

Dance Limerick presents

DANCE
LIMERICK

MIND IN THE FLESH

Female Bodies in
Contemporary Performance

Thursday 8 – Saturday 10 May 2014
at Dance Limerick and The Lime Tree Theatre



WELCOME

Welcome to Mind in the Flesh, our symposium focusing on female bodies in contemporary performance. How do women portray, represent, stereotype, envision themselves today? How aware are we, as makers and viewers, about the body images and relationships we create and receive in private and public spheres? How much diversity is there really? And, actually, what are female bodies?

We hope that this symposium will be a creative and discursive platform, where we can question, engage and exchange what it means to work as a female performance artist in a national and international context today. So let's talk about it, let's talk about female bodies.

Jenny Traynor and Isabella Oberlander, Curators, Mind in the Flesh

SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULE

Thursday 8 May

- 19:30 **Performance** Alexandrina Hemsley and Jamila Johnson-Small *O*
20:30 Opening Reception

Friday 9 May

- 09:30-11:30 **Workshop** with Liz Aggiss | Dance Limerick Studio
11:15-12:00 Registration
12:00 Welcome by Jenny Traynor, Director, Dance Limerick and Curator, *Mind in the Flesh*
Introduction by Session Chair Christine Madden
12:15 **Talk** Dr Jools Gilson: *'Give up all that dance rubbish and concentrate on sex and writing': A Dancing Life*
12:45 **Talk** Alexandrina Hemsley and Jamila Johnson-Small: *A Contemporary Struggle*
13:00 **Talk** Liz Aggiss: *Muscle memories of mature meat: The transgressive journey of a solo female dancer*
13:30 **Performance** Fitzgerald & Stapleton: *Dog of All Creation*
14:00-15:00 Lunch Break (light lunch provided)
15:00 **Panel Discussion** Liz Aggiss, Emma Fitzgerald, Jools Gilson, Alexandrina Hemsley, Jamila Johnson-Small, Aine Stapleton. Chaired by Christine Madden.
——— Break
18:00 **Performance** Lucy Suggate *The Inquisitive Middle*
20:00 **Performance** Editta Braun Company *Planet Luvos* | The Lime Tree Theatre

Saturday 10 May

- 09:30-11:30 **Workshop** with Lucy Suggate | Dance Limerick Studio
11:15-12:00 Registration
12:00 Introduction by Session Chair Susan Halvey
12:15 **Talk** Breda Lynch: *Thursday's Clinic*
12:30 **Talk** Vivienne Dick: *Filming the Body*
13:00 **Performance Talk** Sinéad O'Donnell: *erasing HER history*
13:45 **Panel Discussion** Vivienne Dick, Breda Lynch, Sinéad O'Donnell. Chaired by Susan Halvey.
14:30-15:30 Lunch Break (light lunch provided)
15:30-16:45 **Panel Discussion** Editta Braun, Emma Fitzgerald, Dr Mary Nunan, Liz Roche, Lucy Suggate. Chaired by Dr Aoife McGrath.
16:45-17:00 Closing remarks by Christine Madden
——— Break
20:00hrs **Performance** Liz Aggiss *The English Channel*
22:00hrs **Performance** David Hoyle *Gender Trouble*

Please Note: All events take place at Dance Limerick Space, unless stated otherwise.

CONTRIBUTORS



Liz Aggiss

Liz Aggiss studied at the Nikolais/Louis Dance Theatre Laboratory New York, and with Hanya Holm and Hilde Holger. She is Professor of Visual Performance at the University of Brighton and holds an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Gothenburg. Liz has an expertise in European Expressive Dance (Ausdruckstanz) and grotesque dance. Creating her work for stage and screen, Liz's interdisciplinary practice is driven by content, embodies feminist dance practices and is framed by the politics that challenge and resist the 'authority' of formal conventions. Since 1980, she has been a Wild Wiggler, Grotesque Dancer, Diva, Guerrilla Dancer, Trout, Golem and Performance Lecturer. See also www.lizaggiss.com

