

echoecho
FESTIVAL OF DANCE
& MOVEMENT



PERFORMANCES | WORKSHOPS | EXHIBITIONS

27TH Jan - 11TH Feb 2023

WELCOME

A **Welcome** from the Artistic Director of Echo Echo Dance Theatre Company

In our “Echo Echo Festival Presents Tradition and Beyond” events in September 2022 we focused on artists invited from different parts of Ireland, many of whom had never collaborated with Echo Echo before. To balance this, it seemed appropriate to focus this main, January/February 2023, festival programme on treasuring the skills and creativity of the members of the Echo Echo Ensemble and other artists close to the company. After a difficult couple of years, and the prospect of hard times a-coming in the immediate future it seems appropriate to give our attention to the long term relationships that continue to sustain the quality and depth of our work and which remain the core from which our extensive wider reach into the world comes.

So, in this festival programme we include work created by or involving the artists of the Echo Echo Ensemble, members of the company’s Body Wisdom Group and close colleagues of many years Emily Welther and Maria Svensson. We also welcome back, for a third time, the wonderful Nic Gareiss, this time as part of a duo with musician Ultan O’Brien. For the first time Cindy Cummings, who has been a colleague of the company since its early days in Ireland in the late 1990’s, will present her work. Cindy performs her solo alongside the solo of one of her students, Sighile Hennessy from Equinox Theatre Company. Sighile has been working under my direction over the past while and has recently shown her new work “Out There” at an inclusive dance festival in Johannesburg. So, just like each of the previous festivals this one will have its own flavour. We invite you to join us for some or all of its tasty offerings.

Steve Batts

Artistic Director, Echo Echo Dance Theatre Company.

Festival Timetable

(All times GMT)

Friday 27th January - Saturday 11th February

Echo Echo Spring Exhibition - 'In Our Nature' Sash Ka Sheils & Jacinta O'Reilly, Curated by Sinead Smyth

Saturday 28th January

12noon & 4pm | Painting the Canvas by Maria Svensson & Echo Echo Dance Theatre Company

Wednesday 1st & Thursday 2nd February

8pm | Festival Commissions - Double Bill - Kelly Quigley & Body Wisdom | Zoe Ramsey Group

Friday 3rd February

8pm | Double Bill - Sighile Hennessy & Cindy Cummings

Saturday 4th February

8pm | equilibrium - Emily Welther & Daniel Brandl

Friday 10th February & Saturday 11th February

7.30pm & 8pm | Ultan O'Brien & Nic Gareiss

Friday 3rd & Saturday 11th February (Workshops)

10am - 1pm, Friday 3rd February | Ways of Listening - Emily Welther & Daniel Brandl

1pm - 2.15pm, Saturday 11th February | Dance the Tune - Nic Gareiss & Ultan O'Brien

echoecho FESTIVAL OF DANCE & MOVEMENT

Echo Echo Dance Theatre Company
Waterloo House
Hangman's Bastion
Magazine Street
Derry-Londonderry
BT48 6HH

☎ 028 7130 8883
E: info@echoechodance.com
www.echoechodance.com

Facebook: @EchoEchoDanceTheatre
Twitter: @echoechodance
#EchoEchoFest

Tickets

Festival Pass £30 - Access All Events

Performance Pass £25

Performance Tickets £3-£10 each

Workshops £5 each

**Passes exclude performance at Flowerfield*

Booking Information

Tickets can be booked via www.echoechodance.com.

For performance at Flowerfield Arts Centre Portstewart book via www.flowerfield.org/events/ultan-obrien-nic-gareiss or call 028 7083 1400.

Online bookings via WeGotTickets charge additional 10% booking fee.

Accessibility

Festival venues Echo Echo Studios in Derry and Flowerfield Arts Centre in Portstewart are fully accessible. If you have a specific query please contact us in advance by email info@echoechodance.com or phone 028 7130 8883.

