

COLE
CEIN
DANCE

DANCEHALL BLUES

by David Bolger



DIRECTORS NOTE

Blurring the lines between fact and fiction, **DANCEHALL BLUES** is set in a surreal dancehall at dusk. Two performers begin to dance – their powerful movements cutting through the visual and aural noise – to bring hope in a place where dreams and nightmares collide.

DANCEHALL BLUES explores the importance of empathy to navigate chaos. It draws energy and inspiration from our new home – the iconic building at 42 Fairview Strand, Dublin 3 where we created and first presented this work – and my life long interest in magic. Illusion and sleight of hand are our tools of storytelling – making the impossible appear possible – the imagined, real.

Over the years dancehalls have evolved, falling in and out of fashion. But for me they are a place to gather, a place of community where the politics of the dancefloor can become a sanctuary for lost souls. Or simply a place to dance out the woes of a chaotic world outside its doors. With shifting time frames within this work, we examine key moments in the world's history and try to find patterns of human resilience. The mirrorball that hangs over the floor unites us in this universe, with connection and unity to light, self expression and spirituality.

Enjoy the show.

DAVID BOLGER, 31 JULY 2025



CREDITS

CAST EMILY KILKENNY RODDY, ALEX O'NEILL

DIRECTOR DAVID BOLGER

CHOREOGRAPHY DAVID BOLGER

IN COLLABORATION WITH THE DANCERS

COMPOSITION & SOUND DESIGN IVAN BIRTHISTLE

LIGHTING DESIGN JOHN GUNNING

COSTUME DESIGN ARRAN MURPHY

PROJECTION DESIGN NEIL O'DRISCOLL

HAIR & MAKE-UP VAL SHERLOCK

PRODUCTION MANAGER VERONICA FOO

STAGE MANAGER BARBARA HUGHES

CHIEF LX ARCHER BRADSHAW

ASSISTANT PROJECTION DESIGN LAURA RAINSFORD

PRODUCTION TECHNICIANS DANNY HONES, SARAH KEANE

LX CREW (DUBLIN) EMMA BRENNAN, ELLEN HODGERS

COSTUME ASSISTANTS THE REDISCOVER FASHION TEAM

SET CONSTRUCTION RE-STAGING

PRODUCTION TRANSPORT ACT NOW, HENX

COMPANY CLASS TEACHERS ANDERSON DE SOUZA, INNA MAZURENKO

PHOTOGRAPHER/VIDEOGRAPHER ROS KAVANAGH

GRAPHIC DESIGN ALPHABET SOUP

PUBLICIST CULTUREHEAD

DIGITAL MARKETER RACHEL FORAN

BOOKKEEPER SUSAN HOFFMAN

PROJECT COORDINATOR INNA MAZURENKO

PRODUCED BY SARAH LATTY & BRIDGET WEBSTER

CREDITS

ADDITIONAL MUSIC

IN SIDE BY PLASTIKMAN (RICHIE HAWTIN)

SABAT MATER BY GIOVANNI PERGOLES, PREFORMED BY ORFEO 55 WITH

PHILIPPE JAROUSKY AND EMOKE BARATH,

CONDUCTED BY NATHALIE STUTZMANN

QUELQU'UN M'A DIT BY CARLA BRUNI

NE ME QUITTE PAS BY JAQUES BREL

DANSER ENCORE BY HK

THANK YOU

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE KIND SUPPORT OF ALL OF THE STAFF AT THE PAVILION THEATRE, ASSEMBLY @ DANCE BASE AND EDINBURGH FESTIVAL FRINGE, THE ARK, ELIZABETH JANNETTA, ROSS SMITH, THE GATE THEATRE, CLIVE WELSH AND ALEX PEANUT BOLGER WELSH.

SPECIAL THANKS

TO STEPHANIE DUFRESNE FOR HER ROLE IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND PREMIERE OF **DANCEHALL BLUES**.

SUSTAINABILITY

WE TRY TO MAKE EVER MORE SUSTAINABLE WORK, THIS PRODUCTION CONTINUES OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH THE REDISCOVERY CENTRE WHICH BEGAN WITH **GO TO BLAZES** AND SUBSEQUENTLY **PALIMPSEST**. IT ALSO INCLUDES CARPENTRY CONSTRUCTED FROM RECYCLED THEATRE SETS BY RE-STAGING.

