

DUBLIN
DANCE
FESTIVAL

14-25
MAY
2024

COISCÉIM DANCE
THEATRE &
WATERWAYS IRELAND
BENCH #3

World Premiere

Grand Canal Dock
Fri 24 & Sat 25 May, 1pm & 1:30pm

ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE

A bench by the water – a place to rest, a point to meet, a space to dream. Inspired by Dublin's canals and their surroundings, *Bench #3* is the latest dance piece, choreographed by Sibéal Davitt, in a series of works to be performed on the banks of the canals across the city.

A collaborative project between award-winning CoisCéim Dance Theatre in partnership with Waterways Ireland, *Bench* is a collection of artworks that celebrates everyday places as creative spaces. It encourages us to pause and be inspired by these feats of engineering through vibrant choreographic commissions and short live performances by distinctive local dance artists.

With free outdoor performances over two days, *Bench #3* is an invitation to take a breath and discover dance.

ABOUT THE CHOREOGRAPHER

Sibéal Davitt is a dance artist and performer from Dublin. Her style of dance is influenced by contemporary, classical and Irish traditional 'sean-nós' dance, having trained in all styles from an early age.

She joined CoisCéim Dance Theatre's youth dance theatre group Creative Steps while she studied for a degree at Trinity College, Dublin. After receiving her MA in Contemporary Dance Performance at University of Limerick in 2014 she began working professionally and in 2017/18 she returned to Creative Steps, this time as a Choreographer – working with Olwyn Lyons to create two pieces.

As part of the 1916 commemorations, Sibéal performed in RTÉ's CENTENARY, which was choreographed by CoisCéim's Artistic Director David Bolger and televised live on Easter Monday from the Bord Gáis Energy Theatre. In April 2016, Sibéal created and performed *Fógraím / I Proclaim* at the GPO as part of *EMBODIED*, a series of 6 solos by Irish female choreographers commissioned by GPO: Witness History Public Art Commission and Dublin Dance Festival.

In 2019, Sibéal was one of five recipients of the inaugural Markievicz Award and she was Dance Ireland's Associate Artist in 2020. Her critically acclaimed solo dance show *MINSEACH* premiered as part of Dublin Fringe Festival 2021 and is currently touring in venues around Ireland.

ABOUT THE COLLABORATORS

CoisCéim Dance Theatre is one of Ireland's leading dance theatre 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 (the state body that honours artists whose work has made an outstanding contribution to the arts in Ireland), the company's work is benchmarked with the best in the world and celebrated for its artistic excellence – gracing international festivals and stages including LIFT/14-18NOW (UK), Peak Performances, Jacobs Pillow Dance Festival (USA), Sydney Opera House and the Venice Biennale. Its mission is to produce exceptional, inclusive, and sustainable dance theatre – to create distinctive work that seeks to reflect contemporary Ireland in line with its values of integrity, vibrancy, connection and joy.

In tandem with the performance programme, the company conducts a highly respected inventive access and participation initiative: Broadreach, whose activities are pioneering, innovatively targeting all sections of the population to inspire a genuine curiosity in dance.

CoisCéim is proud to be strategically funded by the Arts Council of Ireland and supported by Dublin City Council and Culture Ireland.

Waterways Ireland is the cross-border navigational authority responsible for the management, maintenance, development, and promotion of over 1 000kms of inland navigable waterways, principally for recreational purposes. These waterways comprise: Grand Canal; Royal Canal; Barrow; Shannon, Shannon-Erne; Erne; Ulster Canal and Lower Bann navigations. Waterways Ireland assets contribute approximately €560m in economic, societal, and environmental value annually. In 2021, the waterways estate received 3.2 million visitors.

In Dublin, Waterways Ireland is responsible for the historic Grand and Royal Canals, which have been a source of great inspiration for artists in the city. Through arts programming, engagement and collaboration, Waterways Ireland supports the development of creative places in Dublin and contribute to making the areas along the Royal and Grand Canals better places to live, work, and visit.

CREDITS

BENCH #3

Choreographer & Performer

Sibéal Davitt

Music

Between The Piper And The Pipes and Ómós do Sheamus by Úna Monaghan

Filmmaker

Luca Truffarelli

Technician

John Norton

BENCH COLLECTION

in collaboration with Waterways Ireland

Curator

David Bolger

Production Manager

Seán Dennehy

Production Coordinator

Caoimhe Coburn Gray

Graphic Design

Alphabet Soup

Publicist

John Kenny, CultureHead

Waterways Ireland

Louise Dredge, Máirín Ó Cuireáin

Producers

Sarah Latty, Bridget Webster

A new commission by CoisCéim Dance Theatre in partnership with Waterways Ireland.

Total running time is 15 minutes (no interval).

THANKS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CoisCéim Dance Theatre would like to thank Emily Kilkenny Roddy, Gareth Smyth, Ivan Birthistle, and 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.

Dublin Dance Festival would like to thank The Arts Council of Ireland, Dublin City Council, CoisCéim Dance Theatre and Waterways Ireland for their support in presenting *Bench #3* as part of our 2024 Edition. We would also like to thank all our funders, sponsors, partners, DDF Friends and Volunteers who are listed on our [website](#).

Join the Movement!

Now is the perfect time to be a part of it all and become a DDF Friend! You'll join a community of dance lovers and be invited to Friends Events during the festival and throughout the year. Plus, as a DDF Friend, you will help create opportunities for dance and dance artists, support the creation of new work, and help us to bring more incredible dance to more people in more ways. Join the Movement today from just €10 a month and we'll see you soon!

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