

Perchance to Dream

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION THURSDAY 08 DECEMBER

LIVE ARCHIVE EXHIBITION THROUGHOUT

The Live Archive Exhibition, will be installed at DanceHouse from 05 December 2016 – 28 January 2017. This exhibition will feature archived materials from Dublin Contemporary Dance Theatre and their productions, in order to bring new focus and attention to a key era of our Irish dance history.

THIS TOO SOLID FLESH: DANCE IN IRELAND 10AM

DR AOIFE MCGRATH

This talk will take a look at attitudes towards the body and theatrical dance that have influenced the current positioning of dance in the Irish performance landscape. Moving through a discussion of the socio-political and cultural contexts for dance from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries to the present, it will consider some of the most pressing issues facing dance artists and scholars in Ireland today.

TEA/COFFEE 11.15AM

FOCUS GROUP ONE—AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT 11.30AM

FACILITATED BY FEARGHUS Ó CONCHÚIR AND UNA CARMODY

It is our vision that Perchance to Dream not only shares knowledge, but creates it. With this in mind, we will hold three focus groups on topics of key interest to the dance sector at this present moment.

The facilitators will share research on dance audiences to set the context for this session where attendees can explore and share their different experiences of engaging audiences. Dance Ireland hopes that the session will generate ideas that will inform its future programming and support for artists.

THE ROLE OF DANCE IN HEALTHCARE AND COMMUNITY CONTEXTS 11.30AM

Panel moderated by **Dr Hilary Moss** and presented by:

CAROLANN COURTNEY—PUT ON YOUR RED SHOES AND DANCE THE BLUES

Carolann Courtney, Kildare County Councils Arts and Health Specialist presents a look at 2016's Dance and Health Programme in Co. Kildare. She will pose questions on what it is to coordinate dance and health in the community. What are the differences between the acute and community settings? What work can be done with both professionals and community participants in the room? What supports can local authorities give to professional dance practitioners? She will also reflect on the impact dance has had on the communities she works with in the county.

ALISON BAKER KERRIGAN—A DANCER IN RESIDENCE... SERIOUSLY? IN A HOSPITAL!

This is usually the first comment received when describing one of the newest projects the National Centre for Arts and Health in Tallaght Hospital has embarked upon. The dance programme is held within the Age Related Day Hospital and delivers an exciting, pleasant, upbeat, multi-sensory innovative session that leaves the patients and staff wanting more.

JUAN URBINA—THE ROLE OF DANCE IN THE HOMELESS COMMUNITY

Over the past year Dublin Simon Community (DSC) Dance Group has been working together to bring dance to people who has experienced homelessness. Juan Urbina, dancer and choreographer of the group, speaks about this remarkable and rewarding experience.

LUNCH 1.00PM

FOCUS GROUP TWO—BUILDING STRONG NETWORKS 2.30PM

FACILITATED BY MADELINE BOUGHTON

It is our vision that *Perchance to Dream* not only shares knowledge, but creates it. With this in mind, we will hold three focus groups on topics of key interest to the dance sector at this present moment. Madeline will explore with the attendees what they believe makes a strong network in the global sense, while presenting examples of good practice for consideration. The attendees will then discuss possible networks that would significantly enhance their current working environment should they exist. It is hoped that the session will culminate in a few key points which Dance Ireland can take under advisement in this area for the coming year(s).

DANCE EDUCATION: DESIGNING FOR THE FUTURE 2.30PM

Panel moderated by **Dr Brigitte Moody** and presented by:

NINA PONGRATZ—DEVELOPING A DANCE PROGRAMME IN DUBLIN; CATERING TOWARDS TODAY'S DANCE STUDENT

Since August 2015 Nina Pongratz has been the Director of Dance at one of Dublin's leading stage schools for children aged 3-18, the Independent Theatre Workshop (ITW). During this 15 minute presentation Nina will address the goals for a dance programme along with the challenges and trial runs given to the programme in its first year and a half. Furthermore, the attitude of today's dancers will be discussed, as it applies to programme development, the dance department's future plans, and why discussing Dublin-based dance education development is relevant to the community.

TOBI OMOTSESO—WHY THE HIP-HOP DANCE COMMUNITY NEEDS A NATIONALLY RECOGNISED GRADING SYSTEM

Tobi's presentation will offer of a quick description of Hip-Hop culture, and how it related to dance as an art form. He will then focus on the question of why the Hip-Hop Community feels it needs a nationally recognised grading system.

PHILIPPA DONNELLAN—INSPIRING THE IMAGINATION: CREATING DANCE IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Creative Dance Tales was a workshop series for primary school children and teachers designed and led by CoisCéim BROADREACH. This proposal outlines the model adopted, the reasons it was developed, and seeks to open up the discussion about building sustainable creative dance opportunities in schools.

TEA/COFFEE 4.00PM

COMMUNICATION 4.15PM

MIHAELA GRIVEVA—THE WEB FOR DANCERS AND CHOREOGRAPHERS

With a limited budget the web gives you the opportunity to promote yourself globally and in the manner you choose. Establishing your online identity is the starting point. Using the right tools and knowing your audience are essential for getting your work noticed, making new contacts and achieving your goals.

LIVE ARCHIVE WITH DUBLIN CONTEMPORARY DANCE THEATRE (PERFORMANCE) 7PM

For the performance evening, Emma Meehan has invited original DCDT company members to select one of their past choreographies to reinvestigate with a new generation of dancers. Meehan will weave the evening together using stories from the process of working as researcher with the dancers and archives during the project. Some of themes which are explored include the connection between past work and current practice, the potential in dance archives to be mined, contemporary dance histories in Ireland, and the passing on the inherent qualities underlying choreography which is essential to their performance. The performance will conclude with a post-show conversation. The performance evening seeks to address how we can find creative ways to reanimate archival dance material in Ireland, share the embodied history of DCDT with an audience and pass on the repertoire to future artists.

