



**HOLIS
CEIM BROADREACH
DANCE**

SPARKING DEBATE

**ST PATRICK'S
PARADE
PAGEANT**

17 MARCH 2024



LET THE SPARKS FLY!

The **Parade Pageant** for **SPARKING DEBATE** is an ambitious performance project that has taken place over a 3 month period with 75 participants spanning four community groups from all across Dublin. The performance groups participated in weekly dance workshops and creative discussions culminating in a celebratory dance final as part of the St. Patrick's Festival pageant.

Choreographically the core theme of this project was anchored by the questions – “Who do we want to be now and who do we want our future self to be? This inspired choreographic choices such as using our voices, reaching towards connections with one another and moving in rhythm with partners. Having the space to question and to dream created a richness to answering the human right of self-actualisation and self-determination, important concepts for our community to consider as they shape the future world we all share. Collaboration and communication has been a key element to the success of this project between the performers and the choreographers, CoisCéim Dance Theatre and the St. Patrick's Festival team.

The performers used text from five selected poems to explore a movement vocabulary that reflected the written words. Themes of unity, freedom, friendship and togetherness were not only weaved into our dances but also through our music selection. The five poems, costume, dancing and music that our four community groups have created make up our unique 5 provinces. Each dancer and each community group generously gave themselves towards the project.

It has been an honour to watch the performers have fun and grow in self confidence and belief over the course of this project. Thank you so much for your generous contribution of time and ideas plus sharing with us and your community who you are and your passion for joy, performance and creativity!

WITH KINDNESS

OLWYN LYONS AND AOIFE MCATAMNEY, MARCH 2024



CREDITS

COISCÉIM BROADREACH

SPARKING DEBATE CURATED BY THEO DORGAN & BRIDGET WEBSTER

ST. PATRICK'S PARADE PAGEANT

FEATURING IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER

CECILIAN THEATRE ARTS: ANA ANTON, ELLA BRADY, MAEVE BRADY, SOPHIE CULLEN, KATE DEIGNAN, RUBY FAGAN, LAURA FINLAY, SEAN HOSFORD, SIENNA KANE, ERIN KAVANAGH, KERRY MAGUIRE, JUSTIN MANOSA, RACHEL MARSHALL, SERENA MCCANN, ROISIN MULLIGAN, LUCY O'BRIEN, AOIBHE O'CONNOR, SUSIE O'CONNOR, AVA O'RIORDAN, EIBHLEANN KENNEDY RYNNE, ABBEY SULLIVAN, CHARLOTTE THOMPSON, RUBY FAGAN WINDELEV.

SEDA COLLEGE: TIFANY DANTAS DE ALMEIDA, OYUNGEREL ANKHBAATAR, VALERIA WOGUEIRA DINIZ, SHIJIR-ERDENE ENKHTAIVAN, YESENIA ALATARRE GOMEZ, CLAUDIA DENISSE CERVANTES HERNÁNDES, ELIM JOSUE, JORGE BAEZ MORALES, YURIDIA ALEJANDRO ROJAS HINOJOS, CRYSTAL HEYING LIU, OLEKSANDRA OANOVOLUG, CLARA INÉS FIETES RAMOS, CLAUDIA ANDREA PALMA RIOS, GABRIELA HERNANDES ROJAS, ORTIZ RODRÍGUEZ, EMMA ROSALIA, CHRISTIANE SCABELLO, INNA SHELEST, ESTER FREITAS ALMADA VAZ SILVA, ISARINA ZARATE, SALINA ZHANG.

SPHERE17: SHADAY BLAKE, REECE BYRNE, NIALL COUGHLAN, JASMINE DARCY, JAMIE MCCLURE DENNIS, SKYE FOWLER, IZZY HEDDERMAN, MILEY HEMPENSTALL, FAVOUR IFEOLYWA, COOPER JAMES, KAYLEIGH KELLY, KG LGOMOTSO, KATIE MCCANN, ELLA MCCARTHY, DANIELLE MULCAHY, MARIA NESTOR, ANIA PERIN, LILY POWNEY, GAVIN ROWE, CASEY SPRATT, BRANDON WALSH.

