

PRESS RELEASE

14 April 2015

Exciting new Limerick Dance Collective presents *Sum of Parts*, a collection of new work at Dance Limerick

The Limerick Dance Collective, an exciting group of Limerick based professional dance artists, will present a series of new works at Dance Limerick on Thursday 30 April at 8pm. Entitled “Sum of Parts”, this performance event is the culmination of a collaborative project and a wonderful opportunity to experience the diversity of the professional contemporary dance community in Limerick in the atmospheric surroundings and discrete spaces of St John’s Church. Featured artists include Lisa Cahill, Mark Carberry, Lucy Dawson, Kristyn Fontanella, Megan Kennedy, Lisa McLoughlin, Siobhan Ni Dhuinnin, Isabella Oberlander, Nina Pongratz, Nora Rodriguez and Angie Smalis. Tickets are €12/€10 and are available online at www.dancelimerick.ie

The Limerick Dance Collective was formed when Megan Kennedy, Limerick’s Dance Artist-in-Residence, extended an invitation to dance practitioners based in Limerick to come together to develop a collaborative project during her tenure. The vibrancy and diversity of the dance community in Limerick is reflected in the resulting Collective, which includes artists from Mexico, the US, Greece, Austria and Scotland, as well as Ireland, each of whom wishes to create new dance movements and to share them with the people of Limerick. The artists come from a wide variety of dance backgrounds and have many years of choreographic and performance experience nationally and internationally with such prestigious companies as Liz Roche Dance Company, Volksoper Wien, Coisceim Dance Theatre and Riverdance. Many of the artists are graduates of the MA in Contemporary Dance at the Irish World Academy at UL who have chosen to remain in Limerick and carve out professional dance careers in the Mid-West.

“Sum of Parts” is inspired by the notion of the constituent parts of a whole. Megan Kennedy describes the collaboration as being like a nut joining with a bolt: “There are certain relationships between a part and the whole by which the entire whole can be moved by moving that part”. The notion of collaboration has been evident throughout the rehearsal process as the rehearsal space has been shared between the artists while individual choreographic decisions have been made. A first of its kind, “Sum of Parts” aims to be a catalyst for future such collaborations.

Announcing details of the performance, Jenny Traynor, Director of Dance Limerick, said “We’re delighted to support professional dance artists in Limerick through the Limerick Dance Collective. This is a really exciting initiative and a wonderful opportunity for some of the top contemporary dance artists based here to work together, to learn from and inspire each other and to show Limerick audiences the calibre of work being created on their doorstep”.

“**Sum of Parts**” is devised under the Limerick Dance Artist-in-Residence programme, currently held by Megan Kennedy. **The Limerick Dance Artist-in-Residence Scheme** is a partnership between the artist, Dance Limerick and Limerick Arts Office, Limerick City and County Council and is funded by the Arts Council. The residency is based at Dance Limerick, John’s Square.

Dance Limerick is a resource organisation for professional dance in Limerick and beyond. Through performances, talks, classes, workshops, projects and residencies, Dance Limerick provides opportunities for dance to be created, experienced and discussed in many ways, by all ages. For further details, see www.dancelimerick.ie

ADDITIONAL INFO:

The Limerick Dance Collective – Artist Information

Lisa Cahill is an independent dance artist, whose practice integrates performance, choreography and facilitation, particularly in a community context. Her choreography and solo practice is evolving and continues to be strongly influenced by Lisa’s warm community spirit and dance work in this area. Lisa

holds an MA in Contemporary Dance Performance from the Irish World Academy at UL and a Graduate Diploma in Dance Education from UL. <http://lisacahilldance.com/>

Mark Carberry is an independent dance artist from Ireland. He works as a solo performer and in collaboration with artists whose work questions, challenges and extends the peripheries of dance, choreography and performance. Mark's performance work is informed by his daily movement practice in somatic training and improvisation techniques, taking shape in the form of performances, interactions, installations and happenings. <http://markcarberry.com/>

Lucy Dawson is a contemporary dance artist, photographer and film maker from Keith in Scotland. She trained at the Scottish School of Contemporary Dance in Dundee, the Northern School of Contemporary Dance in Leeds, where she received her BPA in Contemporary Dance Performance, and recently completed the MA in Contemporary Dance at the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance at UL.