Echo Echo Spring Exhibition - 'In Our Nature' Sash Ka Sheils & Jacinta O'Reilly

An exhibition of paintings by Jacinta O'Reilly and Sash Ka Sheils curated by Sinéad Smyth

Fri 27th January - Sat 11th February | Free Entry

Opening Event: Fri 27th January 7.30pm | Artist Talk: Wed 1st February 1pm

"There are many aspects to these artists and their work that intrigue me. They somehow address the deeper tissue of existence in their approach and process, without trying too hard to label or overly explain the elements of what they create. Each work exists somewhere between pattern and flow, possessing an elemental quality which compels the viewer towards understanding that what is seen is only skin-thick representation of a visual mnemonic, which asks not to be questioned but accepted" Sinéad Smyth

Jacinta O'Reilly

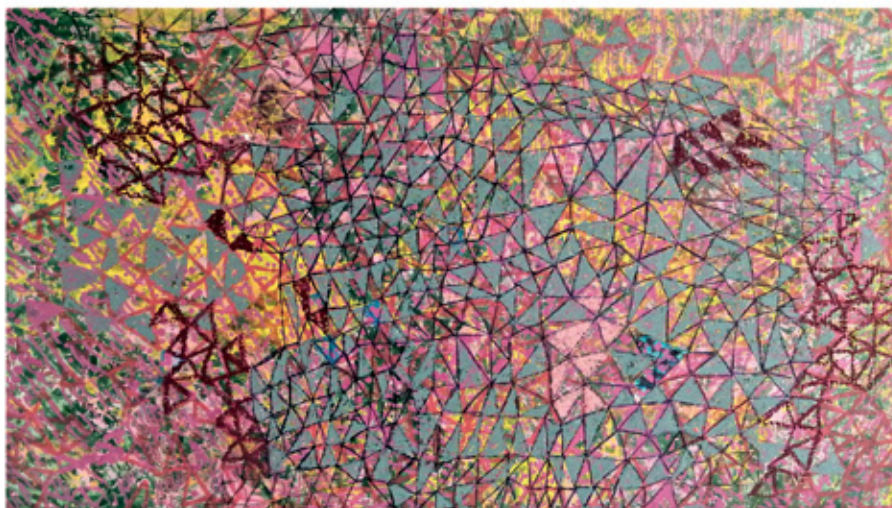
Jacinta is strongly influenced by abstract expressionists and the spontaneity of their process. "I enjoy using mixed media and layering drawings with various geometric shapes. It is the repetition of the shape that is important, so it becomes impossible to tell the beginning or the end of the drawing. I use the intensity of circles or triangles to compose an image giving an illusion of infinity. I am mindful of preserving a natural flow when I draw so that each component is considered but not deliberate. It is the wondrous and magnificent patterning of shapes and colours in nature that inspires my work."

Sash Ka Sheils

Sash Ka is based in the North-West of Ireland. Her interest in art has come about through her desire to express that which is not meant to be expressed through words. Through her love of philosophy, her extensive work in the field of Occupational Therapy and Psychotherapy, and her formidable drive to be free to sculpt her own choices and her own destiny, Sash Ka has cultivated a bold uncompromising style.



Black Swan by Sash Ka Sheils



NOMAD by Jacinta O'Reilly

Painting the Canvas by Maria Svensson & Echo Echo Dance Theatre Company

Sat 28th January | 12noon & 4pm | Tickets £5 / £3

Have you ever considered the essence you bring when you enter a room?

What is left when you leave?

Does it have colour, does it have sound?

Does it make you move?

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.