THE POLISH SATURDAY SCHOOL: AGNIESZKA BIAŁOŃ, ROKSANA BIAŁOŃ, ANASTASIA CIENIAWSKA, KAROLINA KOSZORZ, INA KUMAR, JULIA MICHALAK, MARTYNA MIREK, ALEKSANDRA OWSIANKA, JAKUB OWSIANKA, LENA RÓZIK, KLAUDIA ŚLIWIŃSKA, AUDREY WAŻEŃSKA, SARA WAŻEŃSKA, ANETA ZAWACKA-UVEGES.

CREDITS

PROJECT LEADERS CHOREOGRAPHERS

OLWYN LYONS & AOIFE MCATAMNEY

COSTUME DESIGN CIARA FLEMING

BANNER DESIGN ALPHABET SOUP

TEXTILE ARTIST PAMELA HEANEY

HAIR & MAKEUP SPF TEAM LED BY EMMA LENNON

ASSISTANT COSTUME DESIGNER SARAH HIGGINS

BANNER ASSISTANT NICOLA BURKE

COSTUME ASSISTANT SIMON CHRISTOPHER

DANCE CAPTAINS MIA DICHIARO, SAOIRSE LAMBKIN O'KANE,
NICK NIKOLAOU & SOPHIE ROCHE

SOUND TAPE ALEXIS NEALON

PARADE STAGE MANAGER STEVIE DARCY

TRANSPORTATION JAMES ROWLEY

PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR CAOIMHE COBURN GRAY

THANK YOU

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE KIND SUPPORT OF JENNIFER O'DOWD AND THE TEAM AT CECILIAN THEATRE ARTS; JOANNA PRUSAK AND ALL OF THE PARENTS AT THE POLISH SATURDAY SCHOOL; JORGE BAEZ MORALES AND SEDA COLLEGE; NIALL COUGHLAN, SHADAY BLAKE, BRIAN CONNEELY AND CAROL KINSELLA AT SPHERE17 AND JOE AT CIVIC MEDIA.



SPARKING DEBATE

IS FUNDED BY ART: 2023, A DECADE OF CENTENARIES COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE ARTS COUNCIL AND THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM, CULTURE, ARTS, GAELTACHT, SPORT AND MEDIA AND PRESENTED IN COLLABORATION WITH ST PATRICK'S FESTIVAL. IT IS A VIBRANT, CURATED PARTICIPATION PROJECT FOR AND BY YOUNG ADULTS TO PROVOKE DIALOGUE AROUND IRISH IDENTITY, HOSPITALITY AND SOVEREIGNTY THAT RUNS IN PARALLEL WITH COISCÉIM DANCE THEATRE'S LARGE-SCALE PERFORMANCE WORK **PALIMPSEST** BY DAVID BOLGER.

COISCÉIM DANCE THEATRE AND ST PATRICK'S FESTIVAL 2024

– A GROUND-BREAKING PARTNERSHIP
ANCHORED IN SHARED VALUES TO SHOWCASE
ARTISTIC EXCELLENCE AND CELEBRATE THE
DIVERSE LIVED EXPERIENCES THAT DEFINE
OUR ISLAND TODAY WITH A PROGRAMME THAT
TRAVERSES THE ENTIRE FESTIVAL LINE-UP.





13-23 MARCH
ONE CITY
WORLD PREMIERE OF
PALIMPSEST
AT THE COMPLEX
PAY WHAT YOU CAN
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16 MARCH
FESTIVAL
QUARTER
FRANCIS
FOOTWORK VR
AT COLLINS
BARRACKS
FREE



17 MARCH
PARADE
SPARKING
DEBATE
**BROADREACH
PAGEANT**
FREE



18 MARCH
ONE CITY
SPARKING
DEBATE
**PHYSICAL
DEBATES**
AT TU DUBLIN
GRANGEGORMAN
FREE



ABOUT SPARKING DEBATE

SPARKING DEBATE is part of a multifaceted project seeks to capture the intention of CoisCéim’s ART:2023 Open Call Award to make – *“a massive project –with the potential to transform the way we look at the everyday – to draw out opposing perspectives, provoke robust conversations and build bridges”*. Its fundamental objective is to address the Decade of Centenaries goal to promote deeper understanding and recognition that shared historical experiences can give rise to very different narratives and memories.

Designed as an alternative to polarised thinking, it is an initiative by and for over 100 young people to provoke dialogue around Irish identity, hospitality and sovereignty through the question **“who do we want to be”**.

