

COIS  
CÉIM  
DANCE

PROGRAMME



# UNCLE RAY

by DAVID BOLGER

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Conceived, Directed and Choreographed by **DAVID BOLGER**  
Performed by **DAVID BOLGER** and **DONKING RONGAVILLA**

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**Live:** **PAVILION THEATRE DUBLIN THEATRE FESTIVAL** 7–9 OCTOBER 2021  
**THE MAC BELFAST INTERNATIONAL ARTS FESTIVAL** 13–14 OCTOBER 2021

**Online:** **ARTPOWER SAN DIEGO, USA** Streaming 10 OCT On Demand 15–17 OCT  
**THE LOWRY SALFORD, UK** Streaming 15–17 OCT On Demand 18–24 OCT  
**PAVILION THEATRE DUBLIN THEATRE FESTIVAL** On Demand 15–17 OCT

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# *Dedicated to*

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**ANDREW ANDY MICHAEL BOLGER** 16 APRIL 1930 – 30 OCTOBER 1994

**ROMULO RONGAVILLA** STAGE NAME: ROMMEL VALDEZ 10 JANUARY 1949 – 26 MARCH 2021

*and*

**RAY BOLGER** 10 JANUARY 1904 – 15 JANUARY 1987

**“YOUR GRIEF IS AS UNIQUE AS YOUR FINGERPRINTS.  
ARCHING, LOOPING – A WHIRL OF COMPLEX PATTERNS.  
MAPPING OF RIDGES AND LINES RUNNING INTO ONE ANOTHER.**

**CRASHING.**

**DEADENDS AND FORKS OF CONNECTIONS.**

**JOURNEYS OF SNOWFLAKES – WHAT IF’S, REGRETS, IF ONLY’S.**

**FINGER STAINED PICTURES CLUTCHING MEMORIES.**

**HAUNTED.**

**IT’S PART OF THE DEAL.  
HOW LONG WILL WE GRIEVE?**

**THE ANSWER IS RIGHT AT THE TIPS OF YOUR FINGERS.  
YOU WILL ALWAYS HAVE WITH YOU AND MAY LEAVE BEHIND.”**

*David Bolger*



# Credits

Performed by DAVID BOLGER and DONKING RONGAVILLA  
Special guest appearances by MADGE BOLGER, DERMOT MAGENNIS, RACHEL O'BYRNE

Conceived, Directed and Choreographed by DAVID BOLGER  
Music Composition and Sound Design DENIS CLOHESSY  
Set and Costume Design MAREE KEARNS  
Lighting Design EAMON FOX  
Projection Design MAGS MULVEY and NEIL O'DRISCOLL  
Hair and Makeup Design VAL SHERLOCK  
Rehearsal Director MUIRNE BLOOMER  
Parallel Programme Curator LAURIE UPRICHARD

Production Manager MICHAEL STAPLETON Stage Manager DONNA LEONARD  
Assistant Stage Manager AUDREY ROONEY  
Chief LX EVAN KEOGH Chief Technician LAURA RAINSFORD Sound Engineer JAMES BLAKE

Broadcast Director JOHN COMISKEY Director of Photography GARY FINNEGAN  
First AD TOM O'REILLY Vision Mixer DEIRDRE RYAN Sound Mixer JAMES BLAKE  
Camera MICHAEL COLLINS and DAVID TOOLAN

Set Construction THEATRE PRODUCTION SERVICES (TPS) Scenic Artist SANDRA BUTLER  
Additional Hair and Makeup CAROLINE McCURDY Vocal Coach CATHAL QUINN  
Special Props ADAM O'CONNELL and DYLAN FARRELL Production Assistance LISA MAHONY  
Photographer ROS KAVANAGH Graphic Design ALPHABET SOUP  
Medical Adviser EVENT MEDICAL SERVICES  
Marketing and Production Assistant CLARA BULMAN  
Parallel Programme Facilitator CAOIMHE COBURN GRAY

Produced by SARAH LATTY and BRIDGET WEBSTER

## Co-Commissioned by

IRISH ARTS CENTER, PAVILION THEATRE, & PROJECT ARTS CENTRE

## Made possible with the support of

ARTS COUNCIL IRELAND, CULTURE IRELAND AND THE PAVILION THEATRE DONOR AWARD.

