

# COISCÉIM DANCE THEATRE



2025 IN A NUTSHELL

## AUDIENCES

From the streets and parks of Dublin, to theatres, cinemas and VR headsets across the world, 186,500 people have engaged with CoisCéim's work to date in 2025. David Bolger's "brilliant and ambitious" (Broadway Baby) DANCEHALL BLUES continued its journey with standing ovations at Pavilion Theatre in Dun Laoghaire in late July, typifying the success of our established relationship with the venue and its audience. Part of Culture Ireland's Edinburgh showcase, and one of The Guardian and The Stage's top shows to catch, it became one of the more coveted tickets of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. BENCH commissions at Georges Dock in Dublin's financial district saw scenes of bankers on the grass enjoying contemporary dance by rising stars MufutauYusuf and Alex Vostokova with their lunchtime sandwiches.

2025 also saw CoisCéim join Europe's seminal online dance platform, NUMERIDANSE.com and launch COISCÉIM CINEMATHEQUE to cultivate imaginative new opportunities for the public to engage with the artform in the digital realm.

## CONNECTION & JOY

We bring dance into every day, in public spaces where people least expect, where the audience has agency. COISCÉIM CINEMATHEQUE, BENCH, DANCEHALL BLUES in 180 VR, and the Broadreach projects PERFORMING MEMORY and MOVING SIGNATURES are all examples of our innovation in how and where we present work, and how we connect with the general public in new ways.

## COME AS YOU ARE

This year CoisCéim launched a new Access and Inclusion Policy to mainstream access by foregrounding care: "From artistic professionals and seasoned amateurs to absolute beginners our goal is to create the conditions for everyone's experience with CoisCéim to be the best it can be – whether you are working with us, participating in a project, attending as an audience member, or engaging as a stakeholder. The ambition of this policy is to foster a climate of care so that YOU feel at ease and able to share any information that is needed to enable this to happen. COME AS YOU ARE."

CoisCéim considers inclusivity in everything it does, every decision it makes. Prime examples are PAY WHAT YOU CAN pricing options across activities, including all BROADREACH participation projects in 2025. We also ensure that artists with access needs have supports they require. [READ THE POLICY AND PLAN.](#)



PARTICIPANT IN BROADREACH | MOVING SIGNATURES  
FILM STILL BY JONATHAN MITCHELL

## ARTISTS

In 2025, with CoisCéim, the artform prospered through: 85 freelance artists and specialists engaged + 2 choreographic commissions + 6 ITI Offsite Artists + 2 Emma O’Kane Bursary Recipients + 1 Gap Day Artist + 1 third-level student credit-earning work placements + 1 Production Manager in training + 65 Independent Artists/Companies created, rehearsed, and shared new work in our studio + 19 productions making use of CoisCéim technical assets.

## SUSTAINABILITY

2025 saw CoisCéim robustly review its organisational structure, which led to the appointment of a new Dublin-based Chair, Conall Bolger, and promoting General Manager Sarah Latty to CEO, in addition to other internal changes to make it more resilient. From 2026, all stage productions will include a dedicated rehearsal director working alongside the choreographer and creative team. Also, new board appointments in November 2025 will take further material steps towards our internal EDI goal of being representative with regard to balancing gender and bringing the age in line with the Irish average of 38.

CoisCéim is committed to reducing its environmental impact. By partnering with Doggett Print and the World Land Trust, we carbon-balance all paper communications. DANCEHALL BLUES incorporated recycled theatre sets from Re-Staging and was supported by Rediscover Fashion, a social enterprise at the Rediscovery Centre, Ireland’s hub for the Circular Economy. This ethos permeates throughout the entire BENCH collection, which upcycles costumes and props while prioritising low-production infrastructure—“highlighting shared values of sustainability and inclusivity, exemplifying how art can elevate the public realm” (The Irish Times). A firm commitment to exploring sustainable touring models has also shaped BROADREACH, including the landmark PERFORM EUROPE collaboration, while our pioneering use of virtual reality now features DANCEHALL BLUES.