SPARKING DEBATE is co-curated by poet and writer, Theo Dorgan and is artistically anchored in 5 poems from the island’s canon – one from each of the 5 provinces of Ireland – the four physical provinces and the 5th being that of the imagination. The poems were chosen to *“encourage people to think and feel on the slant – to allow the poems to stand to one side of the usual narratives and thus prompt fresh thinking, not just about who we want to be but about who we are and have been”*.



THE PROVINCES ARE REPRESENTED BY THE FOLLOWING POEMS

- LEINSTER** Jessica Traynor
The Demonstration
Commissioned for 2016 commemoration
- MUNSTER** Thomas McCarthy
Full Moon Over the Refugee Centre
from THE LAST GERALDINE OFFICER
Anvil Press Poetry, London, 2009
- CONNACHT** Mary O'Malley
Occupation
from PLAYING THE OCTOPUS
Carcenet, Manchester, 2016
- ULSTER** Ciaran Carson
Wrap the Green Flag Around Me
from COLLECTED POEMS, The Gallery Press, Loughcrew, 2008
- 5TH PROVINCE** Theo Dorgan
The Question
Commissioned by The Guardian, 2015

As with **PALIMPSEST**, a key anchor is Eavan Boland's poem *Our future will become the past of other women* together with the picture above of Ireland taken by a NASA satellite from space – connecting the diaspora to the local – the weather patterns a metaphor for the continual entrance and exit of peoples to and from the island – linking into ideas around hospitality and borders....*and the past being the present being the future*

The two culmination events of **SPARKING DEBATE** are connected by a series of art banners featuring an extract from each work – sentences designed to provoke thought and conversations that continue and build moving forward.



BIOGRAPHIES ABOUT THE PARTICIPANTS

CECILIAN THEATRE ARTS CASTLEKNOCK

Based in Castleknock the *Award Winning Cecilian Theatre Arts* has a unique holistic approach to drama, dance and singing for children age 4-18yrs. The school offers quality training and is specifically designed to encourage creativity, confidence and communicational skills through the arts. Students have the opportunities to experience professional studio recordings, music videos, charity events, festival performances, variety shows, Musicals and other ventures in TV/film. Making memories that last a lifetime.

THE POLISH SATURDAY SCHOOL FINGLAS

The Polish Saturday School (SEN School) in Dublin was established in February 2010 upon the initiative of parents and teachers with a common goal of educating young Poles living in Ireland. In 2020, together with students, parents, teachers and friends, they celebrated the 10th anniversary of the school.

SEDA COLLEGE SMITHFIELD

SEDA College has been running English courses in central Dublin, Ireland, since 2009 and now is also based in Cork. The university fosters a community of learners that challenges its students to broaden their horizons and equips them with the communication skills that our globalised world requires through an experience in Irish culture.

SPHERE 17 REGIONAL YOUTH SERVICE, DARNDALE

Sphere 17 Regional Youth Service (RYS) provides a high-quality youth service to young people between the ages of 10-24 in Darndale. Sphere 17 believes all young people can achieve great things. Their mission is to support young people to be the best that they can be. This support is offered in different ways for different young people, as they need it, through the varied services provided. Collaboration with Sphere 17 on this year's St Patrick's Day parade comes as part of an ongoing relationship between CoisCéim BROADREACH and Creative Places Darndale.

BIOGRAPHIES ABOUT THE ARTISTS

THEO DORGAN

Theo Dorgan is a poet with ten collections published, the most recent being **Once was a Boy**, which has just received the accolade of One City, One Book 2024 in his native Cork. He is also a novelist, documentary screenwriter, translator, essayist and editor. In 2022 he devised the script for ANU's production of **Staging the Treaty** (now also a film available from IFI, both directed by Louise Lowe), and he scripted and presented the multi-award-winning Alan Gilsenan documentary **An Buachail Gealgháireach /The Laughing Boy**. Translations of his work have been published in Greek, Italian and French, with a volume in Spanish due in 2024. He is a member of Aosdána.