## Thank you

THE BOLGER FAMILY, THE RONGAVILLA FAMILY, CLIVE WELSH, AIMEE AND MIA, MARIE DARCY,  
EIMER MURPHY, AND ALEX PEANUT BOLGER WELSH.



## Panel Discussion Podcast

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*Curated by* LAURIE UPRICHARD

On 11 October, the esteemed Laurie Uprichard will curate and host a panel discussion featuring leading industry voices to delve deeper into **UNCLE RAY** and David's choreographic process that will be recorded for podcast. Panellists include **Alicia Adams**, Vice President, Dance and International Programming, The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and board member of APAP; **Aidan Connolly**, Executive Director of Irish Arts Center (co-commissioner of **UNCLE RAY**); **Jacqueline Davis**, former Director of the Lied Center in Kansas and former Executive Director of The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts at Lincoln Center and **Olga Garay-English**, former Executive Director of City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs and **Willie White**, Artistic Director and Chief Executive of Dublin Theatre Festival.

# Artist Biographies

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## DAVID BOLGER

*Director, Choreographer, Performer*

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 20 original productions for CoisCéim, including the highly lauded **FRANCIS FOOTWORK**, **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, China, Spring Loaded (The Place), The Brighton Festival, and both the International Festival Edinburgh and Edinburgh Fringe 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, Royal Opera House and English National Opera (UK), Abbey Theatre (Ireland) and Opera Ireland. Film works include **DANCING AT LUGHNASA**, **DEEP END DANCE** (Writer/Choreographer) and the award winning short film **HOW TO SINK A PAPER BOAT** (Writer/Director/Choreographer). David is a member of Aosdána.

## DONKING RONGAVILLA

*Performer*

Donking Rongavilla is a Street Dancer from the Philippines, and has been based in Ireland since 2002. He started his professional dance career at 16, and later he went on to become a choreographer, break-dancer, acrobatic teacher, actor and music video dance director. Acting credits include **LOVE ROSIE** with Lily Collins, **HERSELF** produced by Sharon Horgan, Television credits include **THE VIKINGS**, **LOVE HATE, RAW**, **ASHLING'S DIARY**, **GRAND OPENING**, **THE ORCHARD THIEVES** and **EIR SPORTS** ads. He featured in **BALLET CHANCERS** with Monica Loughman Ballet in 2008. Donking made his CoisCéim debut in **AGNES** and worked with David Bolger on RTÉ's **CENTENARY 2016**. He recently performed a dramatised reading of the book called **EARTH WE'RE BRIEFLY GORGEOUS** for the Dublin Literary Award 2021. He represented Ireland in the world hip-hop championship in the USA 2006, 2007 and 2012 and was awarded Ireland's Dance Masters Choreographer of the Year (2011). He has worked with big names in the music industry, the likes of Hosiér, Jedward and The Coronas. Choreography credits include the award-winning Bollywood short film **MOORE STREET MASALA** and RTÉ's **TINA TIMES TWO** (Dyehouse Films). He has been the Assistant Choreographer for the Gaiety Panto every year since 2016. Donking is the spokesperson for Breaking Ireland, a national member body of Olympic Federation of Ireland in preparation for Paris Olympics 2024.

