

Press / Programme Information

DRAGONS AND TONICS by Liz Roche **BACK IN TOWN** by David Bolger

Dublin, Longford, Ennis, Waterford
Scottish Youth Dance Festival, Renfrew
June / July 1997



CoisCéim
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## **DRAGONS AND TONICS & BACK IN TOWN**

Dragons and Tonics by Liz Roche is a conceptual dance which deals with duality, internal conversations, games, physicality, fluidity and time. With original music by Denis Roche, the piece creates its own mood of romance, ritual, fantasy and drama. The dancers are David Bolger, Ella Clarke, James Hosty and Simone Litchfield.

In contrast, Back in Town is a new work by David Bolger, which was inspired by the lyrical musical talents of '70's rock icon, Phil Lynott and his band, Thin Lizzy. The cast of Back in Town is David Bolger, Ella Clarke, James Hosty, Simone Litchfield, Jenny Roche and Karl Sullivan.

### **CREDITS**

#### **Dragons and Tonics**

CHOREOGRAPHY Liz Roche  
ORIGINAL MUSIC Denis Roche

#### **DANCERS**

David Bolger, Ella Clarke, James Hosty, Simone Litchfield

#### **Back in Town**

CHOREOGRAPHY David Bolger  
MUSIC Phil Lynott and Thin Lizzy

#### **DANCERS**

David Bolger, Ella Clarke, James Hosty, Simone Litchfield, Jenny Roche, Karl Sullivan

LIGHTING DESIGN Mark Waldron  
COSTUME DESIGN Helen McCusker  
HAIR AND MAKE-UP DESIGN Val Sherlock  
TECHNICAL MANAGER Mark Waldron  
STAGE MANAGER Catherine Nealon  
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER Bjorn Maes  
TRANSPORTATION Liam Golden

PUBLICIST Mary Folan  
PHOTOGRAPHY Kip Carroll  
DISTRIBUTION OF PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL Blackthorn Arts

PRODUCER Bridget Webster

## COISCÉIM DANCE THEATRE

CoisCéim is a dynamic young dance theatre company which takes its name from the Irish word for footstep. The company was set up in 1994 by a group of professional artists who work in dance and theatre in Ireland. Their artistic vision was to form a contemporary dance company which would capture the spirit and convey the energy of Ireland's young people.

The company's primary aim is to create highly original work which breaks a mould in contemporary dance by making it accessible and enjoyable for a broad range of audiences. It embraces the cultural wealth of literature, theatre, music and dance talent in Ireland to create a style of dance theatre that is unique in the context of modern European dance. CoisCéim has a particular interest in staging and promoting the work of young Irish choreographers, with the aim of fostering the development of contemporary Irish dance creators. Its first commission was to Liz Roche who choreographed the award winning *Dragons and Tonics* for CoisCéim in 1996. Liz has been selected as one of 15 young Europeans to participate in *Europa Danse Europa* in France during 1997.

As a Dublin based company, CoisCéim aims to generate an interest in dance at both national and international levels. Since its formation, it has presented seven critically acclaimed productions - from its very first show for *Dancetime'95* in Belfast - through the *Spring Loaded Festival* at the *Place Theatre*, London in 1996 - to its most recent production, *Hit and Run* in Dublin earlier this year. Over this time, the sturdy three year old CoisCéim has been steadily climbing the rungs of the performance ladder to reach a bigger and wider audience base.

The appeal of CoisCéim can be attributed to its successful fusion of imaginative choreography with a strong theatrical framework in each production. David Bolger's experience as a choreographer in theatre is reflected in all his work with the company to date. David works regularly on a freelance basis with the main houses, including *The National Theatre Society* (Abbey Theatre), the *Gaiety*, the *Olympia*, as well as for independent companies including *Opera Ireland*, *Rough Magic* and *Pigsback*. His choreography for cinema includes Neil Jordan's successful film, *Michael Collins*, released in 1996.

