

Siobhan Davies Dance and BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art announce the CONTINUOUS Network with UK-wide partners and funding from Arts Council England



Lucy Suggate at Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Dancing Museums partnership, 2015

Siobhan Davies Dance (London) and BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art (Gateshead) are pleased to announce the expansion of their four-year partnership, CONTINUOUS, to form the CONTINUOUS Network which will incorporate institutions around the country. This major collaboration has been awarded an Arts Council England National Lottery Project Grant for £341,144 and £90,000 in support from the John Ellerman Foundation.

Seven additional partners across the UK have joined the new network including galleries Bluecoat (Liverpool), Nottingham Contemporary, The Tetley (Leeds), Tramway (Glasgow) and Turner Contemporary (Margate), and dance organisations Dance4 (Nottingham) and Yorkshire Dance (Leeds). The partnership will continue until 2022 and is set to include four additional galleries.

CONTINUOUS will publicly launch in October 2019 with its first commission by Lucy Suggate. *The Spirit Sessions: Where there is movement there is change* will premiere at BALTIC and tour nationally to a further three galleries.

The CONTINUOUS network will give audiences all over the country access to the best in experimental independent dance and choreography from around the UK.

Dance will animate museums, galleries and other spaces – spaces where today’s choreographers want to make and present work and where audiences are curious to encounter the new and unexpected.

This ambitious and unprecedented collaboration initiates a step-change in the commissioning, creation and presentation of experimental contemporary dance in galleries to grow audiences for dance across the UK. With a spirit of collaboration and learning, the network will offer financial and practical support for presentations of dance works, initiate co-commissions of new dance works among network partners, broker relationships between dance artists and curators, and facilitate audience development through participatory engagement activities. It also aims to improve the profile of experimental contemporary dance in the UK among national and international audiences.

By 2022 the network will present six new dance works for galleries co-commissioned among network partners and will tour eight existing dance works by the UK’s most innovative dance makers. It aims to reach over 75,000 people live and online over three years.

The CONTINUOUS Network marks a significant expansion for Siobhan Davies Dance’s programme to support current and future generations of dance artists. It highlights the values of its founder Siobhan Davies – collaboration, investigation and working across disciplines – in the broader dance sector, and it extends the company’s practice of more than a decade making and performing dance in galleries across the UK and abroad. It also underlines BALTIC’s growing leadership role in live programming in galleries as it expands its public programme.

Lauren A Wright, Programme Director, Siobhan Davies Dance said:

“The CONTINUOUS Network is a major step forward in the highly dynamic field of dance in galleries and museums. Siobhan Davies Dance has been at the forefront of this work since 2009 and we are thrilled to continue alongside an extraordinary generation of dance artists as they expand this territory through working closely with BALTIC and our CONTINUOUS Network partners around the country to reach new audiences. We will learn a great deal together.”

Sarah Munro, Director, BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art said:

“We’re thrilled to announce the expansion of our creative partnership with Siobhan Davies Dance, CONTINUOUS, to incorporate these arts organisations across the country – creating a truly representative network of partners that can benefit from one another’s expertise, experience and creativity. Our network will reach communities across the country to introduce contemporary dance to new audiences, and in turn, to offer a platform for a generation of ambitious and creative dance artists and choreographers to devise new work”

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NOTES TO EDITORS

The CONTINUOUS Network will have its public launch on 18-20 October 2019 with the premiere at BALTIC of *The Spirit Sessions: Where there is movement there is change* a performance installation by choreographer Lucy Suggate and collaborating dance artists, musicians and designers.

The Spirit Sessions will tour to Tramway on 25 October and Turner Contemporary on 8-10 November, alongside their presentation of the Turner Prize 2019 exhibition this autumn. It will continue to Leeds with Yorkshire Dance supported by Leeds Dance Partnership and Nottingham with Nottingham Contemporary and Dance4 in early 2020.

The second CONTINUOUS commission, by Zinzi Minott, will premiere at BALTIC and tour from April 2020.

