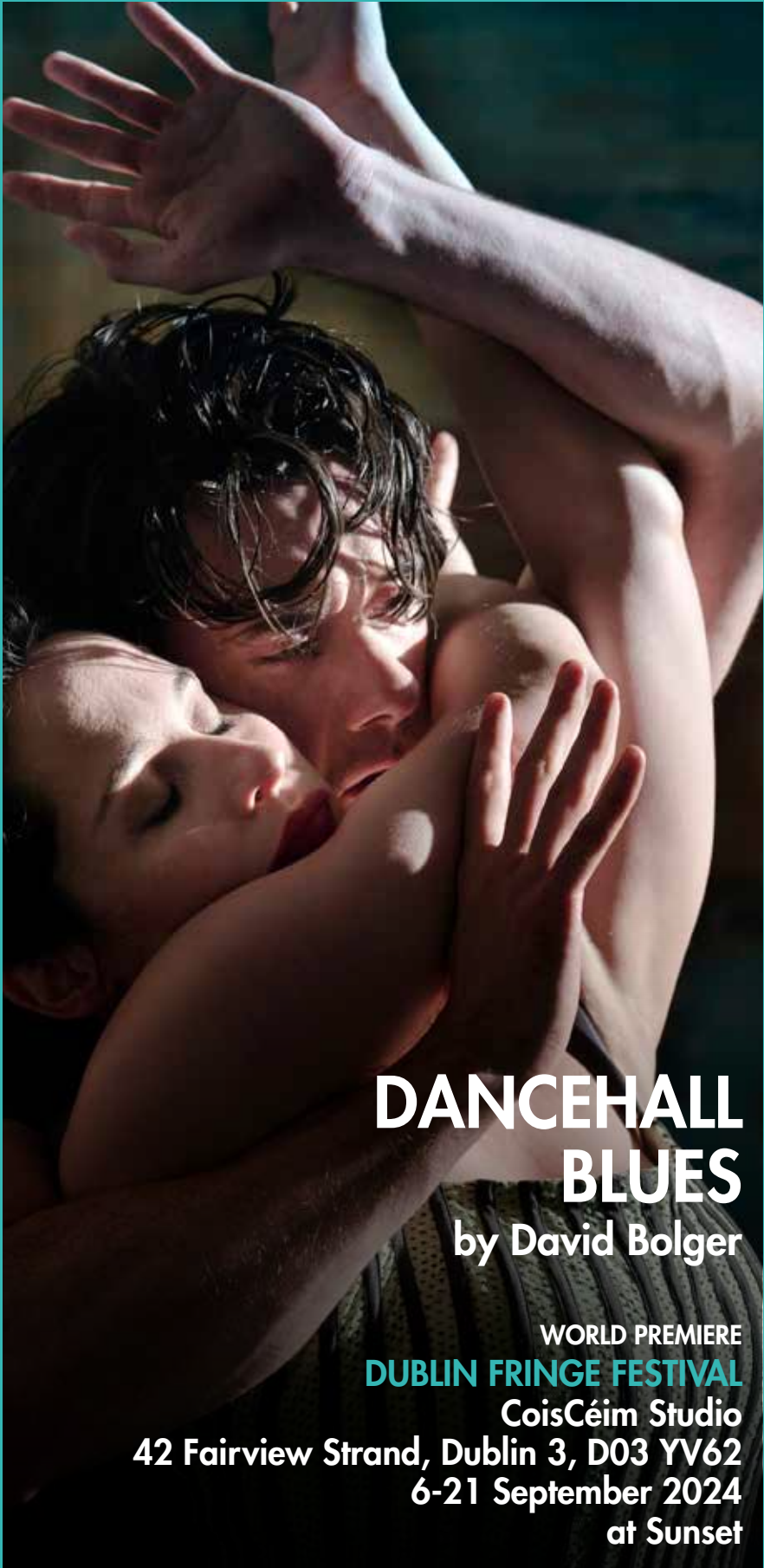


CoisCéim Dance Theatre presents



DANCEHALL BLUES

by David Bolger

WORLD PREMIERE

DUBLIN FRINGE FESTIVAL

CoisCéim Studio

42 Fairview Strand, Dublin 3, D03 YV62

6-21 September 2024

at Sunset

DIRECTORS NOTE

Blurring the lines between fact and fiction, **DANCEHALL BLUES** is set in a surreal dancehall at dusk – where with fearless abandon, two performers begin to dance – their powerful movements cutting through the visual and aural noise – to bring hope in a place where dreams and nightmares collide.

DANCEHALL BLUES explores the importance of empathy to navigate chaos – drawing energy and inspiration from our new home – the iconic building at 42 Fairview Strand and my life long interest in magic. Illusion and sleight of hand are our tools of storytelling – making the impossible appear possible – the imagined, real.

I would like to thank the two extraordinary performers, Stephanie Dufresne and Alex O’Neill for sharing and blending their distinctive talents to create a unique movement vocabulary and the stellar creative, technical and production teams that have brought **DANCEHALL BLUES** into being.

Enjoy the show.

DAVID BOLGER, 08 SEPTEMBER 2024



CREDITS

CAST STEPHANIE DUFRESNE, ALEX O'NEILL

DIRECTOR DAVID BOLGER

CHOREOGRAPHY DAVID BOLGER

IN COLLABORATION WITH THE DANCERS

COMPOSITION & SOUND DESIGN IVAN BIRTHISTLE

LIGHTING DESIGN JOHN GUNNING