## A NEW AWARD

The new COISCÉIM MOVEMENT AWARD with Dublin Fringe Festival has the dual purpose of raising the profile of the artform and activating a new pathway for the next generation of independent artists to harness the resources and experience of CoisCéim to build their practice in ways that work for them.

This award builds on our professional development supports through commissions, independent bursaries, studio and equipment support in-kind, formal and informal mentoring, third-level internships, and for the first time in 2025 included professional on-the-job training for a Production Manager and a Digital Marketer.



# 2025 HIGHLIGHTS | DANCEHALL BLUES



**"...engaging, thought-provoking... a captivating watch"**

- Theatre Weekly



**"expertly ingenious.. Bolger's dark odyssey.. packs a punch"**

- Irish Times

**"[the] movement muscular and vernacular,  
with sensitivity and bite"**

-The Guardian



**"Brilliant and ambitious...**

**Dancehall Blues is dance theatre for our difficult times...**

**The show ends on a note of hope...a magical, ecstatic ending."**

- Broadway Baby



**"Responsible for some of the most uplifting and  
beautifully crafted pieces of the past three decades...  
even when doing dystopia CoisCéim craft it beautifully... insightful  
and heartfelt. At moments it looks a little like heaven."**

- The Arts Review



**"...menacing yet lyrical modern dance with.. abundant beauty"**

- The Wee Review

**"CoisCéim's DANCEHALL BLUES takes Outstanding Dance  
Production of the Year for its irresistible grace and charm"**

- The Arts Review (2024 Round-Up)

## PERFORMANCE

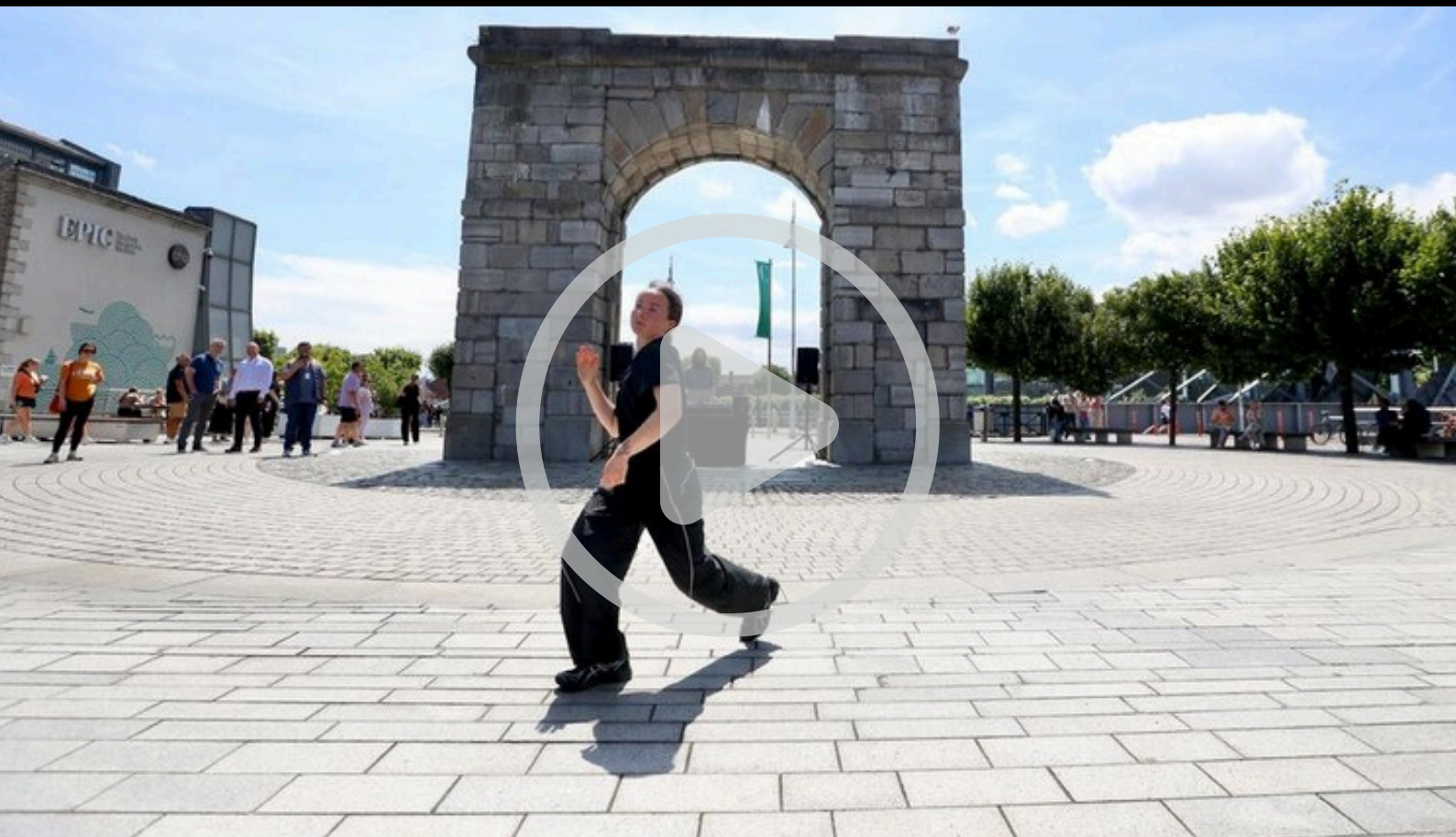
WINNER 2024 [Business to Arts Kmend Arts Partnership Award](#) for making the ordinary extraordinary...  
"highlighting shared values of sustainability and inclusivity, exemplifying how art can elevate the public realm..."  
[The Irish Times](#)

