

PRESS RELEASE EMBARGOED UNTIL 6 PM TUESDAY 4TH MARCH

Launch of Dublin Dance Festival 2008

17th April - 3rd May 2008 in venues across Dublin

"Have fun, take a chance, be curious!"

The 2008 Dublin Dance Festival was launched on Tuesday, 4th March at Ely CHQ by Artistic Programme Director Laurie Uprichard and Board Chair Dermot McLaughlin. The Dublin Dance Festival (DDF), from this year an annual event, will be offering audiences 51 performances by 24 artists/companies from 14 countries over 10 venues from 17th April – 3rd May.

Laurie Uprichard urged audiences to, "Have fun, take a chance, be curious!" as she presented the line-up for 2008.

The programme will focus on contemporary dance as a vital art form that utilises a range of approaches to frame current issues – both personal and global concerns. Over 17 days in venues across Dublin, work will range from pure, abstract dance to dance/theatre with a political or literary thread.

As the headliner, The Forsythe Company, led by one of the world's most renowned choreographers, William Forsythe, will make its Irish debut with *Three Atmospheric Studies* at the Abbey Theatre, promising an explosive start to the programme. His choreographic thinking has engaged with and contributed to the most significant international artistic currents of our time and, together with his companies' performances, has won overwhelming audience acclaim and the most prestigious awards the field has to offer.

The French company, Ballet Preljocaj will present *Empty Moves, I and II*, a work by Angelin Preljocaj that can be seen as simply dance – a statement that there is a language of the body that can be read and understood on a different plane, much like music or abstract painting.

Artists from Central/Eastern Europe will be performing for audiences in Dublin, as will companies from Austria, Denmark, Iceland, the Netherlands, the U.K. and the U.S. Ireland will be well represented with a flurry of activity that includes shared programmes, outdoors dance, and films, as well as full evening works by Jenny Roche (*Solo³*) and Colin Dunne (*Out of Time*).

There will be many ways to take advantage of the myriad events and performances – including a chance for audiences to express themselves at Bumper to Bumper, the Headphone Disco, taking place in Grand Canal Square on

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April 19th and by taking a Step Aerobics class with NYC fitness legend Pall Gale at Jackie Skelly's on Clarendon Street.

THE PROGRAMME

THE FORSYTHE COMPANY *THREE ATMOSPHERIC STUDIES*

Germany

Venue: The Abbey Theatre Dates: April 17/18/19 Times: 8pm/3pm

Duration: 90 mins Tickets: 30/20 euro (concessions)

***Three Atmospheric Studies* is choreographer William Forsythe's most explicit and political work:** a great performance, simultaneously furious and reflective, on one of the central conflicts of our time. He succeeds in creating imposing images of war, purely by means of the human body, generating choreography and direction out of the fatal inner energies of conflict (Peter Michalzik). *Three Atmospheric Studies* is brought to you in association with Rolex.

IOANA MONA POPOVICI & NANOHACH *PORTRAIT*

Romania/Czech Republic

Venue: Project Arts Centre – Space Upstairs Dates: April 21/22 Time: 8pm

Duration 50 mins Tickets: 20/17 euro (concessions)

This commission for Nanohach was awarded the Sazka Prize for Discovery in Dance in 2007. *Portrait* presents several stories about guilt, lack of forgiveness and blameful relationships. The performers explore notions of refuge, morality, hidden obsessions, children's games and loneliness in a sinister playground scene. Ioana Mona Popovici is an emerging force in the world of contemporary dance.

BETONTANC *WRESTLING DOSTOIEVSKY*

Slovenia

Venue: Ss Michael and John's – Upstairs Dates: April 22/23 Time: 9pm

Duration: 65 mins Tickets: 20/17 euro (concessions)

***Wrestling Dostoevsky* is politically engaged, high-velocity physical theatre at its best.** Based on *Crime and Punishment* and featuring stunning, high-energy performances from a cast of six young dancers, this piece confronts the audience with a breathtaking reality.

JENNY ROCHE *SOLO*³

Ireland

Venue: Project Arts Centre – Space Upstairs Dates: April 24/25 Time: 8pm

Duration: 45mins Tickets: 20/17 euro (concessions)

Current DDF Artist in Residence Jenny Roche presents a series of three solo pieces in this evening of dance, performing the work of renowned American choreographers John Jasperse and Jodi Melnick and Liz Roche from Ireland. This

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creative collaboration has resulted in a series of poignant and intensely personal works.

