



DAGHDHA DANCE COMPANY PRESENTS

GRAVITYANDGRACE

INTERNATIONAL DANCE FESTIVAL / 13–16 DEC 2007
DAGHDHA SPACE / JOHN'S SQUARE / LIMERICK

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR / MICHAEL KLIEN



INTRODUCTION

"The state of dance is of the essence and elemental. Dance is a display of life-force. Don't think Pirouettes. Think of bird flight and clouds. The way our culture has choreographed dance has always been reflective of the larger propensities of how we, as a society, deal with the unknown, the unframeable, the foreign, the spiritual and the animal. Our premise must be not to constrain movement into a set pattern, but rather to provide a cradle for movement to find its own patterns – over and over again. To prevent a body, whether bound by skin or habits, from stagnation." (Michael Klien)

Gravity and Grace 2007 – Daghdha Dance Company's annual International Dance Festival is dedicated to the exploration of embodied presence and poetic movement in the world of dance art. Now in its fifth year, Gravity and Grace presents profound dancing in a pleasantly alternative environment. Revisiting the notion of dance improvisation, this festival provides a rare opportunity to see extraordinary dance without any representational décor. The world premiere of Michael Klien's and Elena Giannotti's *Sense and Meaning* is on Thursday, 13 December, on Friday, 14 December we see the return of Mamuska Limerick for the Christmas Edition, followed by a weekend of world class solos and a unique social-choreography performed throughout the day.

WORLD PREMIERE OF SENSE AND MEANING 13 DEC 2007 / 8.00 PM



SENSE AND MEANING

DURATION / 60 MINUTES

CHOREOGRAPHY / MICHAEL KLIEN

DANCE AND MOVEMENT RESEARCH / ELENA GIANNOTTI

ORIGINAL SCORE / VOLKMAR KLIEN

STAGING / MICHAEL KLIEN

DRAMATURGY / STEVE VALK

PRODUCED BY DAGHDHA DANCE COMPANY

SUPPORTED BY THE ARTS COUNCIL, AN CHOMHAIRLE EALAÍON

Choreographer Michael Klien and dancer Elena Giannotti have been in conversation for over a year, working on the disclosure of reality through dance in a process entitled Field Studies. In Sense and Meaning they present traces of the mental spaces carved out through that process. Initially a series of strategies, memories, mental-states and procedures, Sense and Meaning binds them together into a comprehensive field for embodied thought. During each performance Elena is exploring and extending Sense and Meaning – her personal manifested territory of thought – evoking the possibility for dance as a transformative force for the witnessing collective.

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 Edinburgh School of Arts. Winner of numerous international awards and commissions.

Italian born Elena Giannotti 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 past five years Elena has been working with Rosemary Butcher, dancing and collaborating in performances and films. She joined Daghdha Dance Company as a core dancer in 2006.



**MAMUSKA LIMERICK
THE CHRISTMAS EDITION
14 DEC 2007 / 8.00 PM**

**DAGHDHA'S
WINTER COMMON
15+16 DEC 2007 / 4.00–10.00 PM**

Originating in 2004 at Daghdha Dance Company, Mamuska Nights inspire both artists and audiences with its unique flavour and format built around informality and a true sense of artistic experimentation. Mamuska Limerick is an open and accessible platform conceived to challenge established notions of performance and theatrical space. It is a unique occasion to present and view evolving works, raw ideas, minimalist perfections, trials and errors, short masterpieces, first steps ... all in the context of an informal choreographed environment with the freedom to chat and move around at any time. In the wave of its success, Mamuska Limerick has inspired the growth of an international network sharing a common ethos and actively promoting collaborations and artistic exchange. Gravity and Grace sees Mamuska Limerick re-inventing itself in time for Christmas, without losing the core qualities that have seen Mamuska Nights grow into Ireland's foremost performance network.

www.mamuskanights.blogspot.com

For the first time acclaimed dramaturge Steve Valk and choreographer Michael Klien created a unique environment for Gravity and Grace. This social choreography sees Daghdha Space being transformed into a place of possibilities. The audience is invited to suspend their everyday realism and plunge themselves into a virtual reality without cables. The installation promises to warm one's body, heart and soul and get even the most reluctant dancing. Hot drinks will be served throughout the day. The installation will be suspended during the programmed performances.



LAURA DANNEQUIN
15 DEC 2007 / 3.30 PM

PRODUCED BY DAGHDHA DANCE COMPANY

Performed across the globe to critical acclaim by an exceptional roster of solo dance artists, Einem ..., a 'work in movement', is a mediated dance work which is subject to continuous change. Laura Dannequin is the fifth dancer to cohabit Einem ...

Einem ... was originally produced by Ballett Frankfurt, TQW and ZKM in 2003 and is since part of Daghdha Dance Company's repertoire.

Laura Dannequin was born and raised in France. She trained in theatre at the University of Exeter graduating with a BA (Hons). She then studied butoh and contemporary dance as well as aerial techniques around Europe. She has worked with a range of choreographers, directors and film-makers including Saburo Teshigawara, Fran Barbe, Ines Boza, Phillip Zarilli and Janyce Michellod. She has also worked and been commissioned, on her own solo projects and collaborated with other dance and theatre artists in the UK and Ireland. She joined Daghdha Dance Company through the DMP Programme in 2006.