OLWYN LYONS

Olwyn Lyons is a dance artist and community dance facilitator with a Postgraduate and BA Degree in Dance (UK). Her career spans 10 years working across community dance and dance for health delivering, developing, and directing arts projects in a variety of settings. Currently Olwyn is Dance Artist in Residence at Creative Life MISA based in St. James Hospital working with the Parkinson's department. Olwyn was Co-Director of Macushla Dance Club 50+, 2018 – 23 (Dublin City Council, Dance Ireland), and was awarded The Arts Council's Artist in the Community (AIC) Scheme 2023, managed by Create to further develop Macushla. She has facilitated Dance for Parkinson's with Dance Ireland since 2017 and was awarded Arts Council of Ireland Agility Award 2022 to further develop her practice working with Parkinson's Disease. Olwyn was Age & Opportunity Artist in Residence in a Care Setting 2021 in collaboration with Philippa Donnellan, funded by Creative Ireland/Arts Council of Ireland. She has been a guest speaker at various Dementia and Creativity awareness talks including Creative Brainwaves 2023 with Global Brain Health Institute. She was Movement Director for National Youth Theatre Ireland's 2023 production of **Move Like We Were Born To Move** and **Absent the Wrong** at the Dublin Fringe Festival 2022, written by Carys D. Coburn with Once Off Productions. Olwyn was awarded Offaly County Council Youth Dance Commission 2022 to develop arts opportunities for young people and in 2023 Olwyn was selected as a Creative Associate with the Arts Council of Ireland's Creative Schools initiative. Currently Olwyn is Child Protection Programme Administrator with the National Youth Council of Ireland.

BIOGRAPHIES ABOUT THE ARTISTS

AOIFE MCATAMNEY

Aoife McAtamney is a dancer/choreographer, musician, actor and teacher based in Dublin. She is currently part of CoisCéim's **Choreography Connects** artist-led residency project. Aoife began a career as a dancer and choreographer producing work locally and internationally and since 2019, she has been touring with Oona Doherty as a vocalist and dancer for the performance **Lady Magma** and dancing with choreographer Emma Martin in **Night Dances**. As an actor, Aoife can be seen in Paula Keoho's TV documentary **The Devils in Her** and also alongside Olwen Fouéré for BBC NI and TG4. As a choreographer, she has been the recipient of numerous prizes and bursaries from the Arts Council and Culture Ireland and was Ireland's first female LGBTQ+ Aerowaves artist as part of the cohort of 2014 with her first solo **Softer Swells** – that subsequently toured internationally including to La Briqueterie in Vitry-sur-Seine and the Instances festival in Chalon-sur-Saône. Her movement practice evolved to music, songwriting and soundscapes for performances and in early 2020 Aoife graduated with an MA (1st) in songwriting at the University of Limerick. Alongside their work in dance and choreography, Aoife coaches dancers and teaches workshops in vocal movement and cultivates a community arts practice developing investigations of gender, ancestry and nature. From 2020–2022 Aoife was the lead movement artist for Dublin City Council Culture Company and participation practice credits with ageing bodies of culture include CoisCéim Dance Theatre's Broadreach and now with Macushla Dance Group.

