iseli-Chiodi Dance Company with
>*Me Seeing You*< (duet);
Angie Smalis with *The Lightly Scented Solo* (solo);
Irish Modern Dance Theatre with *Actions* (duet)

The programme was curated by an independent peer panel, from a pool of 20 proposal received in response to an open call by Dance Ireland. The panel comprised Laurie Uprichard (DDF); John Ashford (Aerowaves); Angela Conquet (Mains D'Oeuvres, France); Kajo Nelles (Tanzmesse, Germany) and Madeline Boughton (Culture Ireland).

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
Free admission

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



RAW

Source: Jym Daly

interested in aerial dance and contemporary circus with teachers Chantal McCormick and Lindsey Butcher (UK). Places on the Aerial Dance Forum are now fully booked.

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, all welcome.

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.

For reservations for Dance Talks and the studio presentation, contact Dance Ireland at reception@danceireland.ie or phone 01 855 8800.



Henry Montes

DANCE TECHNIQUE AND COMPOSITION WORKSHOP

Henry Montes
19 - 20 March
10am - 5pm
Drumroe Village Hall
University of Limerick
€30 (DI members); €50 (non-members)

Henry Montes is a freelance dance maker, performer and teacher. He has performed for many independent

Source: Leslie Davis

choreographers and companies including Tanztheater Reinhild Hoffmann, Susanne Linke, Keely Garfield, Jonathon Appels, Amy Greenfield and KJ Holmes. Resident in the UK since 1991 he has performed with Jonathan Burrows, Charles Linehan, Rosemary Butcher, Kristie Simpson, Gaby Agis and most recently in Ireland with Joan Davis. His own work has been commissioned by The Place Prize and Transitions Dance Company. He joined Siobhan Davies Dance in 1998 and was awarded the 2003 Critics Circle National Dance Award for Outstanding Male Artist for his performance in Davies' *Plants and Ghosts*. Henry continues to study Yoga and the Alexander Technique and is a registered Craniosacral Therapist.

The workshop is supported by Dance Ireland and presented in association with the MA Contemporary Dance Performance at the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance. To reserve your place phone 01 855 8800 or email reception@danceireland.ie.

MULTI-DISCIPLINARY EXCHANGE: BODY & THEATRE

Martine Harmel

22 - 26 March

11am - 5pm

DanceHouse

€50 (DI members); €70 (non-members)

Studio presentation: Friday 26 March, 4pm

Free admission

Artistic Director and co-founder of the Théâtre de la Danse/En Corps et En Jeu Company, Martine was 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 active, 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 language of dance theatre's is infinite, as are the



La corruption n'est plus ce qu'elle était

Source: Martine Harmel

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 presentation is open to all and free of charge, but requires booking in advance at 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.

THINKING, TALKING, WRITING DANCE

A pilot writing project, led by Jeffrey Gormly

Workshop 3: 26 March, 12 - 4pm

Workshop fee: €10

Open to all creative artists interested in exploring and developing their writing practice. This is the final in a pilot series of three workshops Dance Ireland undertook with Jeffrey Gormly. 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, will bring his experience as writer, dramaturge, editor and cultural producer to a process of discovering while addressing the needs of creative producers.

This pilot involved 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 incorporated space/time

for free dance as an essential and constructive part of an embodied 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.

DANCE IRELAND 2009/10 BURSARY RECIPIENT RESIDENCIES

Aoife McAtamney

Studio showing on 05 March @ 3pm

Open professional morning class every week day,
10 – 11.15am

Free admission

Aoife McAtamney will be in residency at DanceHouse from 22 February to 05 March. Her theme of research covers movement alongside the imagination, creativity and Greek mythology relating to destiny. She will be working with dancers Juan Corres Benito, Emma Martin and Maria Nilsson Waller and collaborating with composer Tom Lane. Aoife will be presenting her work on Friday 05 March at 3pm, all welcome.

Aoife and Juan Corres Benito will open their morning warm up free of charge from 10 to 11.15am. Juan will be giving warm up based on the Gaga technique, a technique associated with the Batsheva Dance Company's work. Aoife will be giving a contemporary class, using exercises connecting with the imagination to warm up the body.