## *Special guest appearances by*

### MADGE BOLGER

Madge is a qualified swimming teacher and lifeguard and has a teaching certificate in Synchronised Swimming. Over the years, she has specialised in teaching parent and baby classes in Marian College swimming pool. Madge has a keen interest in dance and as a child attended the Connie Ryan School of Dance. She subsequently performed at the Gaiety Theatre, Dublin and in 2010, performed **SWIMMING WITH MY MOTHER** at the Dublin Dance Festival and featured in **DEEP END DANCE**, an Arts Council/RTÉ Dance on the Box commission, directed by Conor Horgan and produced by Wildfire Films. **DEEP END DANCE** was nominated for an Irish Film & Television Award in 2014. Madge now keeps fit, swimming half a mile five times each week and attending weekly water aerobic classes. She regularly attends CoisCéim's dance classes for older people and performed in **LA VIE EN ROSE** as part of the Bealtaine Festival in 2009.

### DERMOT MAGENNIS

Currently on tour with Pageant Wagon Theatre Company's production of **HEATHER** by Thomas Eccleshare, Dermot was particularly thrilled to be involved with **UNCLE RAY** for CoisCéim, as it involved absolutely no dancing whatsoever.

### RACHEL O'BYRNE

Rachel trained at The Lir Academy, and holds a BA in Drama and French from Trinity College Dublin. Theatre credits include **A CHRISTMAS CAROL, ASSASSINS, THE GREAT GATSBY** (Gate Theatre), **THE ALTERNATIVE** (Fishamble), **BY THE BOG OF CATS, THE REMAINS OF MAISIE DUGGAN** (Abbey Theatre). Film and TV credits include **MAMMAL** (Fastnet), and the upcoming **REDEMPTION** (ITV/Virgin Media). Rachel was a Best Actress nominee at the Irish Times Irish Theatre Awards in 2020.

### DENIS CLOHESSY

#### *Music Composition and Sound Design*

Denis has worked with numerous dance and theatre companies. He won the Irish Times theatre award for Best Design Sound in 2019 and 2010 and was a nominee in 2015. Work with CoisCéim includes **FRANCIS FOOTWORK**. Denis was an associate artist with the Abbey in 2008 and was a participant on Rough Magic's ADVANCE programme in 2012. In 2016 Pat Kinevane's play **SILENT** (Fishamble) won an Olivier award for which Denis composed the music. His work in film includes music for the feature films **UNDER THE CLOCK** and **OLDER THAN IRELAND** (Snack box Films), **THE IRISH PUB** (Atom Films) and **HIS AND HERS** (Venom Film).

## MAREE KEARNS

### *Set and Costume Design*

Maree is an award-winning set and costume designer based in Ireland. She has collaborated with David Bolger and CoisCéim Dance Theatre many times in the past on productions which include the critically acclaimed **AGNES** and **INVITATION TO A JOURNEY**. Maree has designed sets and costumes for most of Ireland's leading companies, in theatre, dance, musicals and opera. She is also the course director for the MFA in Stage Design at the Lir Academy, Trinity College, Dublin.

## EAMON FOX

### *Lighting Design*

Eamon's lighting designs for CoisCéim include **MISSING, SWIMMING WITH MY MOTHER** and **BOXES**. Other lighting designs include: **STONES IN HIS POCKETS** (Pat Moylan Productions); **CARMEN** (Ballet Ireland); **TABLE MANNER'S, FREEDOM TO GO** and **STOPPING AT RED LIGHT'S** (Nightstar Dance); **MORTUUS EST PHILLIPPUS** (Philip Connaughton); **IN THIS MOMENT, FALL & RECOVER** (Irish Modern Dance Theatre); **THE MEMORY OF WATER** (national tour, Theatre Royal Productions); **ETERNAL RISING OF THE SUN** (Hot for Theatre Productions); **THE MERCHANT OF VENICE, MACBETH, KING LEAR** and **HAMLET** (nominated for an Irish Times Theatre Award) (Second Age Theatre Company); **OBSERVE THE SONS OF ULSTER MARCHING TOWARDS THE SOMME** (Nomad Theatre Network); **UNRAVELING THE RIBBON** (Guna Nua); **IT ONLY EVER HAPPENS IN THE MOVIES, A DREAM PLAY, THE SEAGULL, A MIDSUMMER'S NIGHT DREAM** and **THE CAUCASIAN CHALK CIRCLE** at The Peacock Theatre and **THE OLD LADY SAYS NO!** at The Samuel Beckett Centre (The National Youth Theatre); **TALKING TO TERRORISTS, I HAVE BEFORE ME...**, **FIVE KINDS OF SILENCE** (nominated for an Irish Times Theatre Award). He has also designed for Calypso Production, Gallowglass Theatre Company, Landmark Productions, Calipo Productions, Team Theatre, Queens University Belfast, Ransom Productions, Aishling Ghearr (Belfast), Dublin Youth Theatre, The Corn Exchange, Upstate Theatre Company, Live Theatre Newcastle, Glasthule Opera Society and Co-opera.