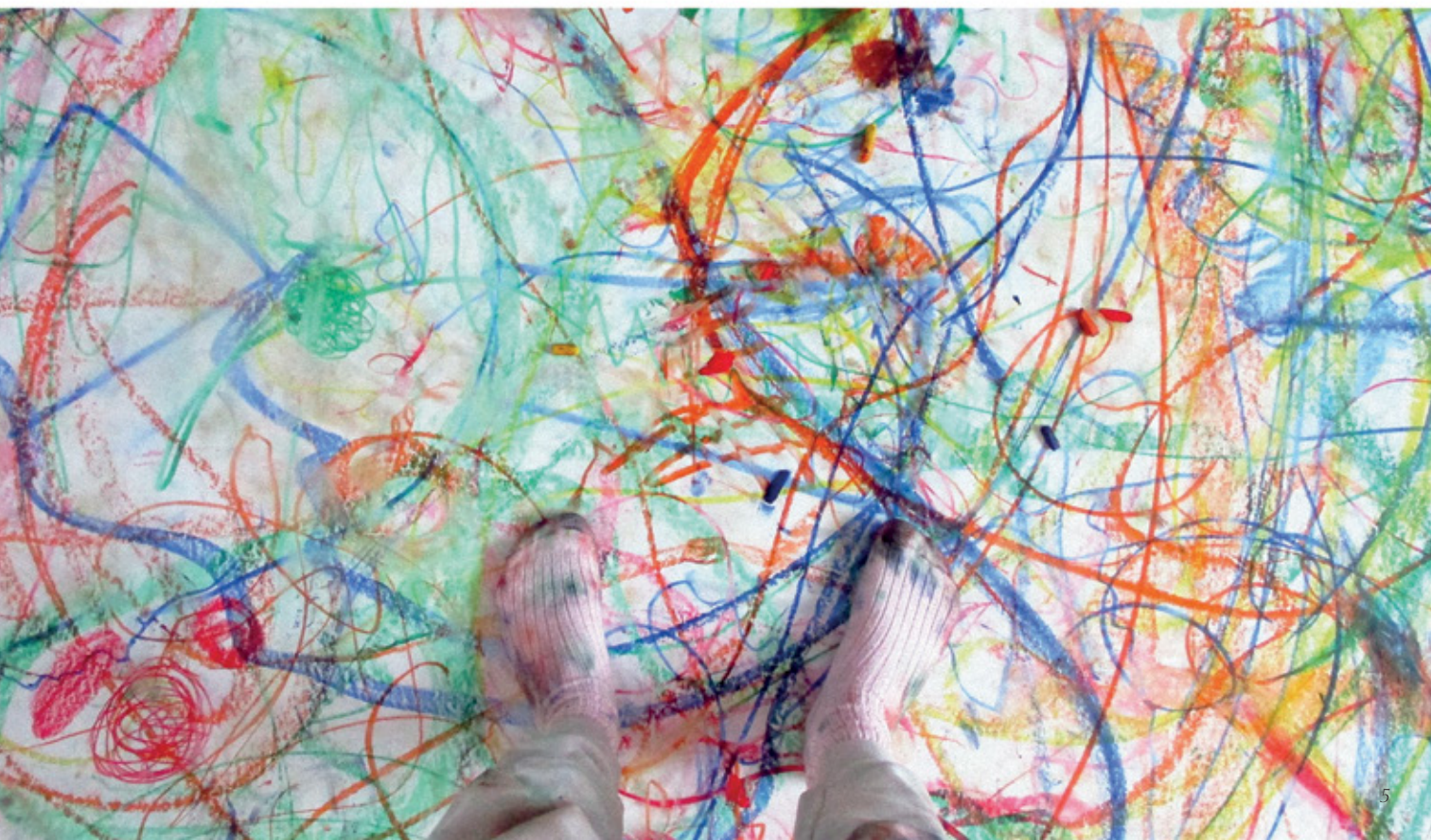
The piece features Echo Echo Ensemble artist Tonya Sheina with her daughters Dara Sheina-Batts (11yrs) and Mira Sheina-Batts (8yrs) and Echo Echo Ensemble artist Ayesha Mailey with her daughter Naya Duffy (7yrs). It also features multi-instrumentalist musicians Amanda Koser and Stephanie Pawula, and original lighting design by Barry Davis. Audiences young and old are welcome join in a fun movement session after the performance.

Painting the Canvas was made possible thanks an Arts Council Dance Bursary Award (ROI) and support from Echo Echo Dance Theatre Company.

Painting the Canvas will also be performed four times for local primary school audiences on Thursday 26th and Friday 27th January as part of the Festival.

Duration +/- 30mins

Photo Credit: Regina Carbayo



Festival Commissions - Double Bill - Kelly Quigley & Body Wisdom | Zoe Ramsey Group

Wed 1st & Thu 2nd February | 8pm | Tickets £5

Figments by Kelly Quigley

Exploring the idea that imagination is the bridge between our internal & external worlds, weaving itself seamlessly through past, present and future, driving creativity, filling the gaps in memory and creating endless possibilities through movement, song and spoken word. The performance celebrates femininity, nature and the arts and aligns with Imbolc, honouring the triple goddess Brigit.

Figments is performed by members of Body Wisdom. This award-winning group have been meeting for dance and movement classes and intensives led by Kelly Quigley and guest artists for over seven years. The group have performed both site-specifically and in regional venues and spaces.

Performers: Salinda Magdalene, Majella Biernat, Marie Manktelow, Ellen Factor, Tina McCauley, Deirdre Gillespie, Remi Ajike, Margaret Hannon

Duration +/- 30mins

'Compose Yourself' by Zoe Ramsey

Compose Yourself is a new ensemble work by Zoe Ramsey. This original new commission has been co-developed by Zoe along with a group of her dedicated weekly dance class participants. It is a piece about the joy of dancing together and a celebration of movement!