COSTUME DESIGN ARRAN MURPHY

PROJECTION DESIGN NEIL O'DRISCOLL

HAIR & MAKE-UP VAL SHERLOCK

PRODUCTION MANAGER SEÁN DENNEHY

STAGE MANAGERS EMMA DOYLE, TOM O'REILLY

CHIEF LX PETER BOND

ASSISTANT PROJECTION DESIGN LAURA RAINSFORD

PRODUCTION TECHNICIAN SARAH KEANE

COSTUME ASSISTANTS THE REDISCOVER FASHION TEAM

SET CONSTRUCTION RE-STAGING

LX CREW DAVID HANNAFIN, ARCHER BRADSHAW

SOUND CREW JOHN NORTON, VINCENT DOHERTY

STAGE CREW DAMIEN WOODS

COMPANY CLASS TEACHERS MUIRNE BLOOMER, GWEN BOLGER,
INNA MAZURENKO

VR DIRECTOR ENYA BELAK

VR FILMING AND POST-PRODUCTION IGOR CRNKOVIĆ

VR SOUND RECORDIST IVAN BIRTHISTLE

PHOTOGRAPHER/VIDEOGRAPHER ROS KAVANAGH

GRAPHIC DESIGN ALPHABET SOUP

PUBLICIST CULTUREHEAD

BOOKKEEPER SUSAN HOFFMAN

PROJECT COORDINATOR INNA MAZURENKO

PRODUCED BY SARAH LATTY & BRIDGET WEBSTER

CREDITS

ADDITIONAL MUSIC

IN SIDE BY PLASTIKMAN (RICHIE HAWTIN)

SABAT MATER BY GIOVANNI PERGOLES, PERFORMED BY ORFEO 55 WITH PHILIPPE JAROUSSKY AND EMOKE BARATH, CONDUCTED BY NATHALIE STUTZMANN

QUELQU'UN M'A DIT BY CARLA BRUNI

NE ME QUITTE PAS BY JAQUES BREL PERFORMED BY STEPHANIE DUFRESNE AND IVAN BIRTHISTLE

DANSER ENCORE BY HK

THANK YOU

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE KIND SUPPORT OF ALL OF THE STAFF AT DUBLIN FRINGE FESTIVAL AND TO EPSON IRELAND, BIANCA BAGUIO, DECLAN COLLIER, MARTIN CAHILL, MICHAEL STAPLETON, CLIVE WELSH AND ALEX PEANUT BOLGER WELSH.