CIARA FLEMING

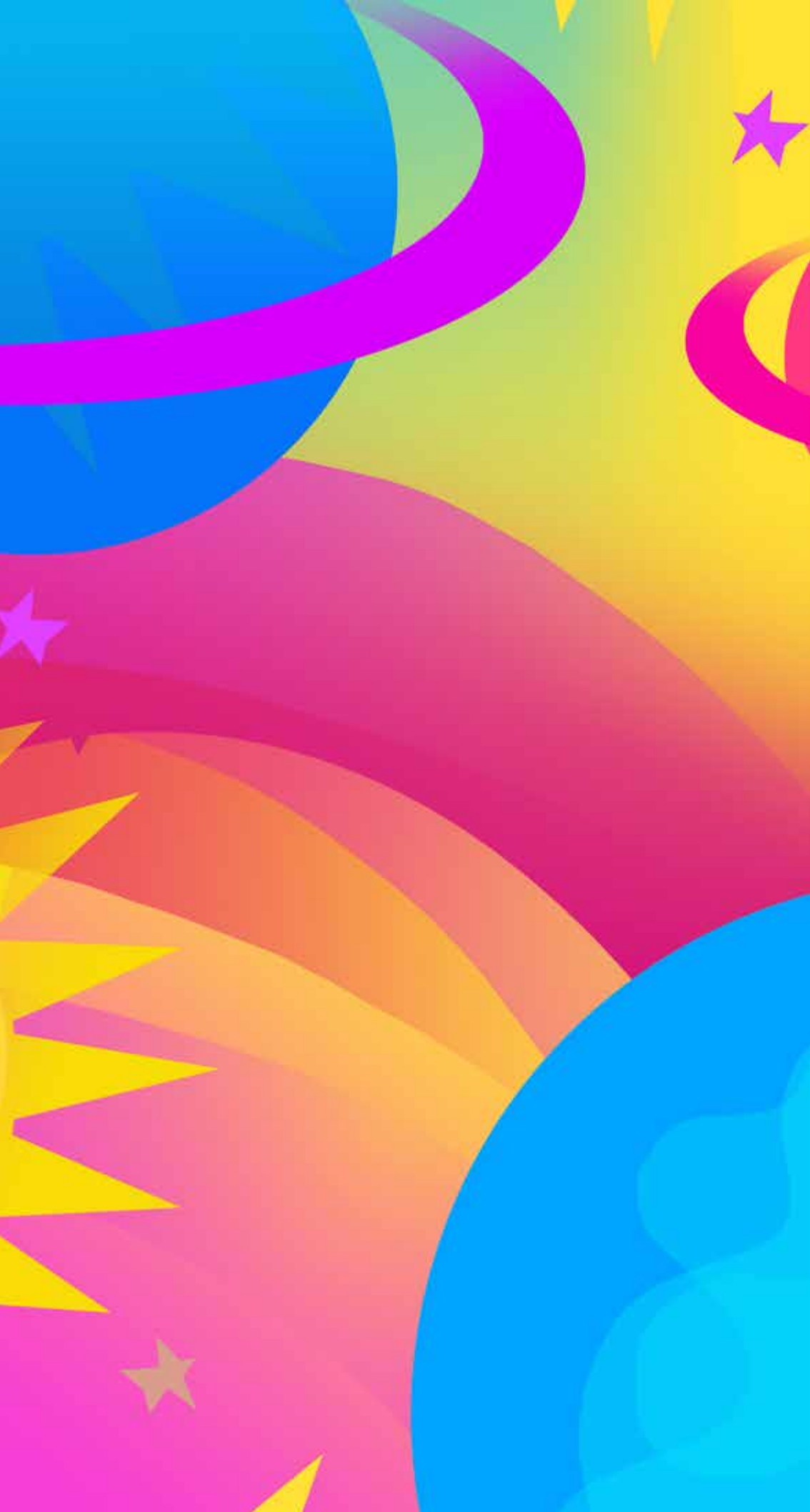
Ciara is a director and costume designer who was the first Resident Assistant Director at the Gate Theatre Dublin in 2023. Ciara was a 2021 recipient of the Arts Council Next Generation award, to advance her work on the intersections between directing and design. Ciara has participated in the Dublin Theatre Festival programme **Next Stage**, and in the Fast Forward festival for young European stage directors, collaborating with emerging directors from across Europe, furthering her investigation of design-led theatre practice. Her writing on Music in Irish Theatre is published in the Palgrave Handbook for Contemporary Irish Theatre and Performance. Ciara has also taught youth drama, and at Trinity College Dublin, modules on design in performance.

ALPHABET SOUP

Alphabet Soup – set up in 1998 by Siobhan Griffin and Ronan Hayes – create graphic design for print and digital, primarily for the culture sector in Ireland. We have worked with organisations such as Culture Ireland, Council of National Cultural Institutions, Irish Theatre Institute, IMMA, The Digital Hub, Temple Bar Properties, Theatre57, O'Brien Press, Screen Composers Guild of Ireland, Publishing Ireland, Screen Producers Ireland, Mesmeric Pictures, Hells Kitchen Films, and the County Council Arts Offices in Drogheda, Sligo, Dublin and Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown. We have designed over 150 production images for theatre, dance and opera productions for companies such as, Rough Magic Theatre, Storytellers, Opera Theatre Company, CoisCéim Dance Theatre, Calipso, Barabbas the company, Calipo, Anu, Abbey Theatre, Upstate and Irish National Opera. We believe that great design should attract, inform and position and ideally in that order. This is the design thinking we apply to all our projects.