About Siobhan Davies Dance

Founded in 1988 by pioneering choreographer Siobhan Davies CBE, Siobhan Davies Dance (SDD) is an artist-led contemporary arts organisation that advances the art forms of dance and choreography. We connect artists and audiences through investigative, collaborative and interdisciplinary artistic activities at our studios and beyond. SDD has evolved from a touring dance company to a more flexible structure allowing collaboration with artists and thinkers in dance and other disciplines.

Our home is the RIBA award-winning Siobhan Davies Studios, opened in 2006 as a permanent base for the organisation to create new work and support independent artists. Together with Independent Dance, our sister organisation, we have made our studios London's hub for experimental dance and choreography, giving artists a platform for their work unique in the UK cultural landscape. BALTIC Boilerplate

About BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art

BALTIC is a major international centre for contemporary art situated on the south bank of the River Tyne in Gateshead, England and has welcomed over eight million visitors since opening to the public in July 2002. BALTIC presents a distinctive and ambitious programme of exhibitions and events, and is a world leader in the presentation and commissioning of contemporary visual art.

Housed in a landmark ex-industrial building, BALTIC consists of 2,600 square metres of art space, making it the UK's largest dedicated contemporary art institution. BALTIC has gained an international reputation for its commissioning of cutting-edge temporary exhibitions. It has presented the work of over 460 artists of 60 nationalities in 220 exhibitions to date.

About Arts Council England

Arts Council England is the national development body for arts and culture across England, working to enrich people's lives. We support a range of activities across the arts, museums and libraries – from theatre to visual art, reading to dance, music to literature, and crafts to collections. Great art and culture inspires us, brings us together and teaches us about ourselves and the world around us. In short, it makes life better. Between 2018 and 2022, we will invest £1.45 billion of public money from government and an estimated £860 million from the National Lottery to help create these experiences for as many people as possible across the country. www.artscouncil.org.uk

About Lucy Suggate

Lucy Suggate is a dance artist and choreographer recognised for her articulate and engaging solo performances as well as group installations informed by elements of synchronicity, cooperation and believing performance to be a communal act.

Her work is rooted in a movement practice which is an ongoing inquiry into the perceptual and physical expansion that occurs when engaged in durational moving and thinking. This work is often supported by sound and music that accelerates the process of altered states encouraging the body, the performer into heightened states of awareness, availability and articulation - it's during this space that new constellations, ideas, patterns and possibilities emerge through the sifting.

A lot of her current focus is around creating spaces and conditions to support more expanded and fluid approaches to dance and choreography both in doing and spectating. Research and questions that challenge and interrogate dominant systems often frame the whole process, such as 'what do we choreograph and how do we dance in the 21st century - the age of crisis, complexity, opinion and information?'

In 2013/14 Lucy became a Modul Dance Artist, supported by Mercat, Graner, Dansehallerne, BoraBora and Arts Council England Artist international development fund, to produce a durational solo that went on to inform her recent work pilgrim. pilgrim has been presented internationally at Seoul International Dance Festival, Sonar Festival, Nottingham Contemporary for NOTTDANCE 15 and the Solo Tanz Festival. Recent collaborations include working with Rosemary Butcher on Secrets of the Open Sea and Test Pieces and Wendy Houston's Stupid Women. In 2015 - 2017

Lucy participated as a lead artist in Dancing Museums, a Creative Europe Collaboration Project.

About Zinzi Minott

Zinzi Minott's work focuses on the relationship between dance, bodies and politics. Strongly identifying as a dancer, she seeks to complicate the boundaries of dance and the place of black female bodies within the form. Her work explores how dance is perceived through the prisms of race, queer culture, gender and class. Zinzi is interested in the space between dance and other art forms, and though her practice is driven through dance, the outcomes range from performance and live art to sound, film, dances and object-based work.