Choreographic Bursary Awards

Charlotte Spencer

Studio showing: 01 April @ 4pm

Free admission

Charlotte Spencer will be working in DanceHouse from 29 March to 02 April on her bursary project *Notions of Journeying*. Together with her collaborators Elena Giannotti, Rohanna Eade, Jennifer-Lynn Crawford, Tamar Daly and Tom Spencer, Charlotte has used two different strands of visual material as initial departure points to unpack ideas surrounding journey, arrival and departure, transition, process, the desire for destination and how the present tense is an essential ingredient in this mix of time and timing. Charlotte will be presenting her work on Thursday 01 April at 4pm, all welcome.

INTERNATIONAL GUEST TEACHER

Catherine Plomteux

Ballet

29 March - 02 April

10am - 1pm

€12 (DI members); €14 (Non-members)

Catherine Plomteux started dancing in her Belgian home town's dance academy at a young age. She graduated from Ballet Royal de Wallonie School and then at the age of 17 entered Paris School of Music and Dance. She studied in the class of the former French opera star Claire Motte.

Catherine graduated from the school taking 1st prize for best diploma performance and immediately started working as the main solo dancer for Ballet Royal de Wallonie, where she participated in many performances as a solo and group dancer, performing on big stages in Europe, Cuba and Japan. In 1991 the group was re-organised into Charleroi/Danses under the guidance of choreographer Frederic Flamand who is currently in charge of Marseille Ballet in France. Catherine took part in all the performances of Charleroi/Danses group.

Since 2002 Catherine has been teaching dance in various Belgian and French venues, including Marseille National Ballet, Ballet du Nord, Ballet Preljocaj and others. She is also one of the main classical dance teachers in the European project D.A.N.C.E. Since 2007 she is an expert member of the French Community's Dance Council of Belgium.

Her class is influenced by her practice of will yoga and release technique. It emphasises movement clarity and precision of the body's position, following each dancer's abilities. It will help build the dancing body, and will use the technique to increase the expressivity,

to free the dance artist. The aim is to understand who one is to use one's abilities best.

Following the morning technique class, dancers will have the opportunity to learn the Esmeralda solo from Roland Petit's *Notre-Dame de Paris*. This solo was created for Catherine's teacher at the Conservatoire de Paris. It is an ideal opportunity for dancers to challenge and extend their classical ballet vocabulary and performing skills.



Catherine Plomteux

Source: Catherine Plomteux

DANCE RESEARCH READING & DISCUSSION GROUP

Pilot project coordinated by Antje Schneider

Tuesdays, 6 - 8pm

16 March, 20 April, 04 May, 18 May

infodanceresearch@gmail.com

This group is an initiative to create a space for verbal exchange about theoretical and practice-based research in dance and performance. It addresses all dancers and researchers who want to reflect their ideas, and engage with the ideas of a wider community. Discussions will be stimulated by reading texts that will be provided to the group. The pilot term will kick off with a focus on improvisational practice. Join us, and enrich and reflect your movement practice through communication with other dancers and stay up to date with the current concerns in dance research. Supported by Dance Ireland and co-facilitated by GradCam (Graduate School of Creative Arts and Media).

CONTACT IMPROVISATION JAM WEDNESDAYS @ DANCEHOUSE

11.30am - 1.30pm

Fee: €2

Dance Ireland continues to host its series of Contact Improvisation Jams for two hours every Wednesday until 31 March. Co-ordinated by Cindy Cummings, the jam is 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 or pop along to DanceHouse.

RTÉ DANCE ON THE BOX 2010 WINNERS ANNOUNCED

The Arts Council and RTÉ announce the four films selected for the RTÉ Dance on the Box scheme. Over fifty applications were received from producers, directors and choreographers across the country and twelve applicants were shortlisted for interview. This is the third round of the RTÉ Dance on the Box scheme with awards of 22,000 for each project chosen. The following successful projects were selected:

Admit One Choreographer John Scott, Director Steve Woods, Producer Catherine Lyons.

Deependance Choreographer David Bolger, Director Conor Horgan, Producer Martha O'Neill.

Her Mother's Daughter Choreographer Cindy Cummings, Director Oonagh Kearney, Composer Denis Clohessy, Producers Rachel Lysaght and Steven Davenport.

Mo Mhór Choir Féin Choreographer Fearghus Ó Conchúir, Director Dearbhla Walsh, Composer Iarla Ó Lionaird, Producer Maggie Breathnach.

