

MARIA SVENSSON

CHOREOGRAPHER | PERFORMER | TEACHER

Contact

maria.m.svensson@gmail.com

www.mariasvensson.com

Education

2010

Karlstad University | *Karlstad*

Summer course:

Traces of Dance

2009

Daghdha Mentoring Program

| *Limerick*

Communicating with Clarity

2007

TrinityLaban | *London*

Bachelors of Arts: Dance

Theatre

2004

Balettakademien | *Stockholm*

Foundation Year

2003

Örebro Waldorf School |

Örebro

Primary & Secondary

Education

Professional summary

Maria Svensson is a professional contemporary choreographer, dancer, educator and early years artist who has worked for over 10 years in collaboration with other artists and organisations/companies such as Dans i Värmland, Daghdha Dance Company, Echo Echo Dance Theatre Company, KCAT, Teater Martin Mutter, Cathy Walsh, Mark Mc Loughlin, FC/DC (Firkin Crane's Dance Club) & BEAG - *BEAG is an initiative of the Local Authority Arts Offices of Cork City and County Councils and the Health Services Executive Southern Region (HSE South) Arts and Health programme, with organising partner Graffiti Theatre Company.*

Moreover, Maria is artistic director of the solo dance festival 'Going Solo Together' which takes place biannually in her hometown Örebro, Sweden. In 2016-2018 she was dance artist in residence at An Lab, Dingle funded by the Arts Council & Kerry County Council.

Work history

2020 - 2023

Artists in School Panel | Clare

Maria was part of the Clare Arts Office Artist in School Panel 2020 - 2023 creating and facilitating online workshops for schools around Clare.

2017 - 2020

Graffiti Theatre Company | Cork

Early Years Artist as part of BEAG

In collaboration with other artists Maria created and delivered high quality arts experiences for children aged 0-3, in childcare centres and art venues around Cork.

2016 - 2018

An Lab | Dingle

Dancer in Residence

As part of the residency Maria worked in numerous schools around Kerry. She created a piece together with a group of adults which developed into a short dance film. Both pieces were shown during Féile na Bealtaine and Culture Night 2017 & 2018. The residency was funded by The Arts Council and Kerry County Council supported by An Lab.

2014 - Current

Örebro County Council & Theatre Martin Mutter | Örebro

Artistic Director

Since 2014 Maria has been artistic director of the solo dance festival *Going Solo Together* which takes place biannually in her hometown Örebro, Sweden. In 2017 a bilingual version (Gaelige & English) of the festival took place in Dingle together with co-director Nick Bryson from Legitimate Bodies Dance Company.

Artistic Collaborations & Performance Activities

2023 Painting the Canvas explores listening and moving with and without crayons. It includes projection and atmospheric sounds that ignite moments of colourful and playful imagination. The piece features Echo Echo Ensemble artist Tonya Sheina with her daughters Dara (11years) and Mira (8years) and Echo Echo Ensemble artist Ayesha Mailey with her daughter Naya (7years). It also features multi-instrumentalists Amanda Koser and Stephanie Pawula. With lights by Barry Davis. Created in collaboration with Maria Svensson.

2020 Poetic Play A non-verbal movement video for children age 0-3. Idea & performance Maria Svensson, music Fiona Kelleher, camera, sound & editing Jamie Bourke. Commissioned by Creative Ireland Clare for Cruinniú na nÓg 2020.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-JsFgFjEp7Y&t=8s>

2019 Varia Improvisation Festival Maria was one of eight artists who had the opportunity to work with Improvisation Performers Andrew Morrish and Peter Trotman. 10mins solo, Göteborg (SE)

Paperpond & Paperpuff Play Together with visual artist Regina Carbayo and as part of BEAG, Maria has created two performance pieces: Paperpond & Paperpuff Play. Both have been shown in childcare - and arts centres around Cork 2017-2019 such as An Lab Arts Centre, Dingle, Triskel Arts Centre and the Crawford Art Gallery Cork as part of their Seen and Heard Playspace (IE)

Shining Stars Inspired by the gentle, magic poetry that make up our everyday lives. Performed by a trio of dancers accompanied by vocalist and musician Claire O'Brien as part of ButterNights#2 Firkin Crane and Cork Midsummer Festival. Directed by Maria Svensson, the piece was created together with Hugh Scannell, Luca Squillacciotti & Claire O'Brien (IE)

