

COISCÉIM DANCE THEATRE



2024 IN A NUTSHELL

AUDIENCES

Booked Out. Booked Out. Booked Out: from BREAKIN' BROTHERS to the "powerful" ★★★★★ PALIMPSEST and DANCEHALL BLUES, audiences can't get enough of CoisCéim's vibrant programme celebrating our 30th Year. Over the last ten months, we have served up dance in all shapes and sizes to over 850,000 people – inside; outside; on the streets; on the water; and on TV. Audiences have been enthralled by large-scale spectacle in the intimate setting of The Complex; paused their days and taken breath with BENCH commissions at Grand Canal Dock; cheered the SPARKING DEBATE St Patrick's Pageant along the route and on RTÉ; and been immersed in the beautiful surrounds of our studio for DANCEHALL BLUES and the launch of COISCÉIM CINEMATHEQUE.

ACCESS

We embed inclusivity into everything we do – every decision we make. 2024 highlights include expanding our PAY WHAT YOU CAN ticket pricing – fitting out a wheelchair accessible toilet and commissioning an independent accessibility audit on our building – conducting our first (and second) audio-described performances and seeking to make every performance of DANCEHALL BLUES inclusive. We took strides towards artform accessibility through SPARKING DEBATE, BENCH & FRANCIS FOOTWORK VR - highlighting everyday spaces as creative places and bringing dance into north inner city schools for the Five Lamps Arts Festival... www.coisceim.com/accessibility/

AMBITION

Our 2024 programme is mightily ambitious - 5 world premieres including a dance film in Dublin International Film Festival (DIFF) and a world-class dance production presented in our Fairview home; a ground-breaking collaboration with the biggest celebration of Irish Culture in the world; a 5 week all-island tour; cutting-edge international touring and activities in Germany, France, Italy, Croatia, Greece and the United States; and a brand new website. We are celebrating our anniversary year in style - harnessing artistic voices from across the spectrum of lived experience - all made possible by being able to build on the investment of our key stakeholders. Thank You!



ARTISTS

2024 will see: 280 freelance artists and specialists engaged + 1 Choreography Connects resident + 3 choreographic commissions + 1 Step Up Student placement + 5 ITI Offsite Artists + 1 Emma O’Kane Bursary Recipient + 2 Gap Day Artists + 2 third-level student credit-earning work placements + 24 Independent Artists/Companies created, rehearsed, and shared new work in our studio + 5 Dublin-based productions making use of CoisCéim technical assets.

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION GOAL ACHIEVED

Within a year, our brand new website coisceim.com has gone from being one of the dirtiest, to one of the cleanest on the internet.

SUSTAINABILITY

We are committed to reducing our environmental impact. We partner with Doggett Print and the World Land Trust to carbon balance our paper communications. PALIMPSEST and DANCEHALL BLUES were supported by Rediscover Fashion, a social enterprise at the Rediscovery Centre, Ireland's Circular Economy hub. DANCEHALL BLUES also marked the start of our collaboration with Re-Staging, using recycled theatre sets.

In 2024, a comprehensive energy audit of our home in Fairview is informing our building-based endeavours - and with our touring work we are focused on testing sustainable models: THE PIECE WITH THE DRUMS all-island tour was programmed to reduce our consumption; the successful touring model of FRANCIS FOOTWORK VR continues to reach audiences both at home and abroad; and we look forward to pushing boundaries further with our upcoming PERFORM EUROPE collaboration.