Each film will be up to six minutes in length. The completed short dance films will be premiered on RTÉ during this year's Dublin Dance Festival and screened in Temple Bar's Meeting House Square.

COMPANY NEWS



DUBLIN DANCE FESTIVAL

08 – 23 May

www.dublindancefestival.ie

Keep your eyes peeled. In just a couple of days we will be launching the full programme of the 2010 Dublin Dance Festival (DDF). We have a real smorgasbord of dance from around the world lined up for your delight in a programme of many strands. Inspired by the poetic title of the centrepiece performance, *Young People, Old Voices* by Raimund Hoghe, many of the works in DDF 2010 will explore ideas about age and youth and the many different bodies involved in contemporary dance.

Look out for new works from some established Irish artists, as well as work by emerging Irish choreographers. Tickets are already available for *DAY*, a new solo work for Jean Butler, choreographed by Tere O'Connor and commissioned by the Abbey Theatre. DDF will co-present this work from May 19-22 on the Peacock Stage and tickets are available from www.abbeytheatre.ie and 01 878 7222.

Check out the full programme online from 02 March and book your Early Bird bargains exclusively at www.dublindancefestival.ie.

The incredibly popular Early Bird tickets will return this year, exclusively through DDF's website – make sure you purchase online early to get the best deals.



Young People Old Voices

Source: Rosa Frank

And if you love dance as much as we do and want to see us flourish – while enhancing your Festival experience while you are at it – you can become a Friend of DDF online now. We are really excited about DDF 2010 – we cannot wait to see you there.



Undercurrent

Source: Creative Zoo

ECHO ECHO DANCE THEATRE COMPANY

Undercurrent

15 & 16 March @ 11am

Waterside Theatre, Derry-Londonderry

info@echoechoadance.com

Northern Ireland's leading dance theatre company, Echo Echo, will be performing their creative and acclaimed children's show *Undercurrent* for audiences this March.

Undercurrent received excellent reviews from audiences at several arts and children's theatre festivals across Ireland, including the *Imaginosity Children's Museum*, Dublin in October 2009.

Undercurrent is magical, wacky and full of laugh out loud moments; submerging the audience into an

episodic world full of superheroes, Grimm fairytales and friendly blue monsters.

Directed by Prehen, dancer and choreographer, Ayesha Mailey, the production is aimed at children of all ages and can still be enjoyed by adults. Echo Echo Development Officer, Sarah Young; *Undercurrent is a great example of what Echo Echo's work is about – it is bright, playful and imaginative. Importantly, the company is delighted to be able to support several of the performers who recently graduated from the dance degree at Magee.*

Echo Echo has invited primary schools from the Western Education and Library Board to attend two special showings of the production, however it is also open to members of the public and tickets are available at The Waterside Theatre box office on 0044 28 7131 4000. Alternatively, visit www.echoecho.com.

FEARGHUS Ó CONCHÚIR

Open Niche

19 March – 01 April

Touring

www.bodiesandbuildings.blogspot.com

At the tail-end of Ireland's economic boom, when cranes still dominated Dublin's skyline, choreographer Fearghus Ó Conchúir made *Niche*. Conceived, rehearsed and performed on the building sites of the Dublin Docklands this exciting piece was developed by Ó Conchúir during his residency with Dublin City Council.

Now that the landscape in which *Niche* was conceived has altered Ó Conchúir is opening the piece up to the challenges faced by Ireland today. In the wake of

economic collapse and in the face of prevailing gloom, *Open Niche* will celebrate resilience, resourcefulness and the satisfaction of building your connection with others, of finding your place in an ever changing world and of discovering your niche.

What will distinguish *Open Niche* is that for each performance the cast will be joined by local performers who will bring their own experiences and flavour to the work, making each performance a unique experience. The cast will feature four experienced performers, who between them have danced with renowned companies such as DV8, Pina Bausch, and Sasha Waltz. They will be joined by local performers including the professional core company of Siamsa Tíre, Dublin Youth Dance Company, students of University Limerick's MA in Contemporary Dance Practice and participants from Daghdha Mentoring Programme.

Open Niche will be touring Ireland from 19 March to 01 April and will be performed at the following venues: 19 March - Pavilion Theatre (Dun Laoghaire), 24 March - Daghdha Space (Limerick – tickets available from Belltable Arts Centre), 27 March - Hawk's Well Theatre (Sligo), 30 March - Siamsa Tíre (Tralee) and 01 April - Firkin Crane (Cork).

