



**DAGHDHA DANCE COMPANY PRESENTS**

# **GRAVITYANDGRACE**

**INTERNATIONAL DANCE FESTIVAL / 13–17 DEC 2006**

**DAGHDHA SPACE / ST. JOHN'S CHURCH / JOHN'S SQUARE / LIMERICK / IRELAND**

**ARTISTIC DIRECTOR / MICHAEL KLIEN**

THIS PROJECT HAS BEEN PART FUNDED BY  
THE DEPARTMENT OF ARTS, SPORT AND TOURISM  
TÁ AN TIONSCNAMH SEO MAOINITHE AG  
AN ROINN EALAÍON, SPÓIRT AGUS TURASÓIREACHTA

## INTRODUCTION

"The ancient Anasazi, like many native peoples, believed that they needed to conduct their dances and ceremonies in order to maintain balance in the universe. If they neglected this duty, not only they but countless other forms of life would suffer. Maybe all of this is about rediscovering what our dance is – today, in the modern world – and who we, the dancers, are." (Peter Senge)



"We shape space by moving through it until we become stillness and silence; knowing this, we return again and again to the circle and dance its line, its unending line. Fools go marching off ... the wise dance." (Milton Aylor)

Daghdha Dance Company's International Dance Festival is dedicated to the exploration of embodied presence and poetic movement in the world of dance art. Gravity and Grace presents some of the finest dancing drawn from all over the world. Revisiting the notion of dance improvisation this festival provides a rare opportunity to see extraordinary dance without any representational décor. From 13 to 15 December, Daghdha's critically acclaimed choreography *Sediments of an Ordinary Mind* is presented for the first time in Limerick, followed by a weekend of world class solos and duets performed throughout the day.



**LIMERICK PREMIERE OF  
SEDIMENTS OF AN ORDINARY MIND**  
**13–15 DEC 2006, 8 PM**

CHOREOGRAPHY BY MICHAEL KLIEN

CHOREOGRAPHIC ASSISTANCE BY JANYCE MICHELLOD

DANCE BY MARK CARBERY, ELENA GIANNOTTI, BO RA KIM AND VANESSA LE MAT

MUSIC BY VOLKMAR KLIEN (IM FETT IN COLLABORATION WITH WEIPING LIN)

LIGHTING AND STAGE BY DAVE GUY AND MICHAEL KLIEN

INTRODUCTION AND TEXT BY JEFFREY GORMLY

SEDIMENTS OF AN ORDINARY MIND IS A DAGHDHA DANCE COMPANY PRODUCTION

A thought is a physical act.

Sediments of an Ordinary Mind is an enigma of human idiosyncrasies and extraordinary traces of the ordinary. Klien has devised a range of procedures guiding the dancers to embody their personal 'streams of consciousness' in real-time on stage. Thereby he creates an artefact that actively and purposefully channels the existing personal and social setup of the four dancers. A world that is as real as it is fake, utilising underlying dynamics of the human condition: learning, faith, love, trust, hate, remembering and forgetting, trial and error ... in search of the social glue.

"This piece is like watching a Jackson Pollock painting unfold ... Klien's style is radically different to everything else in Ireland." (Dance Europe)

Michael Klien's choreographic work has been performed at a range of prestigious venues across Europe and included commissions for the Volksoper Wien and Ballett Frankfurt. Concerned with the development of choreography as an autonomous discipline he has lectured about his findings at various renowned institutions around the world. In 2003 he was appointed Artistic Director of Daghdha Dance Company and has headed the company's development since. He is currently completing his PhD at the Nottingham Trent University. Winner of numerous international awards and commissions.

## PROGRAMME

16–17 DEC 2006, 12 AM–10 PM

## JEAN BUTLER

16 DEC 2006, 7 PM

17 DEC 2006, 8 PM



### CHOREOGRAPHY AND PERFORMANCE BY JEAN BUTLER

Working in a contemporary aesthetic this improvisation is inspired by a piece of classical music and is regulated by the language of traditional steps; subservient to a rhythmic stream of consciousness.