**"This commission is about public space and the social, psychological, and ecological effects of modern urbanism..." -Alex Vostokova**

BENCH is collection of dances inspired by Dublin's canals and surroundings to highlight everyday spaces as creative places through vibrant choreographic commissions by distinctive emerging dance artists. Now in its third year choreographers Alex Vostokova (BENCH #6) and Mufutau Yusuf (BENCH #5) activated Dublin's Georges Dock area on the afternoons of 10, 11, 12 July 2025 for over 3,400 people.

## BENCH ON FILM

Each commission is documented by a filmmaker on location. These films form part of [CoisCéim's Collection on Numeridance](#) and are also available at [coisceim.com](#). WATCH THE 2025 BENCH FILMS BELOW.



## CO-CREATION & PERFORMANCE

“This is more than dancing. It’s a space to connect to ourselves, to each other, and to the deeper narratives we carry” - Simone O’Toole. Three days of performances for Dublin Fringe Festival and Culture Night Dublin marked the culmination of PERFORMING MEMORY – a year-long international artistic collaboration with a cast of non-professional participants to rethink the future of international touring – to make it more inclusive, sustainable and accessible to local audiences. It culminated with powerful outdoor dance performances in iconic storied Dublin landmarks – the Old Bandstand in Fairview Park and Wood Quay Amphitheatre – connecting memory, movement, and place. Audiences in their hundreds witnessed remembrance in motion under open skies from 19-21 September 2025.

**“PERFORMING MEMORY is a gut punch - well done all!” -Audience Member**

## DOCUMENTATION & FILM

The PERFORM EUROPE project was comprehensively documented through still photography and on film for archive purposes. For the public domain. CoisCéim commissioned the internationally renowned dance filmmaker Luca Truffarelli to create a personal artistic response to the performances. WATCH HIS SHORT FILM BELOW.