In 2016/17 She was artist in residence at both Tate Modern and Tate Britain. During her time there She was commissioned by Tate to create "Nowse Bwoy and Aunty...The saving of a life" which premiered in February 2017 at Tate Britain as part of BP Families Festival with sound from cellist Pete Yelding. She has also been artist in residence at Rich Mix and Dance Research Space 2016/17 and currently resident artist at Somerset House and Once Dance UK Trailblazer. Most recently she has been awarded the Arts Council England's Artist International Development Fund, Jerwood Micro Bursary and the Live Art UK/ Live Art Development Agency- Diverse Actions Leadership Bursary. She was Artist in Residence at the Serpentine Gallery 2018.

About Bluecoat

Bluecoat is an inclusive arts centre in the heart of Liverpool, offering a year-round programme of exhibitions and a range of music, dance, literature, live art and heritage activities and events. As custodians of an historic building, which marked its 300-year anniversary in 2017, we are also home to around thirty artists, collectives, arts organisations and craftspeople. As the UK's first arts centre, we have a rich artistic heritage. Our ambition is to be an artists' hub for the North, increasing the visibility of and opportunities for the region's artists, and internationally recognised for our residency and exchange programmes. We want to develop new approaches to audience development, expanding opportunities in the arts for all and reaching those who would otherwise face barriers to involvement in the arts. We want to showcase Bluecoat's distinctive building, its history and deep relationship with Liverpool, making it a compelling venue for visitors to experience these narratives and their resonances in the present.

About Nottingham Contemporary

Nottingham Contemporary is an international centre of contemporary art with a strong sense of local purpose. Since opening in 2009, we have held more than 50 exhibitions, with 2 million visitors to date. We present innovative and interwoven programmes of international exhibitions, learning, partnerships, research and new commissions. We are committed to excellence, experimentation, ambition and

innovation. Nottingham Contemporary is supported using public funding by Arts Council England and regularly funded by Nottingham City Council.

About The Tetley

The Tetley is a pioneering centre for contemporary art located in the stunning art deco headquarters of the former Tetley Brewery. From the heart of Leeds' South Bank, The Tetley creates a platform for amazing emerging artists, presents breathtaking free exhibitions and helps communities and young people in Leeds find their creative voice. The Tetley is supported by Arts Council England, Carlsberg UK, Leeds City Council, Esmée Fairbairn Foundation and Garfield Weston Foundation.

About Tramway

Tramway is an international art space, supporting organisations, artists and the work of emerging artists who focus on experimental and contemporary dance, visual art and performance. For thirty years Tramway has built a reputation due to the uniquely large spaces and ambitious programming that inspire audiences and propel artists internationally.

About Turner Contemporary

Turner Contemporary in Margate is one of the most distinctive galleries in the UK; its impact stretches beyond culture-led regeneration and the showcasing of world-class exhibitions, to pioneering change by making the arts more vital and connected to daily life.

Since opening in 2011, Turner Contemporary has:

- Generated over £70 million for the local economy
- Led to the opening of over 150 new businesses
- Safeguarded 155 jobs
- Attracted over 3.2 million visits

About Dance4

Dance4 is an international centre for the development of extraordinary 21st century dance. A unique voice in the UK dance sector, our work supports artists and practitioners who are interested in the development of dance.

About Yorkshire Dance

At the heart of our work at Yorkshire Dance is a commitment to dance that is located in contemporary creative practice. We work with choreographers and dancers who see themselves as activists and who are interested in exploring dance as an agent for social change.

We support collaborative, interdisciplinary practice, risk taking and innovation and processes that are underpinned by a drive for artistic research. We are committed to working with artists to both deepen their choreographic enquiry and to consider meaningful and stimulating ways in which a wider community of local people can engage with or help shape that enquiry.

We are interested in dance that is rooted in the experience of its makers and performers and reflects the dancing body in all its richness and diversity of culture, heritage, age or training.

We advocate for inclusive processes that facilitate people from a wide range of backgrounds to discover the power of dance in daily life.