Tickets are on sale now at all participating venues. For more information on *Open Niche* and to stay up to date with all the latest developments visit www.bodiesandbuildings.blogspot.com or become a fan of *Open Niche* on Facebook.

Fearghus Ó Conchúir is an Associate Artist of Project Arts Centre and *Open Niche* is produced by Richard Wakely in association with Project Arts Centre.

IRISH MODERN DANCE THEATRE

Actions / Lovestruck

www.irishmoderndancetheatre.com

Irish Modern Dance Theatre (IMDT) has had a busy start to 2010 with a visit to New York which included participation in Culture Ireland's APAP delegation and is continuing work on its current productions, *Actions* and *Lovestruck*.

Actions is John Scott's new duet, which can be seen as part of Re-Presenting Ireland at DanceHouse in May, and in New York as part of the LaMama Moves Festival in June.

Lovestruck continues in development with legendary filmmaker Charles Atlas when he returns to Dublin in April. *Lovestruck* is scheduled for a world-premiere in Dublin this November.



Open Niche



Ashley Chen

John Scott will choreograph *Admit One* for the RTE Dance on the Box series. The film is directed by Steve Woods and produced by Camel Productions.

John Scott will lead a series of exciting movement workshops with the outstanding vocal group ASPIRO as part of the Artist in Residence Scheme at the George Bernard Shaw Theatre, Carlow.

IMDT's popular contemporary dance classes continue in DanceHouse every Thursday at 6pm. The class includes elements designed to improve body-tone and flexibility, technique and combination work. For booking and further information contact IMDT by email at imdt@iol.ie or phone 01 671 5113.

ISELI-CHIODI DANCE COMPANY

Blank Canvas residency and sharing day
12 March @ 1pm
Firkin Crane, Cork
www.iselichiodi.com

Iseli-Chiodi Dance Company have been awarded a Blank Canvas residency at the Firkin Crane in Cork, giving them the infrastructure to develop the stage setup of the new piece *→Me Seeing You 2←*. Catalina Fernandez, video artist and filmmaker, will join the company from Berlin to research, film and edit the visual language of *→Me Seeing You 2←*. As in last year's duet, they will use recorded images to question and

contrast the scenic setup with the live performance. The company will show its work in progress at the Firkin Crane on 12 March at 1pm, in a shared program with other residents in Blank Canvas.

Iseli-Chiodi Dance Company began developing its new piece's vocabulary in the Tipperary Excel Arts and Culture Centre Dance Studio, with the support of South Tipperary Dance Residency.

As resident artists in South Tipperary Dance Residency, they will start teaching a 12 meeting dance workshop in Knockanrawley Resource Centre. It is hoped that these dance workshops will lead to the creation of a piece with the participants.

The company has also been selected to Perform *→Me Seeing You 2←* in the Re-Presenting Ireland 2010 studio showcase in May.



→Me Seeing You 2←

KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL

Laban Guild Dance Leaders Course
Practical Information Day
20 March
NUI Maynooth, Co. Kildare

In response to demand for accredited training in community dance, the next Laban Guild Dance Leaders Course will commence in May 2010 at NUI Maynooth. This 150 hour part-time course is designed to help you adapt your professional skills to teaching dance and will teach you how to lead creative dance sessions in a variety of contexts. The Laban Guild Dance Leaders Course will enhance the work of dance artists, freelance dance and drama teachers, social or care workers, community arts workers and physiotherapists.

In advance of the course, there will be a practical information day on Saturday 20 March. For those who are considering the course, or for those with an interest in Laban, this day will provide an ideal opportunity to sample the practical work, explore Laban Analysis and



Dance Summer School 2009

decide whether this is the course for you. Course tutors will be available on the day to answer questions and explain the format, demands and application of the course. To book a place, please contact Nicola Dunne, Kildare County Council Arts Service, on 045 448312, email nmdunne@kildarecoco.ie or visit www.kildare.ie/artsservice.