REYKJAVIK DANCE HUNDAHEPPNI (A STROKE OF LUCK) & CRAZY IN LOVE WITH MR. PERFECT

Venue: Ss Michael and John's – Upstairs Dates: April 25/26/27 Time: 9 pm

Duration: 80mins (15 min interval) Tickets: 20 /17 euro (concessions)

Two duets about love, life and relationships by emerging Icelandic choreographers Halla Ólafsdóttir and Steinunn Kettilsdóttir. *A Stroke of Luck* sees two women struggling to maintain just the right image behind preparations for the perfect dinner party. *Crazy in Love with Mr. Perfect* asks whether the love we aspire to find is real or just a fairytale?

COLIN DUNNE OUT OF TIME

Ireland

Venue: Project Arts Centre – Space Upstairs Dates: April 26/27/28 Time: 8 pm

Duration: 60mins Tickets: 20/17 euro (concessions)

Out of Time is a solo performance by Colin Dunne, playfully renegotiating his relationship with the tradition that has shaped his life. Known for his innovation, Dunne pushes the boundaries of traditional Irish dance to present an intimate, personal and provocative perspective on the art form.

BALLET PRELJOC AJ EMPTY MOVES (PARTS I & II)

France

Venue: O'Reilly Theatre Dates: April 28/29 Time: 8pm

Duration: 63mins Tickets 20/17 euro (concessions)

The beauty of this choreography is that it is free from narrative; instead the dancers' inexorable flow of movement imposes an enjoyment of their existence. This meditative quartet is set to a tape of John Cage's recitation of his sound-score "Empty Words", based on the writings of Henry David Thoreau. Cage's pace is slow, distorting the words so their literal sense is lost – while the audience jeers, Cage reads on, undeterred, and the dancers keep dancing.

SARAH SKAGGS DANCES FOR AIRPORTS

USA

Venue: Project Arts Centre – Cube Dates: April 29/30/May 1 Time: 7 pm

Duration: 20mins Tickets: 15/12 euro (concessions)

Dances for Airports is a minimalist solo inspired by and performed to Brian Eno's Music for Airports, in an ambient dense haze created by lighting designer David Ferri that envelopes both audience and performers. In this unstable environment, Skaggs opens up a dialogue and space to reflect on our post 9/11 culture of disaster.

KITT JOHNSON X-ACT RANKEFOD

Denmark

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Venue: Project Arts Centre – Space Upstairs Dates: April 29/30 Time: 8pm
Duration: 55mins Tickets: 20/17 euro (concessions)

Rankefod is an evolutionary solo performance celebrating the origin of the species by award-winning Danish choreographer Kitt Johnson. This is the story of our evolution analysed with one fascinating body and set to a soundscape of computer-manipulated nature and animal sounds.

RISA JAROSLOW W/DUBLIN'S CRASH ENSEMBLE *RESIST/SURRENDER*

USA/Ireland

Venue: O'Reilly Theatre Dates: May 1/2 Time: 8pm
Duration: 50mins (no interval) Tickets: 20/17 euro (concessions)

***Resist/Surrender* exposes our assumptions about maleness with explosive physicality and startling intimacy.** A barrage of male voices and driving rock rhythms dominate the original score composed by Scott Johnson. Jaroslow's exquisite company dancers are joined by a moving "chorus" of men drawn from the Dublin community.

TERE O'CONNOR DANCE *RAMMED EARTH*

USA

Venue: Ss Michael & John's – Upstairs Dates: May 1/2/3 Time: 9pm
Duration: 60mins Tickets: 20/17 euro (concessions)

Dancers move around you, between you and behind you so that you can feel the rush of air their movements create. *Rammed Earth* investigates the deep impact that architecture has on both art and existence, as O'Connor builds dance and movement from what is provided by the physical environment of this site-specific work.

GIRL JONAH *THIS TWO*

UK

Venue: Project Arts Centre – Cube Dates: May 2 Time: 1pm/5pm/7.30pm
Duration: 25mins Tickets: 15/12 euro (concessions)

GIRL JONAH *SHE WAS A KNIFE THROWER'S ASSISTANT*

Venue: Project Arts Centre – Cube Dates: May 3 Time: 1pm/2pm/5pm
Duration: 35mins Tickets: 15/12 euro (concessions)

As two individuals, the dancers have many differences (one Australian, one British, one disabled, one non-disabled) but together they collaborate to explore both their similarities and differences. These intimate duets are executed in girl jonah's unique style as they embark on a fascinating journey to discover how their bodies work.

POST-SHOW DISCUSSIONS

Dublin Dance Festival will also present a series of moderated post-show discussions with artists and performers throughout the festival.