ACCESSIBILITY

AS AN ARTWORK CREATED ENTIRELY IN AND FOR OUR STUDIO, **DANCEHALL BLUES** HAS A SPECIAL CONNECTION WITH THE FABRIC OF OUR BUILDING AND OUR AIM OF MAKING EVERY PERFORMANCE AS ACCESSIBLE AS POSSIBLE, SO THAT ANYONE WHO WANTS TO SEE THE SHOW CAN DO SO. TICKET PRICING FOLLOWS OUR “**PAY WHAT YOU CAN**” MODEL, WHERE AUDIENCES CAN CHOOSE A PRICE THAT WORKS FOR THEM. FOR CULTURE NIGHT, THIS INCLUDES THE OPTION TO BOOK TICKETS FOR FREE. ALL PERFORMANCES ARE WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE, AND EAR DEFENDERS AND TINTED GLASSES ARE AVAILABLE FOR THOSE WITH SENSORY NEEDS.

SUSTAINABILITY

WE TRY TO MAKE EVER MORE SUSTAINABLE WORK, THIS PRODUCTION CONTINUES OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH THE REDISCOVERY CENTRE WHICH BEGAN WITH **GO TO BLAZES** AND SUBSEQUENTLY **PALIMPSEST**. IT ALSO INCLUDES CARPENTRY CONSTRUCTED FROM RECYCLED THEATRE SETS BY RE-STAGING.

DURATION : 50 MINUTES

CONTAINS SMOKE MACHINE AND STROBE LIGHTING





CELEBRATING OUR 30TH YEAR

DANCEHALL BLUES is an anchor of the company's programme celebrating our 30th Year – where highlights include a FIVE star spectacle for 17 performers, 5 World Premieres, a 5 week all island tour and a series of short outdoor works where 3,000+ people encountered dance around Grand Canal Dock as part of their everyday – all archived on our brand new website at coisceim.com/archive/2024



BIOGRAPHIES CAST



STEPHANIE DUFRESNE PERFORMER

Stephanie is a dancer, actor and choreographer from the West of Ireland. Stephanie made her CoisCéim debut in **Francis Footwork**. She holds a BA in Dance from the Rotterdam Dance Academy and is a graduate of the full-time programme for screen-acting at the Bow Street Academy in Smithfield. Since graduating Stephanie has enjoyed performing and combining her skills in projects such as **Crossing Skin, the Bystander** and **A Different Wolf for Junk Ensemble, Girl Song** for Emma Martin/United Fall, **Step Up 2013, Orfeo ed Eurydice, Carmen, Alice's Adventures Underground** and **William Tell** for Irish National Opera, **Windows in Progress** for Protein Dance, **A Darker Shade of Fado** for Nuno Silva, the **Raven/Een Requiem** for Frascati Theatre Amsterdam, **Ar Ais Aris** and **Birds of a Feather** for Bru Theatre, **Slings and Arrows** for Chrysalis Dance and **Maria de Buenos Aires** for the Cork Opera House. Stephanie has appeared in music videos for Junior Brother, Rhiannon Giddens, Talos, Gemma Dunleavy, Ye Vagabonds and Loah and in national campaigns for Bank of Ireland and Dublin Airport Authority. Notably Stephanie played the lead role of Karen in Nancy Harris' production of the **Red Shoes** for the Gate Theatre and Stephanie was one of four performers in Irish National Opera's production of **Least like the Other** which was nominated for an Olivier Award for best new opera in 2023 following a run at the Royal Opera House, London. As an actor Stephanie has appeared in short films such as Rioghnach Ní Ghrioghair's **Don't Go Where You Can't Find Me** and Laragh McCann's **Hasta La Vista**, as well as acting in feature films like **As Luck Would Have It** for Hallmark. Most recently Stephanie played the role of Ellie in Deirdre Kinahan's **Tempesta** for the Cork Midsummer Festival 2024 and Glass Mask Theatre 2023. Aside from working as a performer Stephanie made her opera directing debut in 2020 on Benedict Schlepper-Connolly's **Dust** and her own choreographic work **After Love** opened at the Galway International Arts Festival in 2021.