### What the Critics have said about CoisCéim:

*...creates fine dance ...a second later...has the audience shouting with laughter...* The Irish Times

*... imaginative, original and extremely energetic ...* The Irish Independent

*.... superb, liquid dance ...* The Scotsman

*... marries original movement with comedy...the result...fabulous entertainment ...* The Stage

*... This young company already has a mature, confident style of presentation ...  
good enough to invite back, very soon, on a much wider tour of Scottish venues ....*The Glasgow Herald

# PHILIP PARRIS LYNOTT • 1949 - 1986

*"Tell me the legends of long ago  
When the Kings and Queens  
Would dance in the realms of the Black Rose.  
Play me the melodies I want to know  
So I can teach my children oh !"*

Pushing the boundaries might be a good description of the life and career of Philip Lynott. In 1979 the music journalist Chris Salewicz described him as "a lightning conductor for both traditional and contemporary culture". As a blackman in a white society Lynott articulated a form of Celtic Soul which crossed the barriers of race and defined the essence of "Homo Dublinensis". From an early age Lynott learned the power of words to create images which would fire the imagination of millions. His streetscape was not as Salewicz pointed out "the concrete between the air-conditioned hotel lobby and the limousine waiting outside", but a world where legends and images juxtaposed in a melting pot, only limited by the frontiers of a fertile imagination.

To many people he was a contradiction in terms, mixing ballads such as "Sarah" with rockers such as "Don't Believe A Word" and "Jailbreak". If it worked, it worked. Similarly he could mix the images of Celtic mythology, with American street culture without pausing to take breath, as his word-pictures paint a broad sweep between "the popular Dutch portrait painter, and the insight of a master cartoonist".

Image and performance were high on Lynott's agenda. Ex-Band members recall his obsession with the visual characterisation of the pictures created by his music on stage. From Celtic Warrior to Johnny the Fox, Lynott projected them all, and it was far from accidental that the most durable Album covers of the Lizzy era were by Dublin artist Jim Fitzpatrick.

Philip died before the Dance Age really struck home, but those who remember his Urban Cowboy, Gunslinger Swagger on Grafton Street, and his dynamic body language on stage, will tell you it was something that was close to his heart.

*You know that chick that used to dance a lot  
Every night she'd be on the floor  
Shaking what she'd got  
Man when I tell you she was cool  
She was red hot  
I mean she was steaming...*

...Have a nice evening !!

Smiley Bolger • June 1997

## BIOGRAPHIES

### **David Bolger**

#### ***Choreographer, Back in Town / Dancer***

Awarded the Noel Pearson Liquiri Award for Performing Arts while at Marian College Dublin in 1985, David Bolger trained in Dublin, Irish National College of Dance with Armgard von Bardeleben (from the Graham School in New York), Babil Gandara, Anne E Courtney, and Yvonne Wells. David has worked extensively with the National Theatre Society, most recently on Tarry Flynn where his choreography and movement direction has been lauded by the critics. Other freelance projects include choreography for the Gaiety, the Olympia and independent companies such as Opera Ireland, Rough Magic and Pigsback. Choreography for cinema includes Neil Jordan's successful film, Michael Collins, released in 1996.

David has conceived, choreographed and performed in Silent Scream and Mermaids and as Artistic Director of CoisCéim Dance Theatre, Temporary Arrangements, Dances with Intent for Dancetime'95 in Belfast, Reel Luck for DanceFest'95, the award winning Straight with Curves, Hit and Run and most recently Back in Town.

### **Liz Roche**

#### ***Choreographer, Dragons and Tonics***

Born in Dublin in 1975, Liz is a graduate of the College of Dance, Dublin and London Contemporary Dance School, London. Since returning to Dublin she has worked extensively with Dance Theatre of Ireland in Jours etranges, Deserts D'Amour restaged by Les Carnets Bagouet (Compagnie Dominique Bagouet), Like Water Flowing East and Angel Land, Irish modern dance theatre (Ruby Red, Dance for Another Place), The Only True History of Lizzie Finn (Abbey Theatre) and Daghdha Dance Company (Aerdha). Appearances with CoisCéim Dance Theatre include Reel Luck, Straight with Curves, Dragons and Tonics and Hit and Run. Choreography credits include Something Primal This Way Drums (1994), Licks its Lips and Chews its Gums (1995) and Life Form Circus (1996), Smiling Demolition (1997) and the award winning (Dance Show of the Year, Choreographer of the Year, Irish Times, 1996) Dragons and Tonics.