IN A NUTSHELL | WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING



“THIRTY TWO DANCERS COMPETE IN SEVEN FREESTYLE ROUNDS. WHO SAYS YOU CAN’T DANCE ABOUT POLITICS OR POLITICAL DEBATE, MAKE SHAPES ABOUT CURRENT AFFAIRS? THIS IS A KIND OF STRICTLY COME DEBATING, EXCEPT THAT IT’S ON-YOUR-FEET (AND TOES) PHYSICAL DEBATE... RAP, DISCO, FUNK, GARAGE BEATS. FIVE JUDGES. SIX MINUTES ALLOTTED TO EACH. THE NEW IRELAND IN FLOW.”
-SPECTATOR, SPARKING DEBATE, PHYSICAL DEBATES



“I HAD TO TAME MY NEW ENVIRONMENT, TO SMELL IT, TO MAKE SENSE OF IT.... TO LET MY BODY BECOME MORE AND MORE LIBERATED... FREE TO GO TO NEW PLACES, WHERE MY BRAIN WAS NOT JUDGING ME ANYMORE.”

-PARTICIPANT, CHOREOGRAPHY CONNECTS

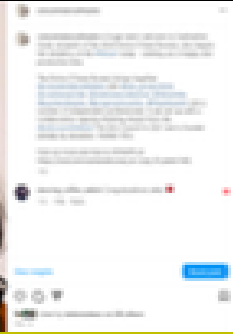


“PERFORMANCE IS A PRACTICE, AND TOGETHER WE’VE BEEN HAVING SO MUCH FUN PRACTICING PERFORMING.”

-CHOREOGRAPHER, THE CHOREOGRAPHY PROJECT #21

“THE ENORMOUS DIVERSITY OF VOICES, WHETHER THAT BE CULTURALLY, ARTISTICALLY, OR IN THE WIDE RANGE OF EXPERIENCE ON HAND, BROUGHT AN EXTRAORDINARY ENERGY TO THE STUDIO AND THE STAGE THAT BEAUTIFULLY MIRRORED THE ETHOS, AND INDEED TITLE, OF THE WORK.”

-PERFORMER, PALIMPSEST



“ IT WASN’T JUST ABOUT BEING IN THE PARADE; IT WAS ABOUT FEELING PART OF SOMETHING EXTRAORDINARY, SOMETHING THAT WILL STAY WITH US FOREVER.”

-PARTICIPANT, SPARKING DEBATE PARADE PAGEANT

“ “[IT IS AN] OPPORTUNITY TO PLAY, RESIST, REVOLT, THINK, ACCEPT, AND TRANSFORM MY EMBODIED PRACTICE IN THE DIRECTION I WANT TO TAKE IN MY CONTINUED ARTISTIC JOURNEY”

-BURSARY RECIPIENT

“WE ARE THRILLED TO COLLABORATE AGAIN...TO ANIMATE AND REIMAGINE OUR WATERWAYS... A VITAL PART OF THE GREEN AND BLUE INFRASTRUCTURE OF THE CITY, SUPPORTING THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING OF CITIZENS AND INSPIRING COUNTLESS ARTISTS ”

- PARTNER, BENCH



“LOOKS AMAZING... MADE MY DAY... A JOYOUS 22 MINUTES”

- RTE RADIO 1'S RAY D'ARCY ON BREAKIN' BROTHERS

**“ONE OF THE BEST SHOWS I HAVE SEEN”
“INCREDIBLE PRODUCTION. WARMED MY SOUL”
“A WONDERFUL WORK WITH ENERGETIC ENSEMBLE AND BEAUTIFUL SOLOS IN THIS VIBRANT PIECE.”**

“ONE OF THE BEST SHOWS I’VE SEEN EVER! MOVING, FUNNY, SAD, VERY EMOTIVE AND SO WELL EXECUTED.”

-AUDIENCES ON PALIMPSEST

IN A NUTSHELL | COISCÉIM REACHES MILLIONS

Sunday Independent

IF YOU ONLY DO ONE THING...

BE MOVED BY DANCE THEATRE
There's always mounting excitement before any new production by contemporary dance theatre company Coiscéim Dance, and their new production *Palimpsest* is no exception. Choreographer David Bolger will lead an exceptional ensemble cast of 15 dancers in a unique large-scale, site-specific performance at The Complex, Arran Street East, Dublin 7 as part of the St Patrick's Festival One City Programme. The piece is one of the culminating events

of the Decade of Centenaries commemorations and has drawn inspiration from some of the pivotal moments that have shaped Ireland's complex history. *Palimpsest* opens at 7pm on Wednesday and runs until...

of the Decade of Centenaries commemorations and has drawn inspiration from some of the pivotal moments that have shaped Ireland's complex history. *Palimpsest* opens at 7pm on Wednesday and runs until...



