

# THE FLOOR IS YOURS!

10am to 4pm, Thursday, 1 December 2022

DanceHouse, Foley Street, Dublin 1

Dance Ireland and Age & Opportunity, in consultation with Dance Theatre of Ireland present the Floor is Yours! a networking event for dance artists, companies and organisations working with older people; which aims to strengthen and connect the sector. The event offers workshops, discussions and presentations from those working in the field nationally.



## PRESENTERS



### ROBERT CONNOR

Robert Connor & Loretta Yurick are founders and Artistic Directors of [Dance Theatre of Ireland](#) and have created over 40 dance theatre works touring Internationally. They are founders of the DTI Centre for Dance Dun Laoghaire, the Vintage Youth Seniors Performance Ensemble, DTI's National Dance Performance Outreach Programme, and Co-founders of Dance Ireland and Dublin Youth Dance Company. Since 2014 they have developed a unique, evidence-based programme bringing Well-Dance for Seniors to over 1,700 people in 14 communities, and also Well-Dance for people with Parkinson's and people with Dementia. For this work they have received a 2019 and 2021 National Lottery Regional Good Causes Award, a National Age Friendly Award, a dlr Community Arts & Culture Award and have been shortlisted for a Social Entrepreneurs Ireland Award. Their work is driven by a passionate belief in the power of dance to transform people's lives, improve their health and well-being and put people in touch with their creative selves. Well-Dance is a programme of modern dance classes for older adults. It has been the subject of a 2-year Trinity College Occupational Therapy's study confirming its effectiveness in improving mobility, engagement and quality of life.



### HELGA DEASY

Helga Deasy is a choreographer, dance artist and educator who feels passionate about the empowering and transformative potential of dance. She has received numerous awards and performed and presented in Ireland, the UK, Germany and the US. Since completing a specialist training with Rosetta Life (2012), she has worked extensively in dance and health, most recently on Creative Enquiry (Arts Council Invitation to Collaborate Scheme 2019-2021). She is Dance Artist in Residence at Dance Cork Firkin Crane 2020-2023 supported by Cork City Council and the Arts Council. [www.helgadeasydance.com](http://www.helgadeasydance.com)



### **OLWYN LYONS**

Olwyn Lyons is a choreographer, dance artist and community dance facilitator who had worked extensively with arts and older people. She has over 10 years experience delivering, developing, directing and facilitating arts projects with professionals and the community.

Recently Olwyn was awarded the Agility Award 2022 Round 2, Arts Council of Ireland and Professional Artist Development Fund from Meath County Council.

Both awards will help her further investigation dance and Parkinson's Disease. She is working with dlr on their Programme for Carers of people living with Dementia offering dance workshops in libraries across in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown and was a selected artist for dlr Primary Arts Programme 2022/23, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council.



### **SIOBHAN GRANT**

As the Fundraising Manager at Saint Joseph's Shankill it is an honour to be a part of making a difference to people living with dementia and their families. My role here is diverse and challenging, engaging and exciting we strive every day to create WOW moments with the people in our care.

Dance and dancing was my main hobby growing up (ballet, jazz, and contemporary) and still today dancing brings me to a very happy place. So this understanding of what dance can do for wellbeing, inclusion, fitness was one that drove finding funding to commence our movement and dance project in partnership with Dance Theatre Ireland.



### **SHANN MORRIS**

Shann Morris is a Derry woman living in the mountains of Wicklow. She is a trained nurse and has worked in the profession for 28 years. Her passion lies in community nursing and older persons. While working previously as nurse manager In Naas day centre for older persons she developed a real understanding of the benefits of arts in the health of older persons through several projects she facilitated in the daycentre with artists in residence.



### **LOUISE COSTELLOE**

Louise has a background in dance as a performer, teacher and choreographer and has previously held positions as Dance Artist in Residence for Dumfries and Galloway County Council, Scotland (2006 – 2008), Dancer in Residence for South Dublin County Council and RUA RED Arts Centre (2008 – 2011), Public Programme Manager for South East Dance, UK (2012-2014), Creative Learning Producer at Dance Umbrella Festival, UK (2014 – 2017) and Manager of the Grainstore Youth Arts Centre (2017 – 2019), Dublin. She is currently Programme Producer at Dance Ireland.



### **JOHN CONWAY**

John Conway is a visual artist based in Rua Red South Dublin Arts Centre. His work is characterised by innovative multi-disciplinary projects and sophisticated solo and participatory artworks which are often produced in response to sensitive, challenging, or novel contexts. He frequently commissions, curates, and collaborates with other arts and non-arts specialists to deliver complex multi-stakeholder projects.



### **AOIFE MCATAMNEY**

Aoife McAtamney is a dancer, choreographer, musician and teacher based in Dublin. Aoife cultivates a community arts practice exploring gender, ancestry and nature. From 2020 - 2022 Aoife was the lead movement artist for Dublin City Council Culture Company and her participation practice credits include CoisCéim Dance Theatre's Broadreach, WISE OAKS and Macushla Dance Club 50+.



### **DR. TARA BYRNE**

Tara is the Arts Programme Manager at Age & Opportunity, the leading national development organisation working to enable the best possible quality of life for us all as we age, as well as Artistic Director of Bealtaine, Ireland's national festival celebrating the arts and creativity as we age. She has built a strong reputation over the past twenty five years as an arts manager, curator and director, working as Director of the National Sculpture Factory in Cork from 2002- 2008, the Arts Council of Ireland (1996 – 2002), the Irish Museum of Modern Art (1992 – 1994), the National College of Art and Design (1991 – 1995), and many other arts organisations. More recently since completing a doctorate in Cultural Policy at the Graduate School of Creative Arts and Media at Dublin Institute of Technology (2013), she has acted as an independent arts and cultural researcher, policy consultant, teacher and advocate, for both the arts, public service and university sectors.



### **ELEANOR MOORE**

Eleanor Moore is the Principal Community Worker, Cork South Community Work Department, Cork Kerry Community Healthcare. Eleanor's role involves supporting and encouraging the community both individually and collectively to improve the health and lifestyle outcomes of the communities in which they live. Eleanor Moore holds a Master's degree in applied social science, and has a keen interest in arts and health.



### **MÁIRE DAVEY**

Máire Davey, Assistant Arts Officer Participation and Learning with dlr Arts Office. An arts administrator with a background working as an artist in community education and other community contexts. Interested in participatory arts practice and cultural equity, Máire recently completed a Diploma in Human Rights and Equality.



### **ANTHEA MCWILLIAMS**

Anthea McWilliams MA BA (Hons) is freelance dance practitioner from Lisburn N.Ireland with over 30 years of community dance experience, enjoying her work with older people particularly. A graduate of Middlesex University gaining an Honours degree in Performance Art in 1987 aged 29. At 59 she passed Grade 1 ballet with Distinction and celebrated her 64th birthday in November! More to come.