

Dublin Dance Festival

2022 Edition
17–29 May



Presented by Dublin Dance Festival and Dance
Ireland

Round Table Discussion

The role and influence
of audiences on
dancemaking – a
roundtable discussion

DanceHouse
Fri 20 May, 2:30pm

ABOUT THE ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

The role and influence of audiences on dancemaking – a roundtable discussion.

In this open round table, artists and programmers share insights and thoughts into the role audiences play in the creation of dance works.

The conversation will explore where in the creation process artists begin to consider the audience – do they form a core element from the get-go or do they factor in later in the process? It will also delve into the different perspectives and approaches of artists and programmers; how these vary and where there is common ground.

This event is part of Act-ON Dance, a consortium of venues and festivals thinking about dance audiences, led by Dance Ireland, and is moderated by Sheila Creevey, CEO Dance Ireland.

ABOUT ACT-ON DANCE CONSORTIUM

Act-ON Dance brings together a consortium of venues and festivals committed to developing audiences for dance in Ireland. These organisations are Dance Ireland, Dance Limerick, Dublin Dance Festival, Firkin Crane, Irish Museum of Modern Art, Project Arts Centre, and VISUAL Carlow.

Together the partners aim to coalesce knowledge, networks, and resources to initiate new ways of thinking about audience development; to build long-lasting relationships between artists, producers, venues, and the public; and to support the development of a thriving dance ecology in Ireland.

This initiative will involve research, professional gatherings, and public events. It will open up the conversation on the potential for dance to animate and engage in places, spaces and communities across Ireland, and place relationship development at the heart of the art form and audience development.

This inaugural event of the consortium is co-hosted by Dance Ireland and Dublin Dance Festival.

Partners of **Act-ON Dance Consortium** are Dance Ireland, Dance Limerick, Dublin Dance Festival, Firkin Crane, Irish Museum of Modern Art, Project Arts Centre and VISUAL Carlow.

Total running time is 90 minutes (no interval).

ABOUT THE PANELISTS

Cristina Grande is the Head of the Performing Arts Department and a performance and dance curator at the Serralves-Museum of Contemporary Art, in Porto, Portugal. Highlights of her work with the museum include the organisation of the annual artistic residency "Mugatxoan," (2002-2011), co-curator of the "Trama" Live Arts Festival (2006-2011), and co-curator of *The Museum as Performance* (2015-2021). International projects include: programmer of *Piccola Europa* (2009), curation team member of *Performance Day 2017: Le Musée Performée*, commissioning the artistic project focused on the work of visual artist Francisco Tropa (2018) at the invitation of the CND/Centre National de la Danse (Pantin, Paris), and the "Musées au pluriel" programme. Since 2010, Cristina has belonged to the experts committee of the Roberto Cimetta Funds in the areas of Dance and Performance and since 2019 the Jury of the Program to Support the Mobility of artists of Palop and Timor-Leste, in Performing Arts, developed by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation.

Brendan Keaney has worked in dance since 1979 initially as a freelance dancer, and later in management/leadership roles. Before joining Dance East in 2013, Brendan was Director of Greenwich Dance. Immediately prior to joining Greenwich Dance, Brendan was employed as the Dance Officer, with responsibility for Independent Dance, at the (then) Arts Council of England. In January 2007 he received the Dance UK Industry Award at the Critics Circle National Dance Awards and was awarded an OBE for Services to Dance in the 2020 Birthday Honours List. Brendan has served on numerous Boards and Panels and is currently Chair of the Bonnie Bird Choreographic Fund.

Fearghus Ó Conchúir has made film and live performances as frameworks for audiences and artists to build communities together, while frequently collaborating with experts from across and beyond the arts. His current projects include co-leading a dance programme with Micro Rainbow that he initiated as part of The Casement Project (2016) to support LGBT+ refugees and asylum seekers; curating and choreographing for the Step Up Project for early career dance professionals; and developing a long-term research project, *Dancing More Wisely*, that asks "what do we need to know and do now if we imagine ourselves dancing all our lives?"

Emma Martin is a dancer and choreographer, establishing her company United Fall in 2018. She creates multidisciplinary work, often combining dance, live music, theatre and distinct visual universes, always with the raw expression of dance as its driving force. Her most recent work, *Night Dances*, premiered at Dublin Theatre Festival 2021. Previous works include: *I AM IRELAND* (2020) RTE/ Culture Night Commission, *Birdboy* (2019), *Orfeo ed Euridice* (Irish Tour 2019, Galway International Arts Festival 2018), *Girl Song* (Noorderzon Performing Arts Festival Groningen 2018, Dublin Theatre Festival 2017/ NXTSTP co-production), *Dancehall* (Dublin Theatre Festival co-production 2015), *Tundra* (Dublin Dance Festival commission). United Fall is Associate Artist both at Visual Centre for Contemporary Art and of Dance Ireland, and receives strategic funding from the Arts Council of Ireland.

Liz Roche is a choreographer/dancer and the Artistic Director of Liz Roche Company. Since 1999, the company has produced and toured her works, performing throughout Ireland and internationally, most notably at the Baryshnikov Arts Centre (New York), the Abbey Theatre, The South Bank Centre (London) and Powerhouse Brisbane. Her work has been commissioned by the Abbey Theatre, Dublin Dance Festival, Cork Opera House, The National Ballet of China and Solas Nua (Washington D.C.) amongst others. Her 2015 work *Bastard Amber* was the first dance work ever to be commissioned from an Irish choreographer for the Abbey Theatre. In 2020, Liz was elected to Aosdána in recognition of her contribution to the Irish cultural landscape.

ABOUT THE MODERATOR

Sheila Creevey is CEO of Dance Ireland, the national development and resource organisation for professional dance in Ireland. With 20 years' experience of project management and producing, specialising in strategic creative development, Sheila has worked with artists, producers and complex partnerships in the design and delivery of festivals, development programmes, residencies, and international conferences. Her interest and experience have crossed art forms and borders between Ireland, the UK and across Europe, having worked with companies and agencies in roles that both delivered and supported the delivery of professional arts practice and creative learning.

From 2015 to 2020, Sheila worked as Head of Performance at Pavilion Dance South West in Bournemouth, UK, with responsibility for programming, artist and art form development. Between 2017 and 2020, she also led the UK-wide project Surf The Wave as Project Director, which included directing the UK Dance Showcase in May 2019.

Sheila held the position of Chairperson of Dance Research Forum Ireland from 2010 to 2014, and from 2013 to 2015 was a selected participant of the European Dancehouse Network EU Leadership programme, Léim, led by Dance Ireland. She is a Clore Leader, and has an MBA in Arts Management, an MA in Dance Performance, and a BA(Hons) in Dance Studies and Music.

THANKS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Become a DDF Friend and you'll explore your love of dance and move dance forward. From just €10 per month, your vital support will create opportunities for dance and dance artists, support the development of new dance work, and bring more extraordinary dance experiences to more people in more ways.

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