SHORT FILM BY LUCA TRUFFARELLI

# 2025 | COISCÉIM CONNECTS



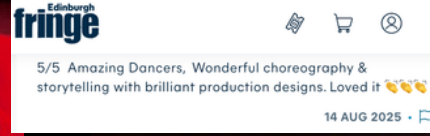
150,000

PEOPLE CELEBRATED OUR 30<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY + OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF COISCÉIM CINEMATHEQUE WITH MICROMEDIA



4 MILLION

DANCEHALL BLUES PRESS REACH (PRINT/BROADCAST/ONLINE)



THE IRISH TIMES

The best theatre of 2024: Blessed are the risk-takers

“[THE] MOVEMENT MUSCULAR AND VERNACULAR, WITH SENSITIVITY AND BITE”

-THE GUARDIAN

“CoisCéim’s dance *Palimpsest*, a collision course with the first 100 years of the State... saw the choreographer David Bolger and the composer Denis Clohessy vigorously interrogate their past approaches...”

2025 Finalist



**MOVING COLORS**  
Youth Dance Festival

27.2.2025  
16:00 & 18:00

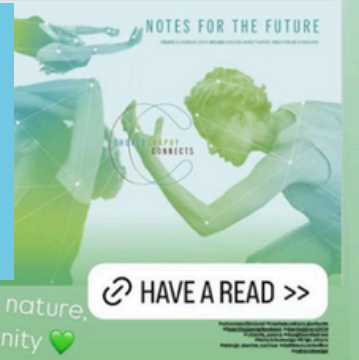
Παράσταση χορού για παιδιά 7-12 ετών σε εικονική πραγματικότητα

Καθετή, Δροζίνα 100  
ΕΛΕΥΘΕΡΗ ΕΠΙΘΕΣΗ  
Αναμνηστική τηλεφωνική κλήση: 22960 43825 (Δευ-Πέμ 09:00-17:00)

**Francis Footwork VR**  
CoisCéim Dance Theatre

“OUTSTANDING DANCE PRODUCTION OF THE YEAR FOR ITS IRRESISTIBLE GRACE AND CHARM”

THE ARTS REVIEW ON DANCEHALL BLUES (2024 ROUND-UP)



HAVE A READ >>

Beautiful to have this incredible book as an archive of choreography connects. Thank u!

68,000 PEOPLE VIEWED DANCEHALL BLUES TRAILERS ONLINE



RTÉ @rte

RTÉ Supporting the Arts ✨

@CoisCéim Dance Theatre are back this summer with their latest hit, DANCEHALL BLUES.

@PavilionTheatre Dun Laoghaire

31st July - 2 **Staatstheater: Wiesbaden:**

**Francis Footwork: Tanzworkshop & Virtual-Reality Aufführung: Sa 25 01 2025:**

★★★★★ “BRILLIANT AND AMBITIOUS...DANCEHALL BLUES IS DANCE THEATRE FOR OUR DIFFICULT TIMES... -BROADWAY BABY

Department of Culture, Communications and Sport reposted

CoisCéim @CoisCéim · 23h

COME AS YOU ARE - our new policy to mainstream access and inclusivity by foregrounding care is up on our website now.

Have a read: [coisceim.com/us/work/policy...](https://coisceim.com/us/work/policy...)