LD DANCE @ SHAWBROOK

Longford Dance Fest 2010

08 & 09 April

Backstage Theatre Longford and Shawbrook Legan

www.shawbrook.org

LD Dancefest kicks off this year on 08 April in the Backstage Theatre with the Irish National Dance Awards (INDA) at 10am. Young ballet dancers will compete in three age categories (10 - 12, 13 - 15 and 16 - 19), judged by Anne Maher, Director and co founder of Ballet Ireland. Before and after each category a free solo or group dance piece will be shown including *Dis...Connected* by Night Star Dance Company (Orla McFeely), and *Ceaselessly* by Dublin Youth Dance Company, choreographed by the dancers and mentored by Mariam Ribon. Also throughout the day the new rehearsal space at the Backstage Theatre will host the *Free Stage*, where students will perform their own pieces.

During lunch there will be a "surprise stage" where dancers are invited to perform their own work. In order

to take part in this event dancers are asked to provide Jym Daly with a cd of their music before 12pm. Come and surprise us; all ages and styles will be welcomed, it just takes courage.

At 4.30pm Shawbrook Youth Dance will perform a piece they created with mentors Chantal McCormick and Lee Clayden. Afterwards the awards ceremony will take place with the best performers of the day shown.

Then we take a deserved break before the evening presentation of *Duets* taking place at Backstage Theatre from 8.30pm. Performances on the night include *Sinful Intimacies* by Tavaziva Dance (Kristina Alleyne & Anna Watkins), *Hanging in There* by Legitimate Bodies Dance Company (Nick Bryson & Damian Punch), *like mother like daughter* by Anica Louw (Anica Louw & Emma Fitzgerald) and Fidget Feet Aerial Dance Company (Lee Claydon & Chantal McCormick).

Friday 09 April morning starts off with a fun ballet class at 11am taught by Anica Louw. Anica is offering dancers their diva moment, dress to impress ...tutus optional. Class is open to everyone, and welcomes those who have not danced for many years to revisit their past. There will be a contact improvisation class at 12.30pm which will be followed by an improvisation and contact jam.

At 2pm lunch will be provided by maestro Philip Dawson to give you energy for the Pole Dancing class taught by Lee Clayden. This exciting new addition to the Longford Dance Fest will take place at 3.30pm, dancers are encouraged to free their inhibitions and put on their fantasy outfits.

Come to the midlands for your spring dance fix, show your support, and join the craic.



Wilde Dog Jump

MAIDEN VOYAGE

Best

18 February - 05 March

Touring

www.maidenvoyagedance.com

February saw Maiden Voyage premier *BEST*, a new work celebrating the life and football genius of George Best. 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. *BEST* runs until 05 March.

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.

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

MYRIAD DANCE

Innerscapes Saturday Shorts

27 March; 10am - 4pm

Wexford Opera House

Price: €30 / €25

www.myriaddance.com

Mary Nunan, contemporary dance choreographer, performer and course director of the MA in Contemporary Dance Performance at the University of Limerick, leads the second series of Saturday workshops entitled *Innerscapes Shorts* on 27 March at Wexford Opera House. Myriad Dance is delighted to welcome Mary as a guest teacher on their Professional Development Programme.

Since 2002 Mary has been involved, as a collaborative artist and performer, in the Maya Lila collective, under the directorship of Joan Davis. As a teacher Mary bases her workshops on principles and practices drawn from post-modern release-based techniques, the Erick Hawkin's contemporary dance technique, yoga and mindfulness meditation. In keeping with Myriad's current exploration of somatic study material with performance and choreography, the focus of this one day workshop will be to provide for structured explorations into how spatial awareness can be experienced and expressed through movement and dance.

These workshops are open to a diverse mix of dance



Source: Leslie Davis

Mary Nunan

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.

THE ARK

in association with Theatre Lovett

The Girl Who Forgot to Sing Badly

Running until 07 March

www.ark.ie

Written by Finegan Kruckemeyer, directed by Lynne Parker and performed by Louis Lovett, this is the story of Peggy, and the packing, and the blizzard, and the boat.

Peggy O'Hegarty and her parents were packers. Each day someone would call with a job and a time. 'I want 17 foxes in boxes by breakfast,' said the caller and all of the packers said 'fine'.

But one day the phone it forgot to keep ringing, and then all the boxes forgot to need stuffing, and then poor old Peggy, she forgot to keep singing, and she opened the curtains and found outside ... nothing. All of the people in her city were gone, so Peggy went out to explore...

The Girl who Forgot to Sing Badly is part of The Ark's Theatre-Maker in Residence 2010: Inspire new theatre for generations. The performance is suitable for children ages 7 and upwards, and runs until 07 March with public performances on Saturdays and Sundays at 2pm and 4pm. School performances for second class and upwards run Tuesdays to Fridays 10.15am and 12.15pm during term time.