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Dance Ireland Conference
A Space to Envision our Collective Future
08-09 December 2016

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PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION **FRIDAY 09** DECEMBER

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE IN RESIDENCE? 10AM

EMMA MARTIN—BETWEEN THE POTHOLES

A presentation on the precarious nature of being an independent rural dwelling artist, what residency means and the tricky terrain of partnerships.

TEA/COFFEE 11.15AM

DANCE IRELAND ENGAGEMENT PROCESS FINDINGS TO DATE 11.30AM

Presented by **MADELINE BOUGHTON**

Madeline has worked with Dance Ireland over the past six months on an Engagement Process with our members. In this presentation, she shares her findings to date, and will open the floor for further discussion on any of the findings and the methodology of the process. All feedback from this presentation will be taken into consideration as part of the final report, which will be delivered in early 2017.

CHOREOGRAPHIC PERSPECTIVES 12.30PM

ARGYRO TSAMPAZI—THE USE OF HESYCHASTIC PRAYER IN CHOREOGRAPHY

In the current research project Argyro would like to explore the use of the Hesychastic Practices in Choreography. Those practices are part of a mystical tradition in the Eastern Orthodox Church and descriptions can be found in ecclesiastic texts from the 4th and 5th century and in a collection of Pateric Texts called 'Filokalia' (18th century).

NATALIE MORNINGSTAR—CURATING THE ALTERNATIVE; PERSPECTIVES ON COSMOPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT AND THE DANCE SECTOR

Natalie is a graduate researcher from Cambridge currently on a Visiting Scholar placement in Sociology at Trinity College Dublin. Her research centres on how alternative aesthetics are curated in the arts sector, with a focus on the impact of alternative and avant-garde arts movements on cosmopolitan development and consumerism. As part and parcel of this research, Natalie has been interviewing and working with dancers and other artists in Dublin, discussing their experiences of working with and against various expectations for the type of art they produce in institutional, festival, performance, public, and curated contexts. The aim of this talk is to briefly present her initial findings and to discuss how issues ranging from hipster consumerism and gentrification to the politics of development funding have both constrained and facilitated artists' productivity in cosmopolitan Dublin.

LUNCH 1.00PM

FOCUS GROUP TWO—YOUTH DANCE AS INFRASTRUCTURE 2.30PM

FACILITATED BY SHEILA CREEVEY

It is our vision that *Perchance to Dream* not only shares knowledge, but creates it. With this in mind, we will hold three focus groups on topics of key interest to the dance sector at this present moment. Sheila will guide the attendees in a discussion around current models of practice and support for Youth Dance in Ireland. The group will explore possibilities for future developments to increase engagement by young people and their support systems, recognising youth dance as a valuable part of the professional dance infrastructure. It is hoped that the session will culminate in a few key points which Dance Ireland can take under advisement in this area for the coming year(s).

HOW DOES A FESTIVAL CREATE RELEVANCE? 2.30PM

Panel moderated by **Dr Niamh Nic Ghabhann** and presented by:

JAZMIN CHIODI—TIPPERARY DANCE PLATFORM, A POWERFUL ADVOCATE FOR CHANGE

Tipperary Dance Platform is an artist led festival born by the necessity of establishing a dance identity in rural Ireland. Nested in a farming area, the festival confronts the challenge to expose dance to a local community that has demonstrated little curiosity for activities that they do not know.

DR RÍONACH NÍ NÉILL—A SOFT EDGE & A HARD LANDING

What is the boundary of a dance work? Is it what happens within a prescribed time period, in front of a group who came to see it? What about the process of bringing this group together? Is informing you about 'it', a separate thing to 'it'? What about what happens after you've seen 'it'?

- A dance-maker's perspective on presenting other makers' dances.

BENJAMIN PERCHET—WHICH ARTISTIC AND POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT CHAMPIONS / RESTRAINS THE RELEVANCE OF A FESTIVAL?

In this presentation, Benjamin Perchet will explore his experience in different contexts as a festival director, from Lyon, France to Dublin, Ireland. Interspersed will be some other experiences and a collection of testimonies from other European cities and countries. Questions to be considered include: Is a dance festival is more likely to champion dance work and maintain the audience's curiosity in a city where some complementary institutions such as dance houses / production houses / venues for dance are established and active? Is a multidisciplinary festival more appropriate than a dance festival in some cities? Is a festival more likely to combine state funding and external funding than a seasonal venue? Is a festival is the most relevant frame for inventing, celebrating and thinking about dance?

TEA/COFFEE 4.00PM

COMMUNICATION 4.15PM

ROBBIE BLAKE—SYMPATHETIC RESONANCE; CONTEMPORARY COLLABORATIONS BETWEEN MUSIC AND DANCE WITH ALMA KELLIHER AND MICHAEL GALLEN

This presentation seeks to present insights into the collaborative processes between musicians and dancers seen in recent Irish productions. This interdisciplinary process is discussed from the perspective of the composers' practice. With a focus on communication, this talk takes in the pitfalls and the successes, and provides a platform for insight into this practice and an opportunity for discussion and dialogue around it with conference attendees. Robbie will present on a recent collaboration of music, dance and visuals, Low Lying, and will share reflections from a number of others practitioners on their experiences. Alma will present on her work with choreographer Fearghus Ó Conchúir and The Casement Project. Michael will present on his work with choreographer Philip Connaughton and photographer Sharon Murphy and the Dublin Youth Dance Company. Reflections from other artists include Brokentaklers (Feidlim Cannon, Gary Keegan) and Slow Moving Clouds (Danny Diamond).

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