Michael Klien – see Sense and Meaning



MARK CARBERRY
16 DEC 2007 / 3.30 PM

SOMETIMES SEAMLESS MEMBERS / A SOLO PERFORMANCE

MOVEMENT / MARK CARBERRY

COMPOSER / JOHN GREENWOOD

MUSIC / SARCASTICALLY SALIENT COMMISSIONED BY MARK CARBERRY

PRODUCED BY DAGHDHA DANCE COMPANY

"In my dreams I built my own empire. I longed for a land where no man was known."

Mark Carberry, originally from Limerick, trained in dance at the Laban Conservatoire for Contemporary Dance. Mark has worked with a range of choreographers including Michael Klien, Alexis Clancy, Jane Kellighan and Colin Gee. Mark is currently working on his own chorographic practice. Recently he premiered Knot at the Dublin Fringe Festival 2007. The Knot project is made up of four individuals who came together to investigate the nature of experience within the Moebius structure of time and space.

International DJ and producer in electronic music for over a decade, John Greenwood graduated from the Limerick Institute of Technology with a BA in Video and Sound Technology and from the University of Limerick with an MA in Music Technology, currently working on a composition based PhD in Electro Acoustic Music at the University of Limerick.



THE LOVE SPOTTERS
15 DEC 2007 / 5.00 PM
16 DEC 2007 / 6.30 PM

“Beyond anything we could imagine and yet almost beneath our notice ...”

Under the artistic direction of Daniel Vais, the Love Spotters is a collective of dancers, artists and performers who may be considered outsiders. At the core of its work the Love Spotters focuses on dance, movement and live art, experimenting with different styles and forms. This performance is the last in a yearlong tour, which has seen the group on stage around Ireland and Europe. The Love Spotters have performed to packed houses with their acclaimed show Catapalasia in Dublin, Wexford, Ennis, Sligo, Omagh, Limerick, Kilkenny, Cork, Belfast, London and Frankfurt/Main. The group have been working recently with physical theatre master performer Colin Gee, Kaya Kolodziejczyk (Rosas), Amanda Lawrence (Kneehigh Theatre) and world renowned belly dancer Michaela Sandor. The Love Spotters is currently dance company in residence at Daghdha Dance Company.



CHASE GRANOFF
15 DEC 2007 / 6.30 PM
16 DEC 2007 / 5.00 PM

“My work is interested in the intersections between dance/movement and music/sound. This is an interest I have continually explored over the past few years with Jon Moniaci. Another reoccurring theme is the use of ‘boredom’ in the titles of the work. By titling work boredom I do not claim the work to be boring but rather it is an investigation into a specific passing and development of time. Boredom is a slowing down of time, an opening of space that allows for interpretation and possibility. This is not entertainment in the conventional sense.” (Chase Granoff)

Chase Granoff, a dance artist based in Brooklyn has performed with an array of international artists and presented work at WAX, Chashama, TIXE, the Flea Theater, Galapagos Art Space and BAX. In 2004 he received a commission from Daghdha Dance Company to create an online journal/metalogue for choreograph.net. His work in collaboration with Jon Moniaci has been presented at Chez Bushwick, the Movement Research Festival, Danspace Project at St. Mark’s Church, PS 122 (Hothouse), Dixon Place, Dance Theater Workshop, the Chocolate Factory and at Das Haus der Kulturen der Welt.



JEAN BUTLER
15+16 DEC 2007 / 8.00 PM

Jean Butler's piece for Gravity and Grace was inspired by the dense 'grid' that is New York City and how its people move and breathe on this linear metropolis surrounded by a circle of water.

Jean Butler has been dancing for over thirty years. Trained in Irish step dancing under Donny Golden, Jean has performed internationally with Donal Lunny, Solas, Kila, the Chieftains, Riverdance and Dancing on Dangerous Ground. In 2005 she completed an MA in Contemporary Dance Performance from the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance at the University of Limerick where she was also artist in residence. Her work has been commissioned and supported by the Arts Council (2005/06/07), the Dublin International Dance Festival (2006/07), the Project Arts Centre in Dublin, Daghdha Dance Company and Planxton Productions in Japan. Last year she performed her first solo show, Does She Take Sugar at the Project Arts Centre.



ANGIE SMALIS
15 DEC 2007 / 9.30 PM

TO BUILD A HALL / THE MAKING OF PROPHECIES

CHOREOGRAPHY / MICHAEL KLIEN

DANCE AND MOVEMENT RESEARCH / ANGIE SMALIS

PRODUCED BY DAGHDHA DANCE COMPANY

Angie Smalis explores her life and mental patterns through bodily thinking and movement. Michael Klien and Angie have worked together to create a work in dance that utilises her perception of reality, clearing space for thought to emerge.