The Arts Council / An Chomhairle Ealaíon and 6 others



BREAKIN' BROTHERS BEST DUET PERFORMANCE



★★★★★ “...MENACING YET LYRICAL MODERN DANCE WITH.. ABUNDANT BEAUTY” -THE WEE REVIEW ON DANCEHALL BLUES

★★★★★

“ENGAGING, THOUGHT-PROVOKING... A CAPTIVATING WATCH” - THEATRE WEEKLY ON DANCEHALL BLUES



# 2025 | WHAT AUDIENCES ARE SAYING

**150,000**

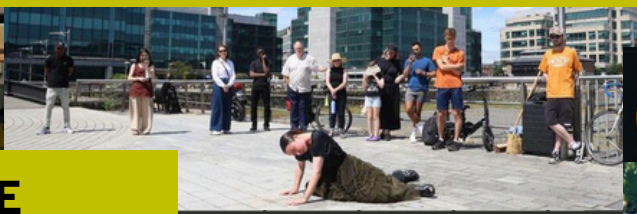
**PEOPLE CELEBRATED OUR 30<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY + OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF COISCÉIM CINEMATHEQUE WITH MICROMEDIA'S DUBLIN STREET CAMPAIGN**



gorgeous dance performance by @coisceimdancetheatre in the park

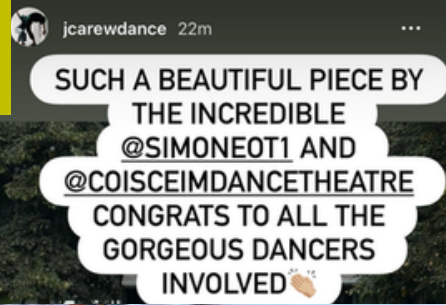
**"WHAT A TREAT.... AMAZING TO SEE HOW EVERYDAY SPACES CAN TRANSFORM THROUGH DANCE"**

-AUDIENCE, BENCH



**650 PEOPLE**

**ATTENDED 6 PERFORMING MEMORY PERFORMANCES ACROSS 3 DAYS**



**SUCH A BEAUTIFUL PIECE BY THE INCREDIBLE @SIMONEOT1 AND @COISCEIMDANCETHEATRE CONGRATS TO ALL THE GORGEOUS DANCERS INVOLVED 🍷**



living\_in\_marino How lovely to see the bandstand in Fairview Park supporting this amazing performance

**"BEAUTIFUL PERFORMANCES IN THE RAIN"**

-AUDIENCE, PERFORMING MEMORY



**OVER 3,400 PEOPLE ENCOUNTERED THE 2025 BENCH COMMISSIONS LIVE AT GEORGES DOCK, DUBLIN**

**"TRULY INCREDIBLE... THE TWO DANCERS INVITED US INTO A COMBINATION OF DARK DREAMS AND IMAGINATION."**

-AUDIENCE, COISCÉIM CINEMATHEQUE



# 2025 | WHAT PARTICIPANTS ARE SAYING



**"I HAVE TRULY TREASURED THIS 8 WEEKS OF CREATIVITY AND DANCE MOVEMENT ENDEAVOUR. BEING IN AN INTERGENERATIONAL AND MULTICULTURAL SPACE TOO, HAS BEEN A GIFT."**  
-CHOREOGRAPHY PROJECT PARTICIPANT

**"I'VE ATTENDED COMING UP FOR 3 YEARS NOW. I LOVE THE FUN AND THE CAMARADERIE, IT FEELS LIKE WE HAVE BECOME A COMMUNITY. I KEEP COMING BACK ALSO FOR THE QUALITY AND GENEROSITY OF INSTRUCTION FROM PROFESSIONAL DANCERS/CHOREOGRAPHERS."**  
-PARTICIPANT, WEDNESDAY CLASS FOR PEOPLE AGED 50+



**"I ENJOYED THE CREATIVE SPACE TO MEET UP PEOPLE...CREATING SOMETHING BEYOND OURSELVES."**  
-PERFORMING MEMORY PARTICIPANT