ALEX O'NEILL PERFORMER

Alex's work with CoisCéim includes **DanceHall Blues**, **Palimpsest**, **The Piece With The Drums** and **Orfeo ed Euridice** for the Blackwater Valley Opera Festival.

He was cast in RTÉ's **Supercrew** (2010–2011), **Mrs Browns Boys Da Movie** (2014), **Ek Tha Tiger** (2012) and **Vikings** (2018). He was a featured dancer in the **Ireland's Got Talent** live shows and adverts (2018–2019), James Vincent McMorrow's **Gone** (2020), Ridley Scott's **The Last Duel** (2021) and Disney's **Disenchanted** 2022. Alex has featured in campaigns for Red Bull, RTÉ, Apple, Heineken, Ryanair, Facebook, Google, Vodafone, Orchard Thieves and Lifestyle Sports Christmas adverts 2018 and 2021. He was head choreographer for the 80's & 90's **Disco European Arena Tour** (2018–2020). He was also a soloist in Monica Loughman's **The Nutcracker** (2012–2015) and Michael Jackson **Man in the Mirror Tribute** tour (2014–2016). Alex was cast in ANU's production of **The Hardest of Women** (2022). Recent work includes, being cast as The Watcher, in **The Watchers** with Dakota Fanning (2024), and in **Mosh**, winner of Best Ensemble at the Dublin Fringe Festival Awards 2023 which also toured the UK (2024).

BIOGRAPHIES ABOUT THE CREATIVE TEAM



DAVID BOLGER **DIRECTOR & CHOREOGRAPHER**

David is the Artistic Director and co-founder of CoisCéim Dance Theatre. His work has been seen by millions of people worldwide and has received prestigious awards for its innovation, performance and choreography. David has directed and choreographed over 30 original productions for CoisCéim, including **Palimpsest**, **Go To Blazes**, **Francis Footwork**, the highly lauded **The Wolf and Peter**, **Body Language**, and the major international co-production **These Rooms** (Irish Times Theatre Award, London International Festival of Theatre (LIFT), TATE Liverpool). His work for the company has been presented at Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival and Peak Performances in the USA, Spring Loaded (The Place) and the Brighton Festival in the UK, Ten Days on the Island (Tasmania), Arts Centre Melbourne and Sydney Opera House (Australia). David has received numerous choreographic commissions for theatre and opera including Druid (Ireland), Spoleto Festival (USA), Guthrie Theatre (USA), RTÉ (Ireland), National Theatre (UK), Abbey Theatre (Ireland) and Opera Ireland. He is a member of Aosdána.



IVAN BIRTHISTLE **COMPOSITION & SOUND DESIGN**

Ivan is the head of the Sound Department at the Lir National Academy of Dramatic Arts. He has been working as a composer and sound designer in theatre for over twenty years working with nearly every major theatre company in the country. He has a long history with CoisCéim having designed many shows for them with Vincent Doherty. Ivan also has a background in live music having played in many bands, most notably Schtum, Nina Hynes and the Husbands, and has released many records over the last 25 years.



