

Co-commissioned and presented
by Dublin Dance Festival and the Abbey Theatre

© Emma Martin

EMMA MARTIN

Sost God

Abbey Theatre
Thu 14–Sat 16 May, 7pm

World Premiere



ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE

An empty stage. A painted cloth. Chaos. Dream. Abyss.

Emma Martin returns to DDF with *Soft God*, a new work commissioned by DDF and the Abbey Theatre which makes its world premiere as part of the 2026 Edition.

Soft God is a jagged ceremony that swerves between the mythic and the ridiculous, the carnivalesque and the everyday, between virtuosity and failure. Moving through a series of ever-changing scenes – a rambling house, a dance hall, a creation myth, a dream sequence and a never-ending folk dance – 8 performers cry, kiss, sing, sway, listen, stamp, hold hands and dance, insisting on ways to keep hope, meaning and spirit alive.

Against a backdrop of crumbling certainties, *Soft God* mines the collective imagination of this brutal moment, where to dream together and share one's self is an act of defiance. Mongrel. Messy. Superstitious. Uncouth.

ABOUT THE CREATOR

Emma Martin started out as a ballet dancer. She creates multidisciplinary work that has spilled into film, installation, opera and theatre. She graduated from the John Cranko School in Stuttgart, and has a BA in Russian and Drama & Theatre Studies from Trinity College Dublin.

As a choreographer, Martin made her first show in 2010 and has now been producing work through her company United Fall since 2018. Her previous performance works include *King/Shrine*, *Night Dances*, *Birdboy*, *Orfeo ed Euridice*, *Girl Song*, *Dancehall* and *Tundra*. Her work has been presented nationally and internationally, touring throughout Europe and the UK. DDF first presented Martin's work with *Tundra* in 2014. DDF & the Abbey Theatre presented *Night Dances* in 2024.

CREDITS

Creation & Direction	Emma Martin
Choreography	Emma Martin in collaboration with the dancers
Dancers	Sloan Caldwell, Kèvin Coquelard, Róisín Harten, Yujin Jeong, Wayne Jordan, Stanley Menthor, Ennio Sammarco, Jessie Thompson
Music & Sound Design	Kevin Gleeson
Scenography	Katie Davenport, Emma Martin
Costume Designer	Katie Davenport
Lighting Designer	Stephen Dodd
Dramaturgy	Wayne Jordan
Piano Song	Andrew Hamilton
Costume Supervisors	Laura Fajardo, Nicola Burke
Costume Construction	Mya Humphreys, Veronika Romanova
Stage Management	Sinead Cormack
Technical & Lighting Management	Susan Collins
Sound Engineer	Kevin McGing
Assistant Stage Management & Props	Dragana Stevanič
Scenic Artist	Sandra Butler
Production Management	Peter Jordan, Jim O'Connell
Producer for United Fall	Jill Murray
Photography & Video	Steve O'Connor
Production Photography	Ros Kavanagh

Co-produced by: Dublin Dance Festival, Abbey Theatre and VISUAL Carlow.
Supported by: Town Hall Theatre

Total running time is 70 mins (no interval).

THANKS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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