Editta Braun

Editta Braun graduated from the University of Salzburg and studied dance and acting in New York, Paris and Greece. She teaches at the University of Salzburg and the Anton Bruckner Privatuniversität. Editta's work is characterised by an expressive style, which makes use of humour and pathos, and is strongly influenced by theatre and performance. Thematically, her work is interwoven with a commitment to social criticism. The Editta Braun Company celebrates its 25th anniversary this year. See www.editta-braun.com



Vivienne Dick

Vivienne Dick is an Irish film and video maker whose work has been shown internationally in museums and cinemas, including MoMA and The Whitney in New York, Tate Britain and IMMA. She has been the recipient of numerous Production Awards from the Arts Council (England) and The Irish Film Board. Her earlier work is often associated with the New York 'No Wave' movement of the late 1970s, while her most recent film is *The Irreducible Difference of the Other*, with Olwen Fouéré. Vivienne has worked as a lecturer and curator and has also been a yoga practitioner for many years. She is a member of Aosdána. For further details about Vivienne's work, please see http://www.luxonline.org.uk/artists/vivienne_dick/

Fitzgerald & Stapleton

Founded and directed by Irish artists Emma Fitzgerald and Áine Stapleton, Fitzgerald and Stapleton Dance Company's work is complex and challenging, displaying an unrelenting and personal intimacy which refuses to be contained within a single narrative or identity. Their last four shows were co-produced by the Abrons Arts Center and Chocolate Factory Theater, New York to high critical acclaim. Irish Theatre Magazine described the company's *WAGE* (Dublin Fringe Festival 2013) as 'absurd and without narrative, presenting a series of moments that career from the serious and investigative, to the playful, to the unnerving... This is a difficult balance to achieve, yet Fitzgerald and Stapleton manage it, with fierce and single-minded conviction'.

See also www.fitzgeraldandstapleton.com

Photo by Bryan Meade



Jools Gilson

Writer, broadcaster, choreographer and installation artist Jools Gilson directed the dance theatre company *half/angel* from 1996 to 2006 and, since 2010, has made creative radio for RTÉ and the BBC. Her work has been performed, exhibited and broadcast internationally and has received awards from The Arts Councils of Ireland and England, Culture Ireland, The Banff Centre for the Arts, New York Festivals and others. Jools holds a PhD in Theatre and Performance Studies and taught performance at the University of Hull and Dartington College of Arts in the UK before coming to Ireland. Jools is the Associate Director of the MA in Creative Writing at University College Cork and is currently working with Firkin Crane to develop connections between writing, somatic practice and choreography.



Susan Halvey

A lecturer in Critical and Contextual Studies at Limerick School of Art and Design, Susan Halvey also lectures in Initial Teacher Education. She holds a BA in Fine Art (Painting), a Higher Diploma in Art and Design (Teachers) and a Masters in the History of 20th Century Art at Goldsmith's College, University of London. Currently studying for a PhD in Education at the University of Limerick, Susan's area of research is the assessment of Arts Practice PhDs in Ireland. Part of this investigation involves a comparative analysis of assessment in other practice-based PhD models including music and dance.

Jamila Johnson-Small

Jamila graduated from London Contemporary Dance School and works in a number of projects related to contemporary performances, most notably with Mira Kautto on *Immigrants and Animals* and Alexandrina Hemsley on *Project O*, exploring the shame and the show of being black, mixed race and female in London today. Jamila is interested in influence, repercussion, intuition, power, choice and memory. She is based in London and is part of BELLYFLOP Magazine and Hiru Dance Organisation, creators and curators of *The Public House* (2011/2012).



Alexandrina Hemsley

Alexandrina graduated from Laban with a BA in Dance Theatre and achieved her MA in Contemporary Dance from London Contemporary Dance School. A member of EDge 2010, the post-graduate company of London Contemporary Dance School, she performed works by Rick Nodine (UK), Wally Cardona (USA) and Frauke Requardt (Germany/UK), among others. In addition to her performance work, Alexandrina has received several commissions and, in 2012, instigated three residencies at the Southbank Centre for emerging dance artists. She performs, collaborates and choreographs mostly in London and writes about dance for various publications.