PAMELA HEANEY

Pamela Heaney is a Dublin based Fashion Designer and Educator, who has embraced sustainable practices throughout her career and is an advocate for the principles of slow fashion. Her creative journey is characterised by a profound interest in historical fashion approaches. Her work explores contemporary interpretations of historic construction techniques, silhouettes, and textiles, particularly showcasing an interest in heritage and reclaimed fabrics. The work aims to offer a perspective on fashion that celebrates tradition, innovation and sustainability in equal measure. Pamela boasts a rich and diverse background in the fashion industry, having worked across various roles in Paris, London, Melbourne and her current home, Dublin. A passionate educator, she lectured for a number of years in Limerick School of Art and Design, teaching on both the Fashion Textiles and Fashion Design programmes, and she currently holds a position as a lecturer in Costume Design in IADT, Dun Laoghaire.





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. Find out more about [**broadreach**](#) here.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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A group of people, including a woman in a dark tank top and a man in a light shirt, are jumping and celebrating with their arms raised. They are surrounded by a shower of white confetti. The background is a textured wall with some faint graffiti.

**SPARKING DEBATE
AND PALIMPSEST ARE
CORNERSTONES OF COISCÉIM'S
PROGRAMME CELEBRATING OUR
30TH YEAR OF MAKING DANCE
THEATRE.**

OTHER SPRING HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE...

The world premiere of **BREAKIN' BROTHERS** at Dublin International Film Festival, a compelling new dance film about hope, love and the joy of dancing, produced for RTÉ and the Broadcast Authority of Ireland in partnership with Wildfire Films ahead of festival presentations world-wide throughout the year.

Three new **BENCH** commissions in collaboration with Waterways Ireland – watch out for the first in a new series of captivating outdoor dance performances at Grand Canal Dock as part of Dublin Dance Festival on 24–25 May.

The 21st iteration of Broadreach favourite, **THE CHOREOGRAPHY PROJECT**, will be led by esteemed choreographer, Philip Connaughton kicking off in early April. A regular feature, it offers dance enthusiasts the opportunity to work with professional choreographers in the exploration of contemporary dance theatre. Only a couple of spaces remain so snap yours up now at coisceim.com/the-choreography-project-21.

FRANCIS FOOTWORK VR – our pioneering 180° virtual reality presentation of **FRANCIS FOOTWORK** together with Broadreach’s **CREATIVE DANCE TALES** will tour to Darmstadt, Germany in June and as part of Culture Ireland’s Zeitgeist Ireland programme and feature as part of the Five Lamps Festival closer to home.

Later in the year, audiences will be able to encounter two further **BENCH** commissions along Dublin’s waterways in late August, **a brand new experimental duet by David Bolger** in collaboration with Dublin Fringe Festival and **THE PIECE WITH THE DRUMS** – as we head out on tour. Directed by David Bolger and featuring the groundbreaking jazz percussionist Conor Guilfoyle, this vibrant performance, hailed as *“a colourful exploration of relationships, spirituality, and our connection to rhythm, life and the cosmos”*, will tour to Belfast International Arts Festival; Town Hall Theatre, Galway; Everyman, Cork; An Grianan, Letterkenny and Draiocht, Civic Theatre, and Pavilion Theatre in Co. Dublin.

Running in parallel with **PALIMPSEST**, CoisCéim Broadreach presents, **SPARKING DEBATE** – an initiative for and by over 100 young people to provoke dialogue around Irish identity, hospitality and sovereignty through the question *“who do we want to be”*.

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, MARTIN J MUNROE, CIAN O'BRIEN, MADELEINE NESBITT, BRIGID MCMANUS, M & E WELSH, NICK HEINZEN, AENGUS O'HANRAHAN, LOUIS HERBERT, ÉMER O LAOGHAIRE, GWEN BOLGER & MICHAEL CRANSTON, EAMONN MAGUIRE, JACQUELINE STRAWBRIDGE, EILEEN KEATING, AND ALL THOSE WHO WISH TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS.



COIS CÉIM DANCE

COISCÉIM DANCE THEATRE

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A REGISTERED CHARITY

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CRA 20031435

CRO 228131

coisceim.com



An Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir,
Éalaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán
Department of Tourism, Culture,
Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media

ART:2023

A Decade of Centenaries Collaboration



Comhairle Cathrach
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City Council

EPSON



St. Patrick's Festival

PART OF ART: 2023, A DECADE OF CENTENARIES COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE ARTS COUNCIL AND THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM, CULTURE, ARTS, GAELTACHT, SPORT AND MEDIA, AND PRESENTED IN COLLABORATION WITH ST. PATRICK'S FESTIVAL.