Zoe Ramsey is an Echo Echo Ensemble artist who has toured nationally and internationally with Echo Echo and with LUXe. Zoe co-directed A Box which has toured throughout Ireland, and performed in numerous productions including Lost in Frost, Hemmed In, Spherical Space, Walk By, Echo Hunt, The Cove, and The Chess Piece.

Performers: Elaine Kirk, Marcella Di Palo, Carmel Gallagher, Graíne O'Neill, Catherine Browne, Katie Herron, Aideen Herron, Anne Ramsey, Rebecca Strain

Duration +/- 30mins

Photo Credit: Simon Alleyne



Double Bill - Sighile Hennessy & Cindy Cummings

Fri 3rd February | 8pm | Tickets £8

‘Out There’ by Sighile Hennessy

Out There is a 30 minute dance theatre performance created by Sighile Hennessy under the direction of Steve Batts with the creative support of Cindy Cummings. Sighile invites you to join her as she dances through time and space in an exploration of memory and imagination. *Out There* began before the COVID-19 pandemic and has been developed at both KCAT Arts Centre in Callan, County Kilkenny and at Echo Echo Studios in Derry. In October 2022, Sighile was invited to perform *Out There* as a part of the inaugural BODY MOVES International Inclusive Dance Festival at Sibikwa Arts Centre in Johannesburg, South Africa.

“Ireland’s Sighile Hennessy invited the audience into her solo exploration of memory and imagination in Out There. Here there is a poignant sense of loneliness and heartache, as she sets up the picnic to which nobody comes. It is an introspective work, channelling an internal pondering on loss” Tammy Ballantyne - The Ar(t)chive, Johannesburg SA

Sighile Hennessy is a performer, mover, theatre-artist and founder-member of KCAT Arts Centre’s Equinox Theatre Company. Support for this project has come from The Arts Council of Ireland/An Chomhairle Ealaíón, KCAT Arts Centre, Echo Echo Dance Theatre Company, The Watergate Theatre, and the Embassy of Ireland, Pretoria, South Africa.

Duration 30mins



‘Nomad’ by Cindy Cummings

Nomad is a solo experiment in presence, storytelling, celebrating habits, asking questions and not necessarily looking in the right place for the answers. A real time peripatetic. A moving conversation.

Cindy Cummings is a dance artist (choreographer/performer/tutor) whose practice integrates dance, theatre and live art. Since 1986 she has created collaborative works with dance, theatre, visual, sound, literary and media artists around the world for live performance, installation and film.

Duration 20mins



Photo Credit: Herman Verwey

equilibrium - Emily Welther & Daniel Brandl

Sat 4th February | 8pm | Tickets £8

In a structured improvised setting between a dancer and a musician, this piece dissolves the boundaries between movement and sound, between the seen and the heard by experimenting with an equilibrium of the senses. As a continuation of their live-streamed work, *I N T E R F A C E*, *equilibrium* brings the sounds of physical and emotional, acoustic and digital movement into an audio-visual-landscape. The artists join the mediums of dance, performance, and acoustic/electronic music, exploring sound as vibrations that result from the contact between bodies.

Over the past three years, Welther and Brandl have explored the binaural effects and possibilities of digitally-produced and live-mixed sounds in their live-streaming performances. Their separate practices evolve and merge into multiple ways of listening: through and with the body, as a sensory experience beyond that which is heard with the ears, and out of the urgent need to de-prioritize the visual, the known and the seen. This piece takes their digital and live-streaming work into a live event with shared sonic experiences and physically felt vibrations. They ask, how can an equilibrium be established between the senses, and might it then expand and alter the audible and visual boundaries of *me* and *you*?

Duration +/- 50mins



Photo Credit: Michael Wagner

Ultan O'Brien & Nic Gareiss

Fri 10th February | Flowerfield Arts Centre, Portstewart | 7.30pm | Tickets £10

To book tickets for this show please visit: www.flowerfield.org/events/ultan-obrien-nic-gareiss or call 028 7083 1400

Sat 11th February | Echo Echo Studios, Derry | 8pm | Tickets £10

Fiddler, violist, and composer Ultan O'Brien (Slow Moving Clouds) and percussive dancer Nic Gareiss (This is How we Fly) perform a set of new collaborations exploring space, time, and texture in Irish traditional music and percussive dance. Ultan and Nic create sound and movement at the nexus of sight, sound, and touch, puckishly exploring what fiddle music and step dance reveal about both predetermined and extemporaneous composition. By engaging mimetically: fiddle, fiddler, and fiddling, dance, dancer, and dancing, the duo reimagines the erotic symbiosis of traditional music and dance through historic repertoire and new encounter via the mediums of sound and gesture.