David Hoyle

David Hoyle came to prominence in the 1990s as the Divine David, a kind of anti-drag queen whose lacerating social commentary was offset by breathtaking instances of self-recrimination and even self-harm. Following 'a period of reflection' in the 2000s, he returned to TV and live performances under his own name while maintaining his biting satire, bravura costumes, wicked comic timing and compelling charisma. As well as the Royal Vauxhall Tavern (RVT), with which he is most closely associated, he has also performed at the Soho Theatre, Chelsea Theatre, Battersea Arts Centre, National Portrait Gallery and Victoria & Albert Museum.



Breda Lynch

A visual artist living and working in Limerick, Breda Lynch has presented solo shows throughout Ireland, the most recent of which was *The Pit and Other Stories* at Siamsa Tíre, Tralee (2014). Breda has participated in group exhibitions nationally and internationally, most notably Bangkok Experimental Film Festival (2008) and the Irish Pavillion at World Expo, Shanghai (2010). She has curated a number of exhibitions including the Galway Arts Festival 2008 commission *Darkness Visible* with Ann Mulrooney at Galway Arts Centre and *Excavate* at Cork City Museum (2010). She recently participated in the SIM International Residence in Reykjavik, Iceland.



Christine Madden

Writer, journalist and dramaturg Christine Madden is currently based in Berlin and Munich. In Ireland, she worked as a freelance journalist, dance and theatre critic, primarily for The Irish Times. Christine also served as Literary Manager for Rough Magic Theatre Company and as New Playwrights Programme Manager at the Abbey Theatre. She has translated numerous theatre scripts, as well as a book and various texts for the DANCE festival in Munich. Christine continues to write dance reviews for tanznetz web magazine in Germany, as well as reviews and articles for other publications.





Aoife McGrath

Dr Aoife McGrath is a lecturer in the School of Creative Arts, Queen's University Belfast, where she researches and teaches dance and theatre. She has worked as a dancer, choreographer, dance critic and as Dance Adviser for the Arts Council (Ireland), and has published several articles and book chapters on dance. Aoife's monograph, *Dance Theatre in Ireland: Revolutionary Moves* (2013) was recently published by Palgrave Macmillan. She is chair of the board of Dance Limerick and co-convenor of the Choreography and Corporeality Working Group of the International Federation for Theatre Research.

Mary Nunan

Contemporary dance choreographer and performer Mary Nunan began her professional career as a member of Dublin Contemporary Dance Theatre (1981-86) and was founder Artistic Director of Daghdha Dance Company (1988-1999). Since then, Mary has continued to make and perform work as an independent artist. She is currently working with Mary Wycherley and Monica Spencer on *Starting with T*, a dance/film project funded by Limerick City of Culture, which is being developed in collaboration with women from a range of communities in Limerick. Mary earned her PhD at Middlesex University and is Course Director of the MA in Contemporary Dance Performance at the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance. See also www.marynunan.com

Photo by Michael Rheinhart



Isabella Oberlander

Originally from Austria, Isabella studied at Anton Bruckner University Linz. From 2008-2010 she was Dance Artist in Residence (DMP) at Daghdha Dance Company. In 2010 she was part of the DanceWEB Scholarship Program at ImPulsTanz, Vienna International Dance Festival. Recently she performed *Optimism will kill us all*, at Supermarket, Stockholm Independent Art Fair, Sweden. Isabella is interested in choreographic frameworks and the exploration of contemporary notions around female subjectivity, abjection theory, queer expression and hybrid identities. She is currently working as a freelance dance artist and choreographer based in Limerick. Isabella is the Curator of *Mind in the Flesh: Female Bodies in Contemporary Performance*.

Sinéad O'Donnell

Sinéad has worked in performance, installation, site and time-based art for 15 years. Originally from Dublin, now based in Belfast, Sinéad studied sculpture at the University of Ulster, textiles in Dublin and visual performance and time-based practices at Dartington College of Arts. She is an Arts Admin Associate Artist. Sinéad has previously presented at In Between Time Festival, Bristol (2013), Asiatopia, Thailand (2013), the Museum of Contemporary Art, Croatia (2013), Mobius, Boston (2012), the Southbank Centre, London (2012), Golden Thread Gallery, Belfast (2012), *Art No. 11* residency, Japan (2011), Bbeyond/Black Market International, Belfast (2012) and NRLA, Glasgow (2010).