Angie Smalis has been working on Klien's improvisational strategies and choreographies for the last seven years. Her main focus on Gravity and Grace for 2007 is To Build a Hall and to be comfortable in the knowing and the not knowing. Angie was born and raised in Athens, Greece. She studied dance and choreography at the State School of Dance, Athens for four years and worked with several companies as a dancer before she moved to Vienna, Austria to join the Volksoper Wien in 2001. Angie worked with several independent choreographers before relocating to Limerick in 2003 to join Daghdha Dance Company where she is now one of Daghdha's core team of residential dance artists and works closely with the DMP Programme.

Michael Klien – see Sense and Meaning



ELENA GIANNOTTI
16 DEC 2007 / 9.30 PM

NOTHING FIELDS III

DANCE AND CHOREOGRAPHY / ELENA GIANNOTTI
INITIATION / MICHAEL KLIEN

PRODUCED BY DAGHDHA DANCE COMPANY

Following on from last years highly charged performance Elena Giannotti returns to dance Nothing Fields III. Processes and abilities acquired over a lifetime, some more present then 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 thought body in dance.

Elena Giannotti and Michael Klien – see Sense and Meaning



SPECIAL PROGRAMMING
EDDIE LENIHAN (SEANCHAI)
15+16 DEC 2007 / 2.30 PM

Eddie Lenihan first appeared on Irish national television's 12-part series Storyteller in 1986. Most of those seeing and hearing him were doing so for the first time, however, by then he had already produced six books and five audio tapes. Two further series for RTÉ Ten Minute Tales in 1987 and 1988 firmly established Eddie as the face of Seanchai storytelling in the hearts of generations of Irish people. In gratitude to the excellent storytellers who have shared their proud and ancient Irish tradition with him down the years, Eddie has done his best, through personal appearances, as well as books, tapes, CDs and video, to spread the wonderful message of Irish.

DAGHDHA DANCE COMPANY



“Choreography is not to constrain movement into a set pattern, it is to provide a cradle for movement to find its own patterns – over and over again – to prevent a body – whether bound by skin or habits – from stagnation and enable lightness, a primal energy and possibilities only to be found once relations start dancing.” (Michael Klien)

Based in Limerick, Daghdha Dance Company is emerging as one of Europe’s most progressive arts organisations. Dedicated to a rigorous discourse in dance, choreography, art and culture, Daghdha has distinguished itself through a unique combination of out-of-the-box thinking, a purity of focus on dance and choreography and at the same time, a deep interest in and generous attitude towards other cultural disciplines.

Daghdha Dance Company’s comprehensive Cultural Events Programme presents ideas in a number of innovative formats and events. To date Daghdha’s Cultural Events Programme included formats such as, the world-renowned Mamuska Nights, the Framemakers Lecture Series as well as Gravity and Grace. Daghdha’s Professional Artists Development includes a range of initiatives including full-time mentoring programme (DMP) in choreography and dance, residencies, commissions and additional services. Against this backdrop, artistic director Michael Klien and his team of associated artists have been developing a ground-breaking choreographic repertoire of international renown. Daghdha is located in beautifully refurbished historic buildings in Limerick’s city centre.

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



FINAL THOUGHT

"Dance is in no way the liberated bodily impulse, the wild energy of the body. On the contrary, it is the bodily manifestation of the disobedience to an impulse. Dance shows how the impulse can be rendered ineffective within movement in such a way that it would be a question of restraint, rather than obedience. (...) Dance offers a metaphor for a light and subtle thought precisely because it shows the restraint immanent to movement and thereby opposes itself to spontaneous vulgarity of the body." (Badiou, Handbook of Inaesthetics)

TEAM

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR AND PROGRAMMER / MICHAEL KLIEN
DRAMATURGY AND SPACE / STEVE VALK
PROJECT MANAGER / ELLA DALY
PRODUCTION MANAGER / ENDA GRENNAN
DESIGN / RAFAL KOSAKOWSKI
PUBLIC RELATIONS / CONLETH TEEVAN
MANAGEMENT / GEMMA CARCATERRA AND AGATA DABROWSKA
DMP CO-ORDINATOR / SERCAN SAHIN
INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMMER / TALAL AL-MUHANNA

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DAGHDHA DANCE COMPANY WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE DMP 2007/08 PROGRAMME, ASSOCIATED ARTISTS AND COLLABORATORS, THE GARVEY CENTRE, SHELLEY AT FXPRESS, SEAN AND DONAL AT ALPHASET AND DAGHDHA DANCE COMPANY'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS



PROGRAMME

13 DEC 2007

8.00 PM / WORLD PREMIERE OF SENSE AND MEANING

14 DEC 2007

8.00 PM / MAMUSKA LIMERICK – THE CHRISTMAS EDITION

15 DEC 2007

2.00 PM / OPEN

2.30 PM / EDDIE LENIHAN (SEANCHÁÍ)

3.30 PM / LAURA DANNEQUIN

4.00–10.00 PM / DAGHDHA'S WINTER COMMON

5.00 PM / THE LOVE SPOTTERS

6.30 PM / CHASE GRANOFF

8.00 PM / JEAN BUTLER

9.30 PM / ANGIE SMALIS

16 DEC 2007

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