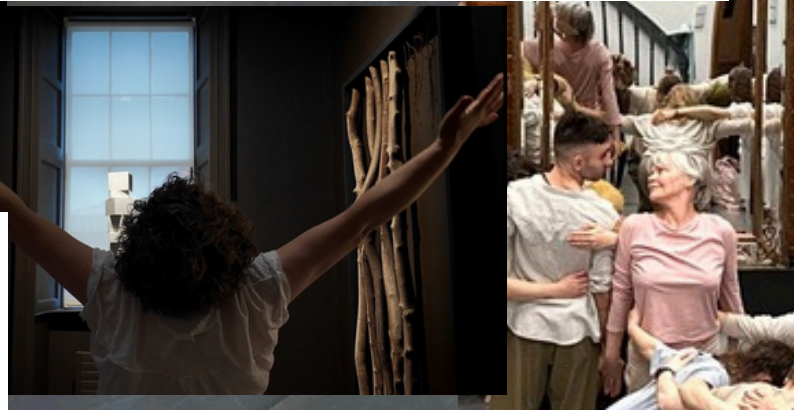
**"[THE PERFORMANCES] BROUGHT PEOPLE PASSING BY INTO OUR UNIVERSE AND EXPOSED THEM TO DANCE."**  
-PERFORMING MEMORY PARTICIPANT

**"A PERFECT BALANCE OF MOVEMENT AND DANCE - THE ABILITY TO EXPLORE... AND BE LED BY A CHOREOGRAPHER."**  
-BROADREACH PARTICIPANT



**"I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO DOING MORE PROJECTS LIKE THIS, ESPECIALLY INTERNATIONAL CREATIVE COLLABORATIONS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW WORK AROUND TOPICAL THEMES."**  
-BROADREACH PARTICIPANT

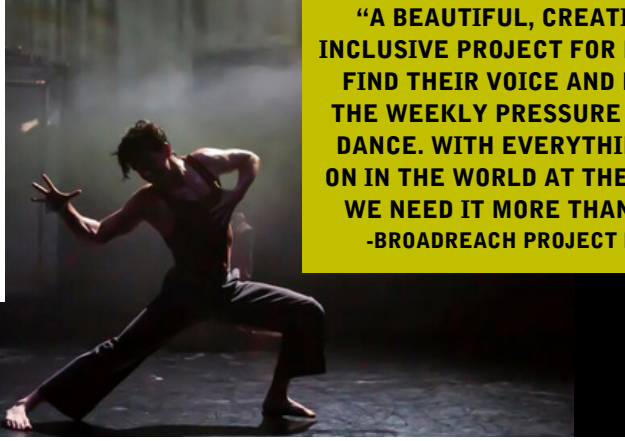
**"I KEEP COMING BACK BECAUSE I LOVE IT."  
"JOYFUL, ENCOURAGING, NON-JUDGEMENTAL"  
"DANCE ENSURES THAT JOY IS A STAPLE IN MY DAY"**  
-PARTICIPANTS, WEDNESDAY CLASS FOR PEOPLE AGED 50+



# 2025 | WHAT ARTISTS ARE SAYING

**"IT WAS SUCH A LOVELY EVENT AND THE TEACHER DID A GREAT JOB OF GETTING EVERYONE MOVING!"**

**-ORGANISER, POSITIVE AGEING WEEK EVENT**



**"A BEAUTIFUL, CREATIVE AND INCLUSIVE PROJECT FOR PEOPLE TO FIND THEIR VOICE AND RELEASE THE WEEKLY PRESSURE THROUGH DANCE. WITH EVERYTHING GOING ON IN THE WORLD AT THE MOMENT, WE NEED IT MORE THAN EVER."**

**-BROADREACH PROJECT LEADER**



**"COISCÉIM ARE ALWAYS VERY SUPPORTIVE AND WELCOMING ANY TIME I'VE NEEDED SPACE IN DUBLIN - YOU FEEL LIKE PART OF THE FAMILY. IT'S A BEAUTIFUL SPACE AND THEY ARE VERY GENEROUS IN SHARING THIS WITH THEIR FELLOW ARTISTS."**

**-CHOREOGRAPHER ON COISCÉIM STUDIO**

**"THE SPACE TO WORK WITH MY WONDERFUL TEAM...WAS VITAL.. I AM ENORMOUSLY GRATEFUL FOR THE HOLISTIC APPROACH BY COISCÉIM AND THE KINDNESS AND WARMTH THAT THE STAFF CREATE."**