The Crossover a multi-disciplinary performance art project initiated in 2018 in Cork City featuring collaborations between Cork performance poets, rappers, musicians, dancers and visual artists. Performance by Maria Svensson in collaboration with musician Eileen Healy. As part of First Fortnight Festival, The Kino Cork (IE)

2018 Mo Spiorad Eilifinte/My Elephant Spirit A short dance film directed by Maria Svensson and Mark Mc Loughlin. Made together with a group of dancers in West Kerry based on the performance 'An Moladh/The Proposal'. The film premiered at Phoenix Cinema as part of Culture Night (IE)

The Power of Frau A participatory performance ritual with and by Maria Svensson & Cathy Walsh. Performed as part of Féile na Bealtaine and Cork Midsummer Festival (IE)

2017 An Moladh/The Proposal A poetic movement piece created with 10 courageous West Kerry souls. Performed at An Lab as part of Féile na Bealtaine & Culture Night (IE)

The Cove Choreography: Steve Batts and Echo Echo ensemble, director: Steve Batts, set design/creation/installation: Dan Shipsides, original score: Christopher Norby, costume: Helen Quigley, performance: Esther Alleyne, Ayesha Mailey, Kelly Quigley, Zoe Ramsey, Antonina Sheina and Maria Svensson. Echo Echo Studios, Derry (UK), The Black Box, Galway (IE), Lyric Theatre, Belfast (UK), The Source Arts Centre, Thurles (IE), Lime Tree Theatre, Limerick (IE) & Project Arts Centre, Dublin (IE)

The Importance of Shepherds Gently humorous, biographical solo. Choreographed and performed by Maria Svensson, assistant director Antonina Sheina. Performed in various festivals such as Quarter Block Party, Firkin Crane and the International dance festival Tocht, Siamsa Tíre - The National Folk Theatre of Ireland. Performed in 2016 as part of Movement of Three/Gluaiseacht Triúir Kerry Tour in theatres around Kerry: St John's Theatre & Arts Centre Listowel & Tech Amergin Waterville. The piece premiered as part of Echo Echo Festival of Dance and Movement 2015, Derry.

Recent Bursaries & Awards

2020 The Arts Council Dance Bursary Award Tipperary Dance Platform Hotspot LAB Award Dance Ireland's HATCH Award Creative Ireland & The Department of Children & Youth Affairs	2017 The Arts Council Residency Scheme Echo Echo Festival All-Ireland Artist Bursary Programme, funded by the Department of Culture Heritage and Gaeltacht
2019 The Arts Council Travel & Training Award Kerry County Council Artist in School Bursary Butter Nights#2 Award Firkin Crane	2016 Kerry County Council Arts Act Grant The Arts Council Residency Scheme The Arts Council Travel & Training Award Kerry County Council Bursary Award
2018 Ealaín na Gaeltachta Oíche Chulthúir	2015 Artist Support Ealaín na Gaeltachta Production Award, Örebro Kommun (SE) Production Bursary, Örebro Läns Landsting (SE)

Work History Continued

2022 Assisting dance artist Siobhán Ní Dhuinnín. Summer Camp for children & 55+ at Dance Limerick
2022 Teaching professional classes at Dance Limerick
2020 Workshop Facilitator KCAT's dance programme, Kilkenny
2019 Workshop Facilitator and Symposium Speaker at JOLT Dance Festival Waterford
2019 Teaching Professional Morning Class, Triskel Arts Centre, Cork
2018-2020 Teaching Professional Improvisation Class at Firkin Crane, Cork
2018 Workshop Facilitator Age & Opportunity, Kerry
2016-2018 Teacher FC/DC (Firkin Crane Dance Club, for boys aged 8-12), Cork
2016-2019 Facilitator for the summer course 'Exploring Artist/Teacher Partnership', Tralee Education Centre & Limerick Education Centre
2016 Teacher/Artist Partnership residence at Ardfert N.S. Kerry
2015 Teacher/Artist Partnership (1916 commemoration) residence at Ardfert N.S. Kerry. Supported by Tralee Education Centre & Kerry County Council
2014-2016 Dance Artist in Residence, Kerry County Council
2015 Residence Echo Echo Dance Theatre Company (UK)
2010-2011 Dance Artist at Dans i Värmland, Karlstad (SE)
2006-2010 Summer camp leader including dance & drama facilitator at LSS Kollo (anthroposophical summer camp) for young adults with special needs (SE)