Palimpsest: David Bolger is happy to let each viewer create individual histories. Photograph: Ros Kavanagh

Michael Seaver
Sat Mar 16 2024 - 13:48



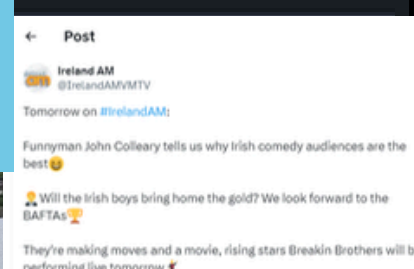
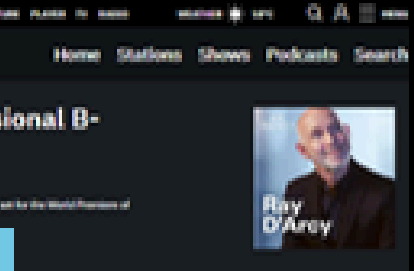
Palimpsest
The Complex

BENCH PARTNERSHIP WITH WATERWAYS IRELAND AWARDED KMEND BUSINESS TO ARTS AWARD

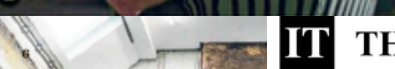
MEDIA REACH

10,716,464

PALIMPSEST/SPARKING DEBATE



OVER 3,000 PEOPLE ENCOUNTER THE 2024 BENCH COMMISSIONS



LAYERS OF MEANING

Coiscéim's new show, *Palimpsest*, which premieres at St Patrick's Festival, has extra significance for the dance company's founders, David Bolger and Briquet Webster

MICHAEL SEAVER

Theatre is a craft, a skill, a trade. It's a profession. It's a way of life. It's a way of thinking. It's a way of feeling. It's a way of being. It's a way of... *Palimpsest* is a new show by Coiscéim Dance Theatre, which premieres at St Patrick's Festival, has extra significance for the dance company's founders, David Bolger and Briquet Webster

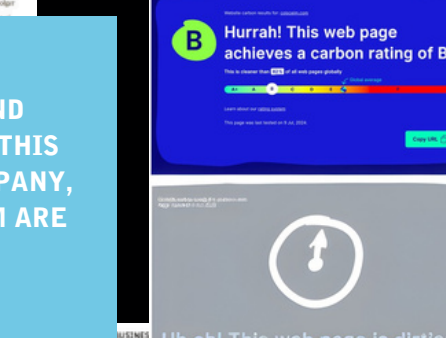
... *Palimpsest* is a new show by Coiscéim Dance Theatre, which premieres at St Patrick's Festival, has extra significance for the dance company's founders, David Bolger and Briquet Webster

... *Palimpsest* is a new show by Coiscéim Dance Theatre, which premieres at St Patrick's Festival, has extra significance for the dance company's founders, David Bolger and Briquet Webster

... *Palimpsest* is a new show by Coiscéim Dance Theatre, which premieres at St Patrick's Festival, has extra significance for the dance company's founders, David Bolger and Briquet Webster

... *Palimpsest* is a new show by Coiscéim Dance Theatre, which premieres at St Patrick's Festival, has extra significance for the dance company's founders, David Bolger and Briquet Webster

“STUNNING...THE STAGECRAFT AND DRAMATURGY OF PALIMPSEST, SET THIS PRODUCTION, AND INDEED THIS COMPANY, APART. DAVID BOLGER AND HIS TEAM ARE VANGUARDS”
- THE REVIEWS HUB ON PALIMPSEST