### **Denis Roche**

#### ***Composer, Dragons and Tonics***

Born in Dublin, Denis studied guitar at the College of Music. He played with the band Moby Dick for four years after which he spent a year writing and recording in New York. Denis has composed work for dance, theatre and television, for companies including Tricknife Dance Company, Dance Theatre of Ireland, Web Factory and In Transit Company. Dragons and Tonics is Denis's first composition for CoisCéim Dance Theatre.

### **Ella Clarke**

#### ***Dancer***

Born in Dublin, Ella trained at the Ballet Rambert School, London, The College of Dance, Dublin and The Perm State Choreographic Institute in Russia where she graduated with

distinction, attaining a red diploma from the Perm school in 1993. She has performed as a soloist with the Perm Youth Ballet in Russia and Ireland, as a principal dancer with the Wexford Festival Opera and Opera Ireland. Work for Irish dance companies includes The Well for New Balance Dance Company, Byte, Body Travels Time, Like Water Flowing East and Deseo (Blok & Steel) for Dance Theatre of Ireland. She has also performed Terra Incognita for Co-motion Theatre Company and has worked with Rubato Ballet. In 1994, she co-choreographed and performed in the critically acclaimed Something Primal this way Drums. This is her second appearance with CoisCéim Dance Theatre having performed in Reel Luck and now Dragons and Tonics / Back in Town.

### **James Hosty**

#### ***Dancer***

Born in Dublin, James studied and danced with Dublin City Ballet then continued his studies at Arts Educational School, London and with Andrie Gregolski in Paris. He has recently been working with Rubato Ballet in Bull Dance, Irish modern dance theatre in Slam, The Palace of Emptiness and You Must Tell the Bees, at the Abbey Theatre and Cork Opera House in Sebastian Barry's The Only True History of Lizzie Finn and with Dance Theatre of Ireland in Jours etranges. Previous appearances with CoisCéim Dance Theatre include Straight with Curves, Dragons and Tonics and Hit and Run.

### **Simone Litchfield**

#### ***Dancer***

Born in Australia in 1973, Simone trained in Sydney and completed her studies at the London Contemporary Dance School. In 1994, she completed the Gulbenkian Choreographic course under the directorship of Lloyd Newson. Simone has performed extensively throughout Australia with the Darc Swan Dance Company (Sydney), at The Place Theatre, London and in China, Slovenia and Bulgaria in works choreographed by Dan Waggoner, Chris Jannides, Laurie Booth, Richard Alston and Paul Taylor. Her work is featured in Nigel Charnock's Citizen Locke. This is Simone's third appearance with CoisCéim Dance Theatre having previously performed in Dragons and Tonics and Hit and Run.

### **Jenny Roche**

#### ***Dancer***

Born in Dublin, Jenny started dancing at age seven. At sixteen she went to the Central School of Ballet in London for three years, training in classical and contemporary dance. Since graduating she has worked as an independent dancer in England and Ireland with companies including Janet Smith, Irish modern dance theatre and Dance Theatre of Ireland, touring to the Montpellier festival with the Dominique Bagouet piece, Deserts D'Amour. She has collaborated on two pieces with Denis and Liz Roche, the acclaimed Something Primal this way Drums and Licks its Lips and Chews its Gums. In November 1996, Jenny moved to Montreal, Canada and collaborated with Karin Michelson on a piece entitled de lacrimae rerum and ate 'power' bagels on cold snowy mornings. This is her first appearance with CoisCéim Dance Theatre in Back in Town.

## **Karl Sullivan**

### ***Dancer***

Born in England, Karl trained at the Northern School of Contemporary Dance and The Rambert School. He has worked extensively in England with the National Youth Dance Company ('91), Moving Visions Dance Theatre ('92), Matthew Hawkins ('93), Debora Johnson Dancers ('93), Union Dance Company ('94), Henrietta Hale ('95), Diversions Dance Company ('95) and Adventures in Motion Pictures in Swan Lake ('96). In Ireland, Karl has performed with Rubato Ballet and with Irish modern dance theatre (Just Bodies). This is his first appearance with CoisCéim in Back in Town.