## MAGS MULVEY *and* NEIL O'DRISCOLL

### *Projection Design*

MINIM is the brainchild of Mags Mulvey and Neil O'Driscoll. Together they specialise in projection design, illustration and scenic requirements for live performance. In addition, they offer videography for promotional films, documentaries and visual arts projects. With an extensive career in the arts for over 20 years, Mags has worked in stage management, scenography and video design and production. Neil is a multidisciplinary artist with qualifications in art, crafts and film-making and currently enjoys working in the field of projection design for theatre. The moment their paths crossed it was clear they were destined to work together and MINIM was born.



## VAL SHERLOCK

### *Hair and Makeup*

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.

## JOHN COMISKEY

### *Broadcast Director*

John Comiskey has worked extensively in theatre, music, film and television. He has a long association with CoisCeim, beginning with directing the award-winning film **HIT AND RUN**. He was lighting designer of **MERMAIDS, HANGING ON BY A THREAD, OUT OF HARM'S WAY** and **DODGEMS** and also curated the parallel programme for **AGNES**. Film and television directing credits include documentaries on German singer Agnes Bernelle and the history of Ireland's mental asylums; and the live transmission of the Eurovision Song Contest. He curated and designed the first ever Irish participation at the Prague Quadrennial exhibition of world theatre design.

## LAURIE UPRICHARD

### *Parallel Programme Curator*

Recently named Executive Artistic Director of Firkin Crane in Cork, Ireland, Laurie Uprichard was previously Director & Curator of Performing Arts at the Contemporary Arts Center, New Orleans, from 2016–2020. She has also worked with Stephen Petronio Company, Tere O'Connor Dance, and Quaternaire, a production and tour management agency based in Paris, France. She curated the Travelogues Series at Abrons Arts Center in 2015–16, and worked with The Joyce Theater. Laurie served as Director of the Dublin Dance Festival from 2007–2011, overseeing its transition to an annual event. From 1992–2007, she was Executive Director of Danspace Project in New York City, a period of significant growth for this venue based in the historic St. Mark's Church. She worked with Urban Bush Women from 1991–96 and, from 1984–1991, was associated with Dance Theater Workshop. Laurie holds an M.B.A. from The American University and was named a Chevalier of the Order of Arts and Letters by the French Ministry of Culture in 2001.



# COISCÉIM DANCE

## 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 14-18NOW & 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.

## Board of Directors

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## Executive

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**ARTISTIC DIRECTOR** DAVID BOLGER | **EXECUTIVE PRODUCER/CEO** BRIDGET WEBSTER  
**GENERAL MANAGER** SARAH LATTY



Become a **DANCE ANGEL**. Share the spirit and vision of the work we produce. Become part of the family of supporters and play a vital role in helping us achieve our creative ambitions. Be an advocate for arts and culture in our society.

## *Dance Angels*

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MARY BOUSHEL, 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 THOSE WHO WISH TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS.



# COIS CÉIM DANCE

## COISCÉIM DANCE THEATRE

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[coisceim.com](http://coisceim.com)

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