Ultan O'Brien & Nic Gareiss' 2023 appearances resume the duo's decade-long commitment to discovering and deepening a lexicon of collaboration which, among other revelations, reconsiders movers as soundmakers and recasts fiddlers as dancers, not only as a means to highlight these respective practices and repertoires, but ultimately to centre rapport.

"Nic Gareiss is one of *Dance Magazine's "25 to Watch",* dancer, musician, and dance researcher Nic Gareiss (he/they) has been hailed by the New York Times for his *"dexterous melding of Irish and Appalachian dance"* and called *"the most inventive and expressive step dancer on the scene"* by the Boston Herald. In 2020 Nic received the Michigan Heritage Award, the state's highest distinction bestowed on traditional artists."

"Ultan O'Brien (he/him) is a fiddle player, violist and composer hailing from County Clare drawing from a rich background in traditional Irish music and improvised music. Ultan records, performs and tours traditional and contemporary Irish music as a soloist and with a number of groups including: Irish/Finnish folk group, Slow Moving Clouds, Irish folk band Skipper's Alley, Scottish/Irish/Manx collaboration Aon Teanga:Un Çhengey, John Francis Flynn, and duos with Eoghan Ó Ceannabháin and Nic Gareiss. Ultan plays a Michiel de Hoog violin thanks to the support of the Music Capital Scheme and the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Music Network and the Irish Arts Council."

Duration +/- 50mins



Public Workshop Programme

Emily Welther & Daniel Brandl

Ways of Listening

Fri 3rd February 10am - 1pm

Open to all levels of experience

In this workshop, we will be exploring different ways of listening, through the movement of the body as it relates to and travels through its surroundings, and as it comes into contact with musical instruments and objects. We will listen as the moving body brushes against the walls, knocks on windows, and treads on the floor of the room it is in, and begin to perceive the inner vibrations of its organs, bones and voice. This attention to an internal/external listening and sound-making will be explored as well by the musicians as they create sounds with their instruments and their bodies. Questions we will ask are: What is rhythm/What is my rhythm? How do I want to move and what sounds do I want to make when I listen to what is in/outside of me? What happens when I focus my attention onto what I hear and how I feel? In a continuous feedback loop, the participants will interchange the roles of movers and sound-makers and create a space of multi-sensorial listening. Open to dancers, musicians, movers, and sound-makers of all levels. You are welcome to bring your own instruments or other sound-making devices.

Photo Credit: Oliver Stone



Photo Credit: Harbauer

Nic Gareiss & Ultan O'Brien

Dance the Tune

Sat 11th February 1pm - 2.15pm

for dancers ages 12+

Traversing intersections and interstices of many clog, step, and percussive dance styles, this class explores the sheer musical potential of your feet. Using imitation and idiomatic ornaments as well as extended techniques for shoe sounds and textures, we will learn to construct lines of rhythm imitating melody as well as create rhythmic counterpoint by setting up shoe-grooves and developing listening, responsiveness, and sonic sensing. Wear smooth-soled comfortable shoes with a low or no heel for this class.



THANK YOU

Echo Echo Festival Team

Artistic Director - Steve Batts
Associate Artistic Director - Ayesha Mailey
Company Manager - Ailbe Beirne
Development Officer - Anna Nolan
Technical Manager - Barry Davis
Echo Echo Ensemble - Ayesha Mailey, Kelly Quigley,
Zoe Ramsey, Tonya Sheina
Publicity artwork and design - Ciaran Harley at zoocreative
Video and Photography - Simon Alleyne
Board of Directors - Deirdre Gillespie, Esther Alleyne,
Mandy Blinco, Cath McBride

Festival Thanks

Thanks to all of the artists involved for all of their generous collaborative approach and encouragement in making this programme possible - and to all of their circles of colleagues, funders and supporters.

Thank you to our funders, Arts Council of Northern Ireland, Derry City and Strabane District Council, Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport & Media and Foyle Foundation. Thanks to all of the previous Festival funders and supporters over the last nine years.

Thanks to all of the Echo Echo staff, ensemble and directors for their continued commitment and dedication.

Finally, thanks to you - our audiences, colleagues, friends and family for your continued support!

Festival
supported by



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



echoecho
FESTIVAL OF DANCE
& MOVEMENT