Sinéad O'Donnell, 'tree dance', CAUTION project, Golden Thread Gallery Belfast, London 2012 festival. Photo Jean Claude Côte.



Liz Roche

Artistic Director and choreographer of Liz Roche Company, Liz's work has been performed throughout Ireland and internationally at the Southbank Centre London, Baryshnikov Arts Center and Judson Memorial Church New York, Edinburgh Fringe Festival and Meet in Beijing Festival, and commissioned by companies including the National Ballet of China, Scottish Dance Theatre, CoisCéim and Croi Glan Integrated Dance. In Theatre and Opera she has choreographed for the Abbey Theatre, Siren Productions, The Gate, Landmark Productions and Wexford Festival Opera, among others. Liz was previously Choreographer-in-Residence at the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance at UL and has been the recipient of various awards. She is currently a selected artist on the Modul Dance European network. See also www.lizrochecompany.com

Lucy Suggate

Originally from the UK, Lucy Suggate is a graduate of Contemporary Dance at De Montfort University and has been making work since 2004. In 2005 she became Associate Artist at Yorkshire Dance and in 2007 was Artist in Residence at Daghdha Dance in Limerick. Following a three-year research period into dance and choreography, in 2010 Lucy joined the Dancebase programme for the Edinburgh Fringe with her solo work *Latin Beach and Liquid Gold* and again in 2012 with her new work *Bonedust*. Lucy's work has been performed widely and has gained national and international recognition for her unique irreverent style. See also www.projectbonedust.com



VIDEO HUB

Embracing the medium of film, our Video Hub at the Dance Limerick Space is exhibiting a selection of short works for the duration of the symposium. These are:

Galatea by Jenny Keane (2012), 9mins30

Tangled and Far by Vicky Langan and Max Le Cain (2013), 12 mins

The Pit by Breda Lynch (2013), 2 mins

Gifted Water by Úna Quigley (2012), 14 mins

Still from Galatea by Jenny Keane



PERFORMANCES

O

Alexandrina Hemsley and
Jamila Johnson-Small

A romp through the politics of identity, driven by bass lines, paper signs and deftly thrown shapes. Imagine Angela Carter sitting down to tea with Yellowman in the jungle.

O is a show born from the humour and horror of assumptions placed on bodies reduced to singular identities such as "black", "mixed" or "female". O negotiates the inescapable sexualisation of the body through multiple positions and numerous wigs.

Project O is a collaboration between Alexandrina Hemsley and Jamila Johnson-Small. Their work is a continual attempt to activate and proliferate some kind of existential criticality. Their choreographic concerns are not only about craftsmanship and technical composition, but engaging with and questioning the aesthetic and socio-economic environment they are placed in. See also www.acontemporarystruggle.com

Please Note: This performance contains nudity.

Choreographed, written and performed by
Alexandrina Hemsley and Jamila Johnson-Small.
Text read by David Hemsley.



O was made with support from Grants for the Arts, Arts Council England, a Dance and the Homemade commission from Chisenhale Dance Space, workspacebrussels, Chelsea Theatre and The Yard Theatre.

Thursday 8 May 2014, 7.30PM
Dance Limerick Space
Tickets: €12.00 / €10.00

The Inquisitive Middle

Lucy Suggate and Sònia Gómez

Created as a tribute to music producer and DJ James Holden, a major influence on the creative life of Catalan choreographer Sònia Gómez, *The Inquisitive Middle* seeks to exploit the textures and sensations of Holden's beguiling electronic compositions on his latest album *The Inheritors*. Lucy Suggate will dance the album. She wants to reach the end, to make it through the dance. Expect to see sparks fly.