JOHN GUNNING LX DESIGN

John is a founding member of Malaprop Theatre and an alumnus of Dublin Youth Theatre. With gratitude to Paddy O'Dwyer, founder of Dublin Youth Theatre, RIP. Lighting credits include: with Malaprop **Hothouse,**

Where Sat The Lovers, Everything Not Saved, Jericho, BlackCatfishMusketeer and **LOVE+, Palimpsest** (CoisCéim Dance Theatre), **Crawler** (Jessie Thompson), **Tempesta** (Sugarglass Theatre), **This Solution** (Shaun Dunne), **Navy Blue** (Oona Doherty), **Mosh** (Rachel Ní Bhraonain), **Tiny Plays 24/7** and **Tiny Plays For A Brighter Future** (Fishamble), **Venus in Furs** (Rough Magic SEEDS), **The Roaring Banshees** (Devious Theatre Co.), **We Can't Have Monkeys in the House** (Sad Strippers) and **The Egg Is A Lonely Hunter** (Hannah Mamalis).



ARRAN MURPHY COSTUME DESIGN

Arran is a Designer, Maker and Educator working in Sustainable Fashion, Costume and Community Arts. She has designed for numerous theatre, dance and street performances including the St Patrick's Day

Parade, CoisCéim's Broadreach Programme, Dance Limerick's Step Up Programme, The Dockers and Demons Festival and Mario Rosenstock's **Gift Grub Live Show, Hope it Rains, Drowned Galway**, Galway 2020, as well as for CoisCéim's **Body Language, In The Magic Hour, Palimpsest** and **Go To Blazes**, for which she was nominated for Best Costume Design in the Irish Times Theatre Award 2023. Arran is also the Programme Manager of Rediscover Fashion, a social enterprise at the Rediscovery Centre, Ireland's National Centre for the Circular Economy.



NEIL O'DRISCOLL PROJECTION DESIGN

Neil O'Driscoll is a multidisciplinary artist whose work incorporates painting, illustration, film and video design for live performance. His work has appeared on stage at venues around Ireland including the Belltable

in Limerick and Dublin's Abbey Theatre, most recently in Edna O'Brien's **Joyce's Women**. In addition to freelance work, Neil sustains a practice as a visual artist and independent filmmaker.



VAL SHERLOCK

HAIR AND MAKE-UP

Val has worked as a hair and makeup artist as well as a wigmaker for a quarter of a century. As well as television, film and advertising work, Val has worked for all major theatre companies in Ireland and Northern Ireland. Val has had the pleasure of working across all aspects of theatre, opera, contemporary dance, and ballet. He has worked on multiple productions for the Lyric Theatre, Druid, Rough Magic Theatre Company, CoisCéim Dance Theatre, Fishamble: The New Play Company, the Abbey Theatre/Peacock Theatre, The Corn Exchange and Landmark Productions, amongst others.



SEÁN DENNEHY

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Seán Dennehy is a production manager, technician and live art practitioner across a range of disciplines including theatre, visual arts and music. He has worked for and collaborated with such companies as Dead Centre, Junk Ensemble and ANU among many others in over twenty years as an arts worker in Ireland and England.



EMMA DOYLE

STAGE MANAGER

Emma Doyle is a seasoned stage manager with a passion for music. Starting her career in opera, she has built a solid track record across theatre, opera, and dance. With extensive experience ranging from intimate plays to large-scale international tours, Emma brings exceptional organisational skills and deep sensitivity to every project. This is her first collaboration with CoisCéim Dance Theatre.



DUBLIN

7—22 September

FESTIVAL

FRINGE

ABOUT

DUBLIN FRINGE FESTIVAL

DUBLIN FRINGE FESTIVAL is a curated, multidisciplinary Arts Festival and year-round artist support organisation, seeking out and presenting contemporary, playful and provocative new work made by Irish and International Artists of vision in an Annual Celebration all over the city. Established in 1995, Dublin Fringe Festival is the agenda-setting festival for new work in Ireland, devoted to talent development and artform development. It is a platform for new and emerging artists in Ireland to showcase their work and offers artists at every stage of their career an opportunity to challenge, subvert and invigorate their disciplines and practice. 2024 is Dublin Fringe Festival's 30th birthday! Join the celebration and book your tickets now at fringefest.com



**BOOK YOUR
TICKETS NOW**

ABOUT EPSON

Epson is a global technology leader dedicated to co-creating sustainability and enriching communities by leveraging its efficient, compact, and precision technologies and digital technologies to connect people, things, and information. The company is focused on solving societal issues through innovations in home and office printing, commercial and industrial printing, manufacturing, visual and lifestyle. Epson will become carbon negative and eliminate use of exhaustible underground resources such as oil and metal by 2050. Led by the Japan-based Seiko Epson Corporation, the worldwide Epson Group generates annual sales of around JPY 1 trillion.