DURATION: 50 MINUTES
CONTAINS SMOKE MACHINE



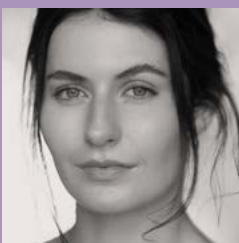


CELEBRATING OUR 30TH YEAR

DANCEHALL BLUES was created as an anchor of the company's programme celebrating our 30th Year – where highlights included a FIVE star spectacle for 17 performers, 5 World Premieres, a 5 week all island tour and a series of short outdoor works where 3,000+ people encountered dance around Dublin as part of their everyday – all archived on our brand new website at coisceim.com/archive/



BIOGRAPHIES CAST



EMILY KILKENNY RODDY PERFORMER

This is Emily's CoisCéim debut. She is a Dublin based dance artist and actor having previously trained at the University of Chichester and Bow Street Academy. As a dance artist, she works as a performer, choreographer and rehearsal director for both contemporary and commercial work with her latest work **Ruining the Act** being described as "The Full Package" (the reviews hub). Emily has worked widely in Ireland including works by Brokentaklers, Catherine Young, Lea Anderson, Laura Murphy, Sibéal Davitt, Theatre Lovett, Broken Crow Theatre, Rachel Ní Bhraonáin and Justine Doswell.



ALEX O'NEILL PERFORMER

Alex's work with CoisCéim includes **Dancehall Blues**, **Palimpsest**, **The Piece with the Drums** and **Orfeo Ed Euridice** (with Blackwater Valley Opera Festival). He was cast in RTÉ's **Supercrew** (2010-2011), **Mrs Browns Boys Da Movie** (2014), **Ek Tha Tiger** (2012), and **Vikings** (2018). He was a featured dancer in the **Ireland's Got Talent** live shows and adverts (2018-2019), James Vincent McMorrow's **Gone** (2020), Ridley Scott's **The Last Duel** (2021), and Disney's **Disenchanted** (2022). He has done feature work for Red Bull, RTÉ, Apple, Heineken, Ryanair, Facebook, Google, Vodafone, Orchard Thieves and Lifestyle Sports Christmas Campaign/ Adverts (2018 & 2021). He was head choreographer for the **80's & 90's Disco** European Arena Tour (2018-2020) and a soloist in Monica Loughman's **The Nutcracker** (2012-2015) and in the **Michael Jackson Man in the Mirror** tribute tour (2014-2016). Other recent credits include **The Hardest of Women** (ANU Productions, 2022) and **Mosh**, winner of Best Ensemble at the Dublin Fringe Festival Awards 2023, as well as its Ireland and UK tour (2024-2025). Film work includes being cast as The Watcher working with Dakota Fanning in **The Watchers** (2024).

BIOGRAPHIES ABOUT THE CREATIVE TEAM



DAVID BOLGER DIRECTOR & CHOREOGRAPHER

David is the Artistic Director and co-founder of CoisCéim Dance Theatre. His work has been seen by millions of people worldwide and has received prestigious awards for its innovation, performance and choreography. David has directed and choreographed over 30 original productions for CoisCéim, including **Palimpsest**, **Go To Blazes**, **Francis Footwork**, the highly lauded **The Wolf and Peter**, **Body Language**, and the major international co-production **These Rooms** (Irish Times Theatre Award, London International Festival of Theatre (LIFT), TATE Liverpool). His work for the company has been presented at Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival and Peak Performances in the USA, Spring Loaded (The Place) and the Brighton Festival in the UK, Ten Days on the Island (Tasmania), Arts Centre Melbourne and Sydney Opera House (Australia). David has received numerous choreographic commissions for theatre and opera including Druid (Ireland), Spoleto Festival (USA), Guthrie Theatre (USA), RTÉ (Ireland), National Theatre (UK), Abbey Theatre (Ireland), Gate Theatre (Ireland) and Opera Ireland. He is a member of Aosdána.



IVAN BIRTHISTLE COMPOSITION & SOUND DESIGN

Ivan is the head of the Sound Department at the Lir National Academy of Dramatic Arts. He has been working as a composer and sound designer in theatre for over twenty years working with nearly every major theatre company in the country. He has a long history with CoisCéim having designed many shows for them with Vincent Doherty. Ivan also has a background in live music having played in many bands, most notably Schtum, Nina Hynes and the Husbands, and has released many records over the last 25 years.



JOHN GUNNING LX DESIGN

John is a founding member of Malaprop Theatre and an alumnus of Dublin Youth Theatre. With gratitude to Paddy O'Dwyer, founder of Dublin Youth Theatre, RIP. Lighting credits include: with Malaprop **Hothouse,**

Where Sat The Lovers, Everything Not Saved, Jericho, BlackCatfishMusketeer and **LOVE+, Palimpsest** (CoisCéim Dance Theatre), **Crawler** (Jessie Thompson), **Tempesta** (Sugarglass Theatre), **This Solution** (Shaun Dunne), **Navy Blue** (Oona Doherty), **Mosh** (Rachel Ní Bhraonain), **Tiny Plays 24/7** and **Tiny Plays For A Brighter Future** (Fishamble), **Venus in Furs** (Rough Magic SEEDS), **The Roaring Banshees** (Devious Theatre Co.), **We Can't Have Monkeys in the House** (Sad Strippers) and **The Egg Is A Lonely Hunter** (Hannah Mamalis).