**-ARTIST ON STUDIO SUPPORT IN-KIND**



**"HAVING THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEND TIME AT COISCÉIM HAS BEEN TRULY TRANSFORMATIONAL FOR MY WORK, A SEED HAS BEEN PLANTED THAT I HOPE WILL FLOURISH"**

**-RECIPIENT, ITI OFFSITE RESIDENCY @ COISCÉIM**

**"I'M DELIGHTED TO SHARE THIS WORK...PARTICIPANTS WILL FILL THE SPACE WITH JOYOUS MOVEMENT, MAKING WAY FOR A MUSING OF TIME, SPACE AND TOGETHERNESS."**

**-CHOREOGRAPHER, THE CHOREOGRAPHY PROJECT**

**"WHEN A TEAM TRULY STANDS BEHIND YOU, IT NOT ONLY STRENGTHENS THE WORK BUT ALSO REMINDS YOU OF THE POWER OF SHARED TRUST AND CREATIVE SUPPORT."**

**-CHOREOGRAPHER, PERFORMING MEMORY**

**"AN IDEAL PLATFORM TO EXPLORE AND TEST IDEAS WITHIN A SUPPORTIVE AND DYNAMIC ENVIRONMENT. THE CONDITIONS: OUTDOOR PRESENTATION OF FINISHED WORK, STUDIO ACCESS, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE BACKING, AND MENTORSHIP FROM DAVID, CREATED THE RIGHT SPACE FOR EXPERIMENTATION AND GROWTH."**

**-CHOREOGRAPHER, BENCH**



**"THE PROJECT ALIGNS WITH OUR MISSION TO BE A RADICALLY PUBLIC SPACE - BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS TO PARTICIPATION AND BRINGING CONTEMPORARY ART CLOSER TO PEOPLE'S LIVED EXPERIENCE."**

**-CURATOR, IMMA HORIZONS ON MOVING SIGNATURES**

## **DANCEHALL BLUES**

This "expertly ingenious" (Irish Times), multi-disciplinary production by David Bolger played to sold out houses in Pavilion Theatre Dun Laoghaire and Edinburgh as part of Culture Ireland's Edinburgh Festival Fringe showcase. The 180° VR film version received its world premiere at the Port of Dance Festival at HKD, in Croatia and Irish Premiere at the Studio at CoisCéim for OPEN HOUSE DUBLIN...[more](#)

## **BENCH**

This award-winning collection of dances curated by David Bolger continued with commissions to Mufutau Yusuf and Alex Vostokova at Georges Dock, Dublin 3. Tobi Omoteso's BENCH #4 was also remounted for the Take Off Festival, Firkin Crane in February. The short films BENCH #1 (Jessie Thompson) & #2 (Favour Odusola) by Neil O'Driscoll received their premiere at Phizzfest and alongside Luca Truffarelli's films for BENCH #3 (Sibéal Davitt) and BENCH #4 (Tobi Omoteso) are now part of CoisCéim's Numeridance collection...[more](#)

## **COISCÉIM CINEMATHEQUE**

A partnership with Micromedia kicked off our 30TH BIRTHDAY EDITION with a short film festival presented at unlikely outdoor cinemas - large outdoor digital advertising screens beside the National Gallery of Ireland, at Grand Canal Quay, and Camden Street were activated through livestream and QR code technology. In March we joined NUMERIDANSE, the world's leading digital platform for dance and to celebrate we presented DANCE IS HIDDEN HERE in Phizzfest, a hybrid digital and print billboard/postcard/online film series where more than 455 people took our invitation to dive into our Numeridance collection and other European gems from its archive. The inaugural VR Edition for Open House Dublin bookended the year...[more](#)