RTE NATIONWIDE FEATURE (March 6th 2024)

...AN INSPIRED COLLABORATION WITH WATERWAYS IRELAND... -THE IRISH TIMES ON BENCH #3

Coiscéim dance theatre at 30 - from Pulp Fiction to Palimpsest



Dublin-based company, Coiscéim Dance Theatre, is gearing up to mark its 30th year with a special programme of events throughout

From South Great Georges St, this firmly rooted in our new home programme kicks off with the creative energy of the land sensitively refurbished to go



Coiscéim - Matt Szczerek Switched On with Louise Tighe

FIND OUT MORE

DANCEHALL BLUES

This intimate, multi-disciplinary production by David Bolger was nominated for 2 DUBLIN FRINGE FESTIVAL awards...[more](#)

THE PIECE WITH THE DRUMS

3 venues in Dublin are at the heart of our all-island autumn tour of this "excellently cast... rich and constantly morphing interaction between movement and sound" - The Irish Times...[more](#)

BENCH

An award-winning project curated by David Bolger in collaboration with Waterways Ireland. A collection of dances inspired by Dublin's canals...[more](#)

BREAKIN' BROTHERS

A short film by David Bolger shot on location in Dublin city centre - commissioned by RTÉ and produced by WildFire Films, it premiered at Dublin International Film Festival...[more](#)

FRANCIS FOOTWORK | 180° VR

Schools in Dublin's north east inner city experienced the VR with CREATIVE DANCE TALES for 5 Lamps Festival and St Patrick's Festival audiences delighted in screenings at Collins Barracks of this "5 STARS. Magical, marvellous take on dancing to your own tune" – The Sunday Business Post...[more](#)

THE CHOREOGRAPHY PROJECT # 21

Led by esteemed choreographer, Philip Connaughton, this project aimed to thrill and empower dance enthusiasts...[more](#)

GERMANY & CROATIA

Alongside regional Croatian touring, FRANCIS FOOTWORK VR + CREATIVE DANCE TALES returned to Port of Dance Festival in partnership with HKD, Rijeka and made its German debut as part of Culture Ireland's Zeitgeist programme...[more](#)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Find out who we've supported this year ...[more](#)

PALIMPSEST

Through the investigation of questions around identity, hospitality and sovereignty, CoisCéim sought to make a massive interdisciplinary project for ART:2023. The resulting artworks, PALIMPSEST and SPARKING DEBATE premiered to widespread audience and critical acclaim, connecting with over 850,000 people in a groundbreaking collaboration with St. Patrick's Festival that spanned its entire line-up...[more](#)

OPEN HOUSE DUBLIN

Our participation in the Irish Architecture Foundations Festival continued this year with the pilot of the CoisCéim Cinematheque and two special screenings of the "joyous" dance documentary, BREAKIN' BROTHERS ...[more](#).

CHOREOGRAPHY CONNECTS

Funded by an Arts Council of Ireland IRIS Award, this important residency venture united CoisCéim and our Fairview studio with two European dance trailblazers – OperaEstate/CSC, (Comune di Bassano, Italy) and Le Gymnase CDCN (France)...[more](#)

DANCE CLASSES FOR PEOPLE AGED 50+

The sun always shines on a Wednesday afternoon at the Carmelite Centre in Dublin...[more](#)

CULTURE NIGHT

Audiences were treated to free tickets to the performance of DANCEHALL BLUES at our home in Fairview...[more](#)

RICHMOND BARRACKS

Our connection with the dance programme included participants attendance at our Dublin Productions and a screening of the short film LOVE LETTERS | A LOVE LETTER TO LIFE by Philippa Donnellan...[more](#)

ITI OFF-SITE

Since 2015, Irish Theatre Institute has worked with CoisCéim in providing residency space...[more](#)

THE EMMA O'KANE BURSARY

Subhashini Goda is the 2024 recipient of this unbounded opportunity for independent artists to think beyond the boundaries of their art form...[more](#)