In 2024, local subsidiary Epson Ireland partnered with CoisCéim Dance Theatre to enable the projection capabilities for **PALIMPSEST** and **DANCEHALL BLUES**, working in unison to explore new boundaries for projection in the arts.

EPSON





COISCÉIM DANCE THEATRE

CoisCéim Dance Theatre is one of Ireland's leading dance companies known for its expertise and track record in presenting highly original work to audiences large and small across artforms and media. Led by David Bolger, a member of Aosdána, our work is benchmarked with the best in the world and celebrated for its artistic excellence. It challenges, stimulates, inspires and entertains – seen on international stages including 14-18 NOW & LIFT (UK), Peak Performances, Jacobs Pillow Dance Festival (USA), Sydney Opera House and Venice Biennale.

In tandem with the performance programme the company conducts an integrated, inventive artform awareness and participation initiative: Broadreach. Established in 2006, its activities are pioneering, targeting all sections of the population in an exciting and innovative manner to create a genuine curiosity in dance. CoisCéim is proud to be funded by the Arts Council of Ireland and supported by Dublin City Council and Culture Ireland. Find out more at www.coisceim.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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JULIA CARRUTHERS (CHAIR)
JOHN COMISKEY
JAMES F. INGALLS
NIAMH O'DONNELL (COMPANY SECRETARY)
SUSAN WHITE

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR **DAVID BOLGER**
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER/CEO **BRIDGET WEBSTER**
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**COIS
CÉIM
DANCE**



*"delightful...stunning
dance sequences...lifts
you off your feet...to craft
an experience of joy."*

THE ARTS REVIEW

COISCÉIM
DANCE THEATRE
PRESENTS

THE PIECE WITH THE DRUMS

BY
DAVID
BOLGER

PULSATING WITH THEATRICAL MAGIC
FEATURING LEGENDARY JAZZ
PERCUSSIONIST CONOR GUILFOYLE

TOURING TO:

The Mac Belfast 18–19 Oct

The Everyman Cork 23 Oct

Draíocht Blanchardstown 26 Oct

An Grianán Letterkenny 7 Nov

Town Hall Theatre Galway 12 Nov

The Civic Theatre Tallaght 15–16 Nov

Pavilion Theatre Dún Laoghaire 20 Nov

**TICKETS
NOW
ONSALE**



BECOME A DANCE ANGEL WITH YOUR WINGS WE CAN FLY!

SHARE THE SPIRIT AND VISION OF THE WORK WE PRODUCE. PLAY A VITAL ROLE IN ADVANCING OUR CREATIVE AMBITIONS. BE AN ADVOCATE FOR ARTS AND CULTURE IN OUR SOCIETY.

THANK YOU TO OUR DANCE ANGELS: JOHN COMISKEY, ELMA CUSACK, MARGARET FINLAY, JULIAN ERSKINE, CIAN O'BRIEN, MADELEINE NESBITT, BRIGID MCMANUS, M & E WELSH, NICK HEINZEN, AENGUS O'HANRAHAN, LOUIS HERBERT, GWEN BOLGER & MICHAEL CRANSTON, EAMONN MAGUIRE, AND ALL THOSE WHO WISH TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS.



COISCÉIM DANCE THEATRE

42 FAIRVIEW STRAND, DUBLIN 3, D03 YV62, IRELAND.

TEL: 01 878 0558

A REGISTERED CHARITY

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