Jean Butler was born and raised in New York and moved to Dublin after completing a BA in Theatre Arts from the Birmingham University, England. Trained in competitive Irish dance, Jean is best known for her work in Riverdance and Dancing on Dangerous Ground. In 2005, Jean completed an MA in Contemporary Dance Performance from the University of Limerick where she also resided as artist in residence for a two year period. Jean performs, choreographs and teaches internationally and is currently working on a solo programme commissioned by the Irish Arts Council and the Project Arts Centre, Dublin.



**COLIN DUNNE**  
**16 DEC 2006, 9 PM**  
**17 DEC 2006, 6 PM**

CHOREOGRAPHY AND PERFORMANCE BY COLIN DUNNE

I stretched out  
my feet  
and pulled on  
the  
magnificent  
socks  
and  
then my shoes.

Pablo Neruda / Ode to my Socks

Colin Dunne holds a BA in Economics from the University of Warwick, England, an MA in Contemporary Dance Performance from the University of Limerick, was once a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of England and Wales and was a World Champion Irish step dancer on nine occasions. He has worked with the Chieftains, De Dannen, Stefan Grapelli, Jean Butler, Daghdha Dance Company, Michael O'Suilleabháin, the Irish Chamber Orchestra, Bill Whelan, Fabulous Beast Dance Theatre, the Abbey Theatre and Mary Numan and has performed on stage at Radio City Music Hall, Madison Square Garden, the Royal Albert Hall, Carnegie Hall, the Symphony Centre Chicago and the P.A.C.



**JEFFREY GORMLY**  
**17 DEC 2006, 4 PM**

STUFFSHUFFLESTUFF, A WHOLLY SOUL GUN MYSTRY

CHOREOGRAPHY BY JEFFREY GORMLY  
PERFORMANCE BY ELENA GIANNOTTI

An exercise in imagineeering, 'intense and penetrating into those smiling places where we create' – our real human superpower to manipulate 'stuff all around you, tiny specklestuff locked in everything around you in the air'. When we accept and own our power, true freedom is possible.

In his double life as Perspective Kid, Daghdha's associate artist Jeffrey Gormly has been imagineeering escape routes with Soul Gun Warriors Breakbeat Superhero Theatre Troupe since 1996. This is his first choreography.




**ELENA GIANNOTTI**  
**16 DEC 2006, 6 PM**  
**17 DEC 2006, 9 PM**

NOTHING FIELDS I AND II

CHOREOGRAPHY AND PERFORMANCE BY ELENA GIANNOTTI  
INITIATED BY MICHAEL KLIEN

Processes and abilities acquired over a lifetime, some more present than others, some frozen into habits, while others still explore the unknown aspects of one's mind. Choreographed by an accumulated past and brought to the presence via a thoughtbody in dance.

Elena Giannotti was born in Italy and studied ballet with Marina Sophie Van Hoecke, modern techniques, theatre improvisation in Italy, improvisation and release technique around Europe. She has worked in opera, operetta and dance-theatre productions. Elena has worked as a dancer for L'Ensemble Dance Theatre Company, Virgilio Sieni Dance Company, SOHK among others. She has also been working on her solo projects, performing in Italy. In the last three years Elena has been working with Rosemary Butcher, dancing and collaborating in performances and films.



**NIK HAFFNER AND  
THOMAS MCMANUS**  
**16 DEC 2006, 5 PM**

PROCESSION

CHOREOGRAPHY BY COMMERCE (NIK HAFFNER, DEBORAH JONES, JOANNA O'KEEFFE,  
THOMAS MCMANUS AND ASTRID SOMMER)  
PERFORMANCE BY NIK HAFFNER AND THOMAS MCMANUS

"Make sure you have exhausted all that is communicated by immobility and silence."  
(Jean-Luc Godard)

Nik Haffner was a dancer with Ballett Frankfurt from 1994 until 2000. Now a freelance dancer and choreographer, he is making work for stage, film and exhibition. He is a member of the group Commerce and artist in residence at ZKM, Center for Art and Media Karlsruhe.

Thomas McManus danced for many years with William Forsythe in Frankfurt and is a freelance dancer and choreographer since 1999. Apart from working with the group Commerce he also teaches Forsythe-repertoire for the Netherlands Dance Theatre, Compania Nacional de Danza Madrid, Australian Dance Theatre and others.