Concept: Sònia Gómez

Performer: Lucy Suggate

Music: The Inheritors, by James Holden

Executive Production: Marta Oliveres

Lighting Design: Cube

Collaborators: Dance Hallerne, Graner fàbrica de creació, Salmon Festival

A co-production with TNT de Terrasa, Sònia Gómez – Lucy Suggate and MOM/Elvivero

Lucy Suggate is supported by Arts Council England.

The Inquisitive Middle was created under the Carte Blanche programme of the European project modul-dance, supported by the EU Culture Programme.



Friday 9 May 2014, 6.00PM

Dance Limerick Space

Tickets: €12.00 / €10.00

Planet Luvos

Editta Braun Company

In a bubbling, blue underwater environment, the distant hoot of a steamship whistle somewhere far away is the only sign that humans may still exist. One woman, perhaps the last woman on earth, discovers an eerie world of strange intriguing beings and begins to explore this brave new world... As five naked torsi, with legs waving like anemone arms, move across the stage, dream and reality meet in a compelling piece of visual and physical dance theatre.

Please Note: This performance contains nudity.

Performers: Dorota Karolina Łecka, Anna Lis, Katja Bablick, Sandra Hofstätter, Martyna Lorenc

Dramaturgy: Gerda Poschmann-Reichenau

Composition: Thierry Zaboitzeff

Lighting Design: Peter Thalhamer

Choreographic Assistance: Barbara Motschiunik and Juan Dante Murillo Bobadilla

Choreography: Editta Braun



'...a primordial tapestry of physical movement... Planet Luvos is so effective because it blends beguiling gambolling with characters that, while simplistic and alien, exhibit the humanistic traits of curiosity, companionship and humour.' (TV Bomb)

Friday 9 May 2014, 8.00PM

The Lime Tree Theatre, Limerick

Tickets: €16.00 / €12.00

The English Channel

Liz Aggiss

After 60 years, Liz Aggiss finally gives herself permission to do what she damn well pleases. Better late than never! She's reached an age where doing the right thing is optional. Should she please you, or should she please herself?

The English Channel is the story of a career forged in the heady waters of performance art and dance-film. It vividly depicts Liz Aggiss resuscitating herself back into the on-stage limelight. In the process, she becomes an unwitting channel for wilful women and forgotten archives; a conduit for hidden histories and buried truths. On a stage of chaos anything can happen, nobody can leave, everyone is present. Knock twice for yes.

Please Note: Contains some flashing lights/images and strong language. Recommended for 15yrs+.

Choreography and Texts: Liz Aggiss

Film: Joe Murray

Music: Alan Boorman/Wevie

Gender Trouble

David Hoyle

The sensational David Hoyle presents a late night cabaret come chat show. Expect polemic, pathos, provocative politicking and high comedy.

'He is raw, sometimes a bit frightening, but also thrilling in his look-no-hands recklessness.'
(Lyn Gardner, The Guardian)

'David Hoyle is no drag.' (The Times)

'There is nothing quite like it: bold and unique, electrifying and disarmingly humane.' (Time Out)

Saturday 10 May 2014, 10.00PM

Dance Limerick Space

Tickets: €12.00 / €10.00

Photo by Lee Baxter



Photo by Joe Murray

'...this solo performance gets its claws into you. You laugh at the time, but afterwards you realise how moving and honest it was'. (Mary Brennan, The Herald Scotland)

Saturday 10 May 2014, 8.00PM

Dance Limerick Space

Tickets: €12.00 / €10.00



MIND IN THE FLESH TEAM

Isabella Oberlander and Jenny Traynor – Curators
Maeve Butler – Programme Support & Communications Manager
Róisín Buckley – Press
Alina O'Shaughnessy – Graphic Design
Gearóid Ó hAllmhuráin – Technical Manager
Mags O'Donoghue – Stage Manager
Mike Burke – Technical Support
Simon Thompson – Technical Support
Shah Alam – Technical Support
Ivan Harvey – Venue Support

Our sincere thanks to Helen Creed, Sheila Deegan, Paul Foley, Mary McLoughney and all at Limerick City of Culture 2014. And a very special word of thanks to our volunteers for helping us to bring *Mind in the Flesh* to reality.

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