ARRAN MURPHY COSTUME DESIGN

Arran is a Designer, Maker and Educator working in Sustainable Fashion, Costume and Community Arts. She has designed for numerous theatre, dance and street performances including the St Patrick's Day

Parade, CoisCéim's Broadreach Programme, Dance Limerick's Step Up Programme, The Dockers and Demons Festival and Mario Rosenstock's **Gift Grub Live Show, Hope it Rains, Drowned Galway**, Galway 2020, as well as for CoisCéim's **Body Language, In The Magic Hour, Palimpsest** and **Go To Blazes**, for which she was nominated for Best Costume Design in the Irish Times Theatre Award 2023. Arran is also the Programme Manager of Rediscover Fashion, a social enterprise at the Rediscovery Centre, Ireland's National Centre for the Circular Economy.



NEIL O'DRISCOLL PROJECTION DESIGN

Neil O'Driscoll is a multidisciplinary artist whose work incorporates painting, illustration, film and video design for live performance. His work has appeared on stage at venues around Ireland including the Belltable

in Limerick and Dublin's Abbey Theatre, most recently in Edna O'Brien's **Joyce's Women**. In addition to freelance work, Neil sustains a practice as a visual artist and independent filmmaker.



VAL SHERLOCK

HAIR AND MAKE-UP

Val has worked as a hair and makeup artist as well as a wigmaker for a quarter of a century. As well as television, film and advertising work, Val has worked for all major theatre companies in Ireland and Northern Ireland. Val has had the pleasure of working across all aspects of theatre, opera, contemporary dance, and ballet. He has worked on multiple productions for the Lyric Theatre, Druid, Rough Magic Theatre Company, CoisCéim Dance Theatre, Fishamble: The New Play Company, the Abbey Theatre/Peacock Theatre, The Corn Exchange and Landmark Productions, amongst others.



VERONICA FOO

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Veronica is from Dublin and has worked on theatre, live events, and live spectacle as Production Manager nationally and internationally for the past 9 years.

Veronica has previously worked with some of Ireland's leading festivals, companies, and artists including: Dublin Fringe Festival, Macnas, Brokentalkers, United Fall, Once Off Productions, Irish National Opera and many more.



BARBARA HUGHES

STAGE MANAGER

Barbara is a company, stage and tour manager with extensive experience both in Ireland and abroad.

This is her third time working with CoisCéim. Other companies Barbara has worked with are Abbey Theatre, Gate Theatre, Thisispopbaby, Dead Centre and ANU Productions.



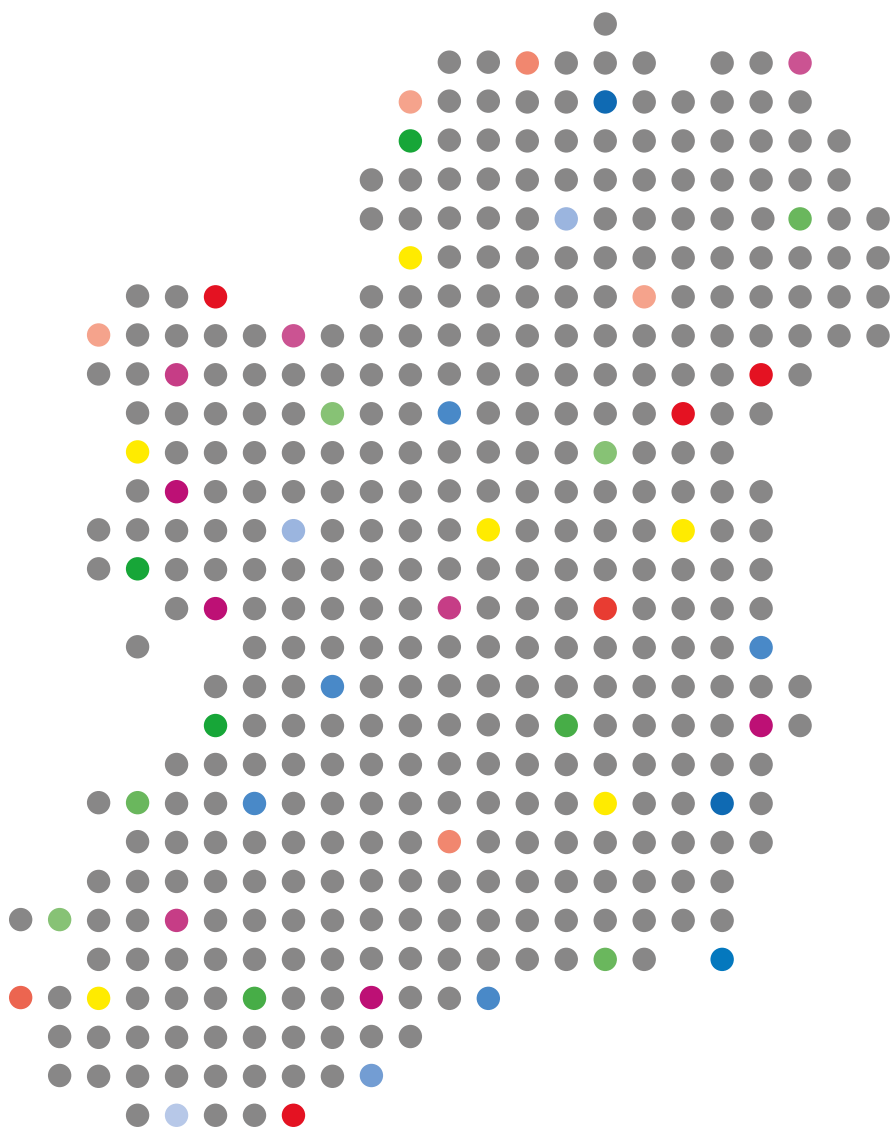
A stage scene with a disco ball hanging from the ceiling, illuminated by four spotlights from above. The background is dark and textured.