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SPECIAL EVENTS

RTÉ Dance on the Box

Venue: RTÉ Television Date: 28 April – 2 May

The Arts Council and RTÉ are calling on artists in film and dance to combine their talents and collaborate on the creation of four short dance films which will be premiered on RTÉ television during the 2008 Dublin Dance Festival. This scheme aims to provide an opportunity for collaborations between choreographers and film makers, to continue to develop a culture of dance on film in Ireland and to build audiences for dance-based work on television. Details of the films to be shown will be announced later in March. Screenings will also take place in Meeting House Square, Temple Bar from 10pm on May 2 & 3.

BUMPER TO BUMPER

Venue: Grand Canal Square Date: April 19 Time: 7pm-10pm (Gates open 6.30 pm)

Tickets are free but must be pre-booked through the box office@ the chq building on 2/3 April or DDF box office from 4 April (see below).

Rounding off the programme is a chance for audiences to show Dublin their moves for the first ever DDF headphone disco, Bumper to Bumper. This is a chance to strut your silent stuff on the festival's opening weekend, with Phantom 105.2's Sinéad Ní Mhóirdha and Jim Carroll going head to head on the decks for this nifty noiseless night out! Just be sure to bring your headphones and FM radio device so you can tune in.

WORKSHOPS

DAVID GORDON & AIN GORDON *MOVE TO QUESTIONS*

Venue: DanceHouse Dates: 17/18/19 April Time: 12noon

Duration: 5 hours Fee: 50/30 euro (concession)

Move To Question is a unique opportunity to take part in a workshop by movement and theatre artists Ain Gordon and David Gordon. This workshop will examine the creative process: choices we make, don't make and don't realise we're making.

GIRL JONAH *INTRODUCING GIRL JONAH*

Venue: DanceHouse Date: 4 May Time: 1.00pm

Duration: 4 hours Fee: 50/30 euro (concession)

This workshop will give you an insight into the choreographic tools applied by these practitioners in creating their work, as they share with you their working process and teach you some of the company's rep. This workshop is brought to you in association with Arts & Disability Ireland.

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DANCE STEP (CLASS)

Venue: Jackie Skelly Fitness, Clarendon Street Date: April 19/20 Time: 11.30am
NYC fitness legend Pall Gale makes his Irish debut with Dance Step – a unique aerobics class that combines basic step moves with his formal dance training and musical theatre background. This is a unique opportunity to attend a chorus line class under the guidance of the larger-than-life Pall Gale. The class is open to all abilities, no previous dance training required. Please visit www.dublindancefestival.ie or contact Jackie Skelly Fitness on + 353 (1) 677 0040 for more information about taking part in Dance Step.

DUBLIN DANCE FESTIVAL AND THE ARK, A CULTURAL CENTRE FOR CHILDREN, PRESENT THE 2008 CHILDREN'S SEASON

LIEF HERNES AND ELLEN OS *GLITTERBIRD* – ARTS FOR THE VERY YOUNG

April 19 2 pm 90 minutes Tickets 5 euro

A unique opportunity for audiences in Ireland to hear choreographer Professor Leif Hernes and Ellen Os talk about the acclaimed international project *Glitterbird* (2003-2006).

DSCHUNDEL WIEN (THEATRE HOUSE FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES IN MUSEUMSQUARTIER, VIENNA) *ÜBERRASCHUNG (SURPRISE)*

May 1/2 10.15am (schools only) May 3 1pm/4pm (public) 50mins Tickets 10/8 euro (concessions)

This celebrated international dance theatre piece, complete with live music, will guide young audiences impressively into its wondrous world of surprises.

DAVID MIDDENDORP/FRONTAAL PRODUCTIE *DREAMSKETCH/ DUSTBUSTER/ BREAD-PEACE*

April 25 10.15am/12.15pm (schools only) April 26 2pm/4pm (public) April 27 2pm (public) 60mins Tickets 10/8 euro (concessions)

As daydreams melt together into dance and video-animations, two dancers are challenged on stage in the form of a computer animation.

Please contact The Ark on Tel: 01 670 7788 for further details on dance workshops for school performances.

FESTIVAL PLUS

Dublin Dance Festival is also delighted to co-present, with Project Arts Centre and the Pavilion Theatre, two extraordinary dance performances that augment and complement this year's festival programme:

JEAN BULTER *DOES SHE TAKE SUGAR?*

Ireland /U.S.