For full programme details, prices and booking please see www.ark.ie, phone 01 670 7788 or visit The Ark, 11a Eustace Street, Temple Bar, Dublin 2.

OTHER DANCE NEWS

CHOREOGRAPH.NET

Dance Ritual

A bell sounds

Embodied stillness,
consciousness entering every cell,
a dropping anchor.

Willingness to open then,
To release the usual sense of 'self'
& enter fully an unknown sea of possible realities.

Receptive waiting.

Movement arrives at the meeting of the waters.
Those of this individual's inner world
And the larger flows of systems of which she is a
part.

The resonances and conflicts creating tensions to
which a Human being can only respond.

From *Dance Ritual / An Embodied Stillness* by Gwen
McHale

COLLEGE OF DANCE

Open Days

23 & 24 March

10am – 5pm

www.collegeofdance.com

The College of Dance will host its annual *Open Days* on Tuesday 23 and Wednesday 24 March. Everyone is welcome to call in between 10am and 5pm both days. The timetable will be posted on the exciting new College of Dance Facebook Site.



College of Dance

Auditions for entry to the College this September are being held in March. Places are limited and the first audition is already full.

Second year students are busy auditioning for overseas colleges. Aifric Ni Chaoimh has already been offered a place at both Tilberg and Northern School of Contemporary Dance.

Members of Dance Ireland continue to avail of our daily senior ballet classes. Timetables are available from the office.

For prospectus and further information contact the College of Dance, Knox Hall, Monkstown Road, Monkstown, County Dublin, phone 01 230 4115 email: admin@collegeofdance.com or visit www.collegeofdance.com.

DUBLIN FRINGE FESTIVAL

Open Call for the 2010 edition of Absolut Fringe
Deadline for applications 12 March
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. The deadline for applications is Friday 12 March at 6pm.

AERIAL DANCE FORUM @ DANCEHOUSE

01 – 04 March	Aerial Technique	Chantal McCormick/Lindsey Butcher
01 – 05 March	Aerial Lab	Chantal McCormick/Lindsey Butcher

DANCE IRELAND MORNING CLASSES @ DANCEHOUSE

08 – 12 March	Fearghus Ó Conchúir	Contemporary
15 & 16 March	Stéphane Hisler	Contemporary

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

MULTI-DISCIPLINARY EXCHANGE PROGRAMME @ DANCEHOUSE

22 – 26 March	Martine Hamel	Body & Theatre
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Fee: €50 (DI members); €70 (non-members). **Time:** 11am – 5pm

INTERNATIONAL GUEST TEACHER @ DANCEHOUSE

29 March – 02 April	Catherine Plomteux	Ballet & Repertoire
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Fees: €12 (members) / €14 (non-members)
Time: 10am – 1pm

CONTACT IMPROVISATION JAM @ DANCEHOUSE

Every Wednesday	Time: 11.30am – 1.30 pm	€2 contribution
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DANCE TECHNIQUE AND COMPOSITION WORKSHOP

19 – 20 March	Henry Montes	Drumroe Village Hall, UL
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Fees: €30 (DI members) / €50 (non-members). **Time:** 10am – 5pm
For further information: reception@danceireland.ie or 01855 8800

PROFESSIONAL CLASS AT FIRKIN CRANE with Dance Ireland

Every Wednesday	Contemporary	Firkin Crane, Cork
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Time: 11am - 12.30pm
Fees: DI Members: €7 / non-members: €10 per class
For more information: Firkin Crane @ 021 4507487

PROFESSIONAL CLASS AT SIAMSA TÍRE with Dance Ireland

Every Tuesday	Contemporary	Siamsa Tíre, Tralee, Co. Kerry
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Time: 9 - 11am
Fees: DI Members: €5 / non-members: €8 per class
For more information: Catherine Young @ 087 2660012

MAIDEN VOYAGE PROFESSIONAL CLASS with Dance Ireland

Every Wednesday	Contemporary	Dance Resource Base Studio
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Time: 6.30 - 8pm
Fees: DI Members: £4 / 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 – 12 noon
Fees: DI Members: €8 / non-members: €10 per class
For more information: Myriad Dance @ 053 9174 665