**MICHAELLA SANDOR**  
**16 DEC 2006, 3 PM**  
**17 DEC 2006, 7 PM**



CHOREOGRAPHY AND PERFORMANCE BY MICHAELLA SANDOR

Michaela Sandor has lived in London since 1994 and is one of the city's leading belly dance artists and teachers. Specialising in classical Egyptian styles, Michaela also trained in classical ballet and folk dance. Born in Jerusalem, she has been steeped in the oriental dance tradition since childhood. Michaela studied under Josephine Wise (JWAAD School), Juliana Brustick and Ruth Webb (Raqs Sharqi Society) and Fifi Ness, the Israeli folklorist, among other prominent teachers. Michaela also collaborates with leading artists from the oriental dance, fusion, classical music and vocal world to push the boundaries of bellydance. Among her collaborators are Avivit, the remarkable Middle Eastern vocalist, Tim Garside, the leading tabla player and Jamie Walton, the leading international cellist.

**RICHARD SIEGAL**  
**16 DEC 2006, 8 PM**  
**17 DEC 2006, 3 PM**



FIRST DRAFT / OPUS 8

CHOREOGRAPHY AND PERFORMANCE BY RICHARD SIEGAL  
MUSIC BY ÉRIC-MARIA COUTURIER

The music is Zoltan Kodaly Suite for solo cello Opus 8.

Richard Siegal is the founder of the Bakery, an organization dedicated to the exploration and production of contemporary performance. Richard lived and worked in New York where he danced in the companies of Doug Elkins, Zvi Gotheiner, Jannis Brenner, Robin Staf, Muna Tseng, Sin Cha Hong and Mark Dendy. Richard danced with William Forsythe's Ballett Frankfurt from 1997 through its final season in 2004.

Born in 1972, Éric-Maria Couturier studied cello and chamber music at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique de Paris and graduated with the jury's unanimous highest honors. He has distinguished himself as prizewinner at several international competitions and has been awarded scholarships by the Natexis and Pendleton Foundations. He was a member of the Orchestre de Paris and solo cellist at the Orchestre National de Bordeaux Aquitaine, before joining the Ensemble Intercontemporain in 2002.



**THE LOVESPOTTERS**  
**16 DEC 2006, 4 PM**  
**17 DEC 2006, 5 PM**

MOTHERING MOMENTS I AND II  
CHOREOGRAPHY BY DANIEL VAIS  
PERFORMANCE BY THE LOVESPOTTERS

The Lovespotters is a collective group of performers with apparently special needs and certainly with other magical talents. At the core of its work the Lovespotters focuses on dance, movement and live art, experimenting with different styles and forms. The group is currently touring Europe with Cataplasia.

**CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES**  
**16–17 DEC 2006, 12 AM–3 PM**

An open space where children can enjoy dance, story telling, craft and art. The activities are open to children of all ages, height and hair styles. Free of charge.

Fun spirit is all you need.

## DANCE AS A FIGURE OF THOUGHT

"Why does dance dawn on Nietzsche as a compulsory metaphor for thought? It is because dance is what opposes itself to Nietzsche-Zarathustra's great enemy, and enemy he designates as the 'spirit of gravity'. Dance is, first and foremost, the image of a thought subtracted from every spirit of heaviness." (Badiou)

Dance allows the thought-body to show itself, it is the showing of a body in thought, independent of what constitutes such a body, whether its boundaries are made of skin or constitutions played out in laws. Dance is a form of certain configurations of thought, expressed in manifold ways by the birth of ideas or the shivering of a body. That is why evolution, animals and states are said to be dancing at times, because certain conditions are met allowing a system to be flexible and its emerging dancing body to be naked, anonymous and selfless. This is what constitutes dance. Hence dance is a manner of thought pointing towards the possibility of change as inscribed in the body. For the spectator to perceive dance is an exercise in trust, demanding the audience's absolute gaze, oblivious to representational décor and fully focused on the underlying nakedness of a flexible body in thought.