Venue: Project Arts Centre – Space Upstairs Dates: April 25/27/28

Time: 6 pm Duration: 60mins Tickets: 20/17 euro (concessions)

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Dancer Jean Butler reprises her first solo performance piece, *does she take sugar?* for this year's festival. This intimate solo is a juxtaposition of interior and exterior and a challenge to her traditional dancing roots. This piece is a Project Arts Centre commission.

PHILIPPE SAIRE *COULD I JUST DRAW YOUR ATTENTION TO THE BREVITY OF LIFE?*

Switzerland

Venue: Pavilion Theatre Dates: May 2/3 Time: 8 pm

Duration 60mins Tickets: 22/18/16 euro (concessions)

Could I Just Draw Your Attention to the Brevity of Life? is a witty observation on our need for entertainment and our capacity for constant distractions. Playful, sexy, witty yet thoughtful, this is a meditation on the meaning and methods of entertainment.

RE-PRESENTING IRELAND

Dublin Dance Festival and Dance Ireland are committed to providing Irish dance artists with opportunities and platforms from which to present their work.

Supported by Culture Ireland, Re-Presenting Ireland is a mixed-bill of Irish dance work, a showcase for some of the best talent throughout Ireland.

MIXED BILL 1 – DANCEHOUSE

PONYDANCE THEATRE CO *PUT YOUR LEFT LEG IN*

MYRIAD DANCE COMPANY *BEHINDTHEEYESLIESBONE*

April 25/26 2pm May 2/3 3pm Duration 60mins (with interval) Tickets: 10 euro

MIXED BILL 2 – DANCEHOUSE

LIZ ROCHE AND KATHERINE O'MALLEY *UNTITLED*

MARY WYCHERLEY AND JÜRGEN SIMPSON *RECEIVING SYSTEMS*

MAIREAD VAUGHAN & DARA O'BRIEN *BEING NO WHERE ELSE*

April 25/26 3.30 pm May 2/3 5pm Duration 45mins (with interval) Tickets: 10 euro

A FILM CO-DIRECTED BY REBECCA WALTER AND MARK LINNANE FOR

CATAPULT DANCE *WALK DON'T RUN* (Film) PROJECT CUBE

April 25/26 5 pm Duration 35mins Tickets: 5 euro

**DANCE THEATRE OF IRELAND *BLOCK PARTY* OUTDOOR PERFORMANCE,
GRAND CANAL SQUARE**

April 25/26 12 noon/1pm Duration 30mins

DUBLIN DANCE FESTIVAL IS BROUGHT TO YOU WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF:

FUNDERS Arts Council, Dublin City Council, Failte Ireland, Dublin Tourism and Culture Ireland

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DUBLIN DANCE FESTIVAL SUPPORTERS Ely Wine Bar, The Morgan Hotel, Hotel St. George

DUBLIN DANCE FESTIVAL PATRONS An Post

THE FESTIVAL CLUB

The Festival club at the Morgan Hotel in Temple Bar will open from noon 'til late for the duration of the festival. For more information on the venue, see www.themorgan.com

TO BOOK

By Phone

ROI 0818 205 205

International + 353 1 872 1122

Open Monday – Saturday 10.30 am – 6.30 pm

Online

www.dublindancefestival.ie

www.centralticketbureau.com

In Person

Central Tickets Bureau (from March 5)

33 Eden Quay, Dublin 1 (next to Liberty Hall)

Open Monday – Saturday 10.30 am – 6.30 pm

Dublin Dance Festival Box Office (from April 4)

Temple Bar Cultural Information Centre (Opposite Meeting House Square)

12 East Essex St Temple Bar Dublin 2

Open Monday – Saturday 10.00 am – 5.30 pm

Sunday 12 noon – 3 pm

Tickets are also available via the Abbey Theatre, Project Arts Centre, The Ark, the Pavilion, and Dance House.

DANCE DUNKS

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For those who want to see as much of the programme as possible, the festival is offering Dance Dunks, ticket packages where you can see two or even three shows in one night at a discounted price. Perfect for those who are short on time but big on culture.

FESTIVAL PASS

For dance enthusiasts, this year's festival pass gives access to all 15 shows in the main programme for only 200 euro.

FESTIVAL FRIENDS

Sign up to be a Festival Friend to avail of discounted tickets, special offers and enhance your festival experience.

For more information on Dance Dunks, Festival Pass & our Festival Friends scheme please check out www.dublindancefestival.ie or call the Dublin Dance Festival at +353 (0)1 679 0524 or Central Ticket Bureau on ROI 0818 205 205 International + 353 1 872 1122.

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