## **BREAKIN' BROTHERS**

This short film by David Bolger - with broadcast partner RTÉ, produced by WildFire Films and shot on location in Dublin city centre - was screened in the USA, winning BEST DANCE DUET at Utah Dance Film Festival, and seen at the BAFTA qualifying Carmarthen Bay Film Festival, Light Moves Festival, and Lisbon's Screen Dance Festival...[more](#)

## **FRANCIS FOOTWORK | 180° VR**

Ireland's first dance theatre production in Virtual Reality, "a magical, marvellous take on dancing to your own tune" [Business Post](#), continued to inspire young people with CREATIVE DANCE TALES in the highlands and islands of Croatia and at the MOVING COLORS festival in Greece, and further afield in Darmstadt and Weisbaden, Germany with support from Culture Ireland...[more](#)

## **THE CHOREOGRAPHY PROJECT # 22**

Led by Sibéal Davitt, who used deconstructed céili formations to help participants develop their own movement language, this creative dance and performance project culminated in sharings at the Irish Museum of Modern Art...[more](#)

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Find out about the new CoisCéim Movement Award for Dublin Fringe Festival - and other ways we supported artists in 2025...[more](#)

## **RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT**

The year included three innovation periods: THE GOLDEN RECORD (working title) in January 2025; SING ME YOUR SONG (working title) in November 2025; and FIREBIRD (research) from summer 2025.

## **OPEN HOUSE DUBLIN**

Our participation in the Irish Architecture Foundation's Festival continued this year with the inaugural VR Edition of CoisCéim Cinematheque featuring three special screenings of European VR films curated by Enya Belak alongside multi-lingual architectural tours of 42 Fairview Strand.

## **PALIMPSEST IN PRINT**

In early 2025 we finished distribution of the legacy publication for PALIMPSEST. Writer and broadcaster Vincent Woods was commissioned to write an essay chronicling the overall project journey for this physical memory—to capture traces of the essence of the project that was funded by ART: 2023, a Decade of Centenaries Collaboration between The Arts Council and the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport, presented in collaboration with St Patrick's Festival and supported by Epsom Ireland...[more](#)

## **NOTES FOR THE FUTURE**

Funded by two Arts Council of Ireland IRIS Awards, the CHOREOGRAPHY CONNECTS residency venture for six dance artists united CoisCéim and our Fairview studio with two European dance trailblazers – OperaEstate/CSC, (Comune di Bassano, Italy) and Le Gymnase CDCN (France) and was commemorated through a publication by dramaturg Monica Gillette...[more](#)

## **DANCE CLASSES FOR PEOPLE AGED 50+**

The sun always shines on a Wednesday afternoon at the Carmelite Centre in Dublin. This year began with David Bolger guest teaching the weekly class. Special events included free tea dances for Dublin City Council's POSITIVE AGEING WEEK festivities led by Anderson de Souza and Philippa Donnellan. ...[more](#)

## **BROADREACH PERFORMING MEMORY**

A Perform Europe Project that brought together CoisCéim Broadreach with Proto Produkcija Agency (Ukraine) and Arte Sella in Italy. It culminated in the autumn with performances as part of Dublin Fringe Festival and Culture Night...[more](#)

## **BROADREACH MOVING SIGNATURES**

A new interdisciplinary collaboration celebrating IMMA's exhibition of its permanent collection, ART AS AGENCY, a major three-year display showcasing over 100 artists from the 1960s to the present...[more](#)

## **ITI OFF-SITE @ COISCÉIM**

Irish Theatre Institute and CoisCéim celebrate 10 years of working together in providing residency space...[more](#)

## **THE EMMA O'KANE BURSARY**

One Two One Two are the recipients of this unbounded opportunity for independent artists. The Bursary introduced 2 annual opportunities for the public to support and find out more as part of strategy to make it self-sustaining in the long term - for 2025 these awareness & fundraising events were organised with Fishamble (July) and Project Arts Centre (December) ...[more](#)