DANCEHALL BLUES IN VIRTUAL REALITY

DANCEHALL BLUES also tours internationally as a Virtual Reality experience – where every seat is front row centre. Filmed live at CoisCéim Studio in 2024 the performance stars Stephanie Dufresne and Alex O'Neill. Directed by Enya Belak and filmed by Igor Crnković it was produced with support from Epson UK. The world premiere took place in May 2025 at Croatia's **Port of Dance Festival** at HKD. See coisceim.com for upcoming tour dates.

DANCEHALL BLUES THE ALBUM BY IVAN BIRTHISTLE

Composer Ivan Birthistle presents a new music album born from the creative journey of **DANCEHALL BLUES**. Featuring original compositions developed throughout the show's evolution – some heard during live performances and others created along the way – this richly textured album offers a deeper dive into the sonic world of the production. Now available on Bandcamp, it's a compelling blend of mood, movement, and melody that captures the heart of **DANCEHALL BLUES**.
Play [here](#).



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BECOME A DANCE ANGEL WITH YOUR WINGS WE CAN FLY!

SHARE THE SPIRIT AND VISION OF THE WORK WE PRODUCE. PLAY A VITAL ROLE IN ADVANCING OUR CREATIVE AMBITIONS. BE AN ADVOCATE FOR ARTS AND CULTURE IN OUR SOCIETY.

THANK YOU TO OUR DANCE ANGELS: JOHN COMISKEY, ELMA CUSACK, MARGARET FINLAY, JULIAN ERSKINE, CIAN O'BRIEN, MADELEINE NESBITT, BRIGID MCMANUS, M & E WELSH, NICK HEINZEN, AENGUS O'HANRAHAN, LOUIS HERBERT, GWEN BOLGER & MICHAEL CRANSTON, EAMONN MAGUIRE, AND ALL THOSE WHO WISH TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS.

DANCEHALL BLUES

by David Bolger

IRELAND & UK 2025

PAVILION THEATRE

DÚN LAOGHAIRE, IRELAND

31 JULY - 2 AUGUST 2025

TIME 8PM

UK PREMIERE

EDINBURGH FESTIVAL FRINGE

ASSEMBLY @ DANCE BASE

EDINBURGH, UNITED KINGDOM

12 - 24 AUGUST 2025

(NO SHOW ON 18 AUGUST)

TIME 2.40PM



COISCÉIM DANCE THEATRE

CoisCéim Dance Theatre is one of Ireland's leading dance companies known for its expertise and track record in presenting highly original work to audiences large and small across artforms and media. Led by David Bolger, a member of Aosdána, our work is benchmarked with the best in the world and celebrated for its artistic excellence. It challenges, stimulates, inspires and entertains – seen on international stages including 14-18 NOW & LIFT (UK), Peak Performances, Jacobs Pillow Dance Festival (USA), Sydney Opera House and Venice Biennale.

In tandem with the performance programme the company conducts an integrated, inventive artform awareness and participation initiative: Broadreach. Established in 2006, its activities are pioneering, targeting all sections of the population in an exciting and innovative manner to create a genuine curiosity in dance. CoisCéim is proud to be funded by the Arts Council of Ireland and supported by Dublin City Council and Culture Ireland. Find out more at www.coisceim.com

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COISCÉIM DANCE THEATRE

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A REGISTERED CHARITY

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