Our civilisation has been turning dance into a perversion of itself, applying to and onto it, everything that will prohibit its existence in the form of predetermined rigid time, space and action. It might be the need to capture that, which is ephemeral, to prolong what only exists in the presence and a general resistance to mortality's grip. Maybe the reasons are to be found in the dominant muddle of language, which in Bateson's words 'stops us from thinking straight' and from dancing in general. Dance is a manifestation of improvisation – first of all opposing the 'spirit of gravity'. To govern dance is in itself a mislead conception, a seemingly vain attempt to fence off its mortal nature, putting shackles on what can not be tamed without turning it into an empty shell, a sign pointing towards something other than it is. To choreograph dance conventionally, sets movement into stone, whilst trying to re-create it proves an illusion. Dance is dance and cannot be tempered with, just as Bateson reminds us that God cannot be mocked. Dance has been crippled by conventional choreography for centuries. It is time to release choreography's hold on dance and let it simply be.

Michael Klien / Artistic Director of Daghdha Dance Company

# DAGHDHA DANCE COMPANY

Based in Limerick, Daghdha Dance Company is a full-time arts organisation dedicated to developing, presenting and producing contemporary works of choreography. As a pioneer of dance and choreography, Daghdha endeavours to be an internationally acknowledged institution, whilst maintaining local relevance.

Next to building and maintaining a quality repertoire of choreographic works, Daghdha Dance Company runs a comprehensive cultural programme merging the fields of creation, research, education, and outreach. With choreographic practice at the very core of the enquiry into life, Daghdha sets out to explore dynamics and processes of a deeply interconnected world. Choreography is proposed and developed as a 'Pattern-Language' dealing with relations, their dynamics and consequences, exploring change within the fluidity of life. Routed in performance, Daghdha's work examines its practice from a discursive and transformative perspective, offering aesthetic knowledge to other fields of human enquiry whilst exploring its concerns within a social context.

Daghdha Dance Company is located in beautifully refurbished historic buildings in Limerick's city centre where the company is constantly creating new choreographies, expanding the repertoire and developing cultural programmes.

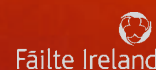
Daghdha Dance Company is funded by the Arts Council / an Chomhairle Ealaíon



ARTISTIC DIRECTOR AND PROGRAMMER / MICHAEL KLIEN  
DRAMATURGY AND SPACE / STEVE VALK  
PROJECT MANGER / ELLA DALY  
PRODUCTION MANGER / DAVE GUY  
DESIGN / RAFAL KOSAKOWSKI AND CONOR BUCKLEY  
PUBLIC RELATIONS / MARGARET O'BRIEN  
MANAGEMENT / RÓISÍN KINSELLA AND YVONNE FRANZ

DAGHDHA DANCE COMPANY LTD / 1 JOHN'S SQUARE / LIMERICK / IRELAND  
PHONE +353-61-467872 / EMAIL MAIL@DAGHDHA.IE / WWW.DAGHDHA.IE

DAGHDHA DANCE COMPANY WOULD LIKE TO THANK PARTICIPANTS OF THE DMP 2006/07 PROGRAMME, MIKE FINNERNAN AT MARY IMMACULATE TRAINING COLLEGE, SHELLEY AT FXPRESS AND DAGHDHA DANCE COMPANY'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS



# **GRAVITY AND GRACE PROGRAMME**

**13–15 DEC 2006**

**8 PM / DAGHDHA DANCE COMPANY / SEDIMENTS OF AN ORDINARY MIND**

**16 DEC 2006**

**12 AM–10 PM / WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT THROUGHOUT THE DAY,  
TEA AND COFFEE PROVIDED**

**3 PM / MICHAELLA SANDOR**

**4 PM / THE LOVESPOTTERS**

**5 PM / NIK HAFFNER AND THOMAS MCMANUS**

**6 PM / ELENA GIANNOTTI**

**7 PM / JEAN BUTLER**

**8 PM / RICHARD SIEGAL**

**9 PM / COLIN DUNNE**

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**6 PM / COLIN DUNNE**

**7 PM / MICHAELLA SANDOR**

**8 PM / JEAN BUTLER**

**9 PM / ELENA GIANNOTTI**

**ALL EVENTS ARE FREE OF CHARGE / PRODUCED BY DAGHDHA DANCE COMPANY**

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PHONE +353-61-467872 / EMAIL MAIL@DAGHDHA.IE / WWW.DAGHDHA.IE**