## **Mark Waldron**

### ***Lighting Designer / Technical Manager***

Mark trained in television production at the Senior College, Ballyfermot and subsequently at The Irish Film Institute and RTE. Since graduating in 1990 he has been working the areas of film, theatre, opera and dance for companies including Opera Ireland, Opera Theatre Company, Rough Magic, Pigsback, Dance Theatre of Ireland, New Balance Dance Company, Barabbas, and has toured extensively with these and other companies. Film and television credits as Lighting Cameraman include The Lolly Man, The Intruder, Grafters, Baby Boom and most recently the acclaimed Irish feature November Afternoon. Mark has worked with CoisCéim as Technical Manager since March 1996 on Reel Luck, Straight with Curves, Dragons and Tonics and Hit and Run. Lighting designs for the company include the award winning Dragons and Tonics and now Back in Town.

## **Helen McCusker**

### ***Costume Designer***

Born in Dundalk, Helen studied fashion design at NCAD. A freelance designer since 1993, she has designed costumes for theatre, dance and film. Apart from frocks for The Nualas recent credits include: Deseo, Body Travels Time and Like Water Flowing East (Dance Theatre of Ireland); Wolfe Tones Lament (Wild Card Theatre Company); Merlin (Brimstone Productions). This is Helen's fifth collaboration with CoisCéim having designed the costumes for Reel Luck, Straight with Curves, Dragons and Tonics, Hit and Run and now Back in Town.

## **Val Sherlock**

### ***Hair and Make-up Design***

Val has worked in hair and makeup design for the last seven years in all areas of the performing arts, including La Traviata, Il Travatore, Carmen and Fidelio, Macbeth and The Marriage of Figaro, Playboy of the Western World, Guys and Dolls, The Picture of Dorian Gray, numerous television and film productions and in dance for companies including Dance Theatre of Ireland and Irish modern dance theatre. His work has been seen on all the major television networks. He has worked with David Bolger and CoisCéim Dance Theatre since 1991 on Silent Scream, Mermaids, Temporary Arrangements, Dances with Intent, Reel Luck, Straight with Curves, Dragons and Tonics, Hit and Run and Back in Town.

## PRODUCTION SUMMARY

| <i>Date</i>  | <i>Production, Venue</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|--------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1995</b>  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 16 - 18 Feb* | <b>Dances with Intent</b> , Dancetime'95, Old Museum, Belfast                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 29 Apr       | <b>Taps with Sax</b> , Magic of Dance Festival, Malahide                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 6 - 7 Jun    | <b>Reel Luck</b> , DanceFest'95, Belltable, Limerick: Project, Dublin                                                                                                                                                            |
| 22 - 23 Jul  | <b>Dances with Intent</b> , Galway Arts Festival, Taibhdhearc                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 3 - 7 Oct*   | <b>Dances with Intent</b> , Dublin Theatre Festival, Samuel Beckett, Trinity College                                                                                                                                             |
| 8 - 10 Nov   | <b>Dance has no Limits</b> , Firkin Crane, Cork                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 21-25 Nov    | <b>Reel Luck &amp; Straight with Curves</b> , Project, Dublin                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>1996</b>  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 2 - 25 Mar * | <b>Reel Luck &amp; Straight with Curves</b> , Watergate, Kilkenny; Belltable, Limerick; Firkin Crane, Cork; An Taibhdhearc, Galway; Backstage, Longford; Theatre Workshop, Edinburgh; Spring Loaded Festival, The Place, London. |
| 24 - 25 Oct  | <b>Straight with Curves</b> , L'Imaginaire Irlandais Festival, La Belle Friche de Mai, Marseilles                                                                                                                                |
| 4 - 8 Nov    | <b>Dance has no Limits</b> , Arts Council of Northern Ireland Tour, Belfast (18 workshops)                                                                                                                                       |
| 18 - 30 Nov* | <b>Dragons and Tonics &amp; Straight with Curves</b> , Queens Festival, Old Museum Arts Centre, Belfast; Firkin Crane, Cork; Garter Lane Arts Centre, Waterford; Project, Dublin                                                 |
| 2 -6 Dec     | <b>Ballads-1845</b> , Developmental Workshops, Abbey Theatre, Dublin                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>1997</b>  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 18 - 25 Jan  | <b>Hit and Run</b> , project @ the mint, Dublin                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 17 - 19 Feb  | <b>Dance has no Limits !</b> , Marino College, Dublin                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 7 - 13 Apr   | <b>Ballads-1845</b> , Developmental Workshops & Work in progress performance, April Sundays, Old Museum Arts Centre, Belfast.                                                                                                    |

*\* included the Dance Has no Limits ! workshop programme*