Kristyn Fontanella is a dance professional with a broad range of experience in dance and theatre. Best known for her lead role in *Gaelforce Dance*, she has trained in many dance forms, which has taken her all over the world with professional touring companies, and has now transitioned into her unique expression as a choreographer. She holds an MA in Contemporary Dance Performance from the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance at UL. <http://www.kristynfontanella.com/>

Megan Kennedy trained at the renowned Alvin Ailey Dance Center in New York City and received a BA Honours Degree from Queen Margaret University in Edinburgh. She is Co-Artistic Director of the award-winning junk ensemble, based in Dublin, and has toured internationally with junk ensemble and other well-known theatre and dance production companies, including CoisCéim and Brokentalkers. Megan is a Director of Dance Ireland and a Fellow of Salzburg Global Seminar. <http://www.junkensemble.com/>

Lisa McLoughlin trained at the Rambert School, London. As a dancer she has performed extensively with companies such as the Liz Roche Dance Company, Daghda, Coisceim, Marguerite Donlon, Citog, Irish Modern Dance Theatre (IMDT) and Opera Ireland. As a choreographer she was awarded the Jane Snow Award for her choreography for *Tender Hooks of Honesty*. Lisa currently lectures in Dance at the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance at UL and is completing her MA thesis exploring Dance and Psychology. <http://www.irishworldacademy.ie/lisa-mcloughlin/>

Siobhan Ni Dhuinnin is a freelance dance artist based in Cork. A graduate of the MA in Contemporary Dance Performance at UL and the Northern School of Contemporary Dance in Leeds, Siobhan has recently worked with Croi Glan Integrated Dance Company and choreographers Laura Murphy and Helga Deasy. Previously she worked with choreographers Charles Linehan, Liz Roche and Mairead Vaughan, and Kathinka Walter and Company Chameleon in the UK. In 2014, Siobhan collaborated with visual artist Cait Ni Dhuinnin to create a short dance film *Clais*.

Isabella Oberlander is originally from Austria and studied at Anton Bruckner University Linz. Previously she was dance artist in residence (DMP) at Daghda Dance Company and part of the DanceWEB Scholarship Program at ImPulsTanz - Vienna International Dance Festival. Recently she performed *Optimism will kill as all*, at Supermarket – Independent Art Fair Stockholm, Sweden. In 2014, Isabella was co-curator of the Dance Limerick international symposium *Mind in the Flesh: Female Bodies in Contemporary Performance*. She is currently working as a freelance dance artist and choreographer based in Limerick.

Nina Pongratz

Nina Pongratz is a dance teacher and choreographer. A graduate of the MA in Contemporary Dance Performance at the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance at UL, Nina also holds a degree in Dance, Media and Communications from Muhlenberg College (USA). She has performed works by international choreographers, in addition to featuring as a guest dancer with David Parker and The Bang Group in *Nut/Cracked*. <https://ninapongratz.wordpress.com/>

Nora Rodriguez is a contemporary and classically trained dance artist and is a graduate of the MA in Contemporary Dance Performance from the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance at UL. In Mexico, Nora was co-director of the award-winning project CRÍAS, which won the Choreography Award for "Lila

Lopez" (2009 and 2011), and the Emerging Choreographer award for "Opera Prima" (2010). In Ireland, as one of the top young dance graduates from UL, she was selected for the *Step Up: Dance Project 2013*, a partnership between the Arts Council, Dance Ireland and UL, where she worked under the direction of Choreographers John Scott (Ire) and Marguerite Donlon (Ire/Ger).

<https://norarodrigueznino.wordpress.com/>

Angie Smalis trained and worked professionally as a dance artist in her home country of Greece before moving to Vienna, Austria in 2001 to join the Viennese Folk Opera (Volks Oper Wien). She relocated to Limerick in 2003 to join Daghdha Dance Company. Angie is an independent contemporary dance artist who also leads Limerick Youth Dance, Limerick Youth Theatre and Patterns Dance Collective, a group of contemporary dance artists with intellectual disabilities, based at The Hunt Museum, Limerick. Angie's own work has received funding from Culture Ireland and the Arts Council of Ireland.

<https://vimeo.com/angiesmalis>

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Further info: Maeve Butler, Dance Limerick (061) 467813 / maeve@dancelimerick.ie

PHOTO CAPTION:

Dance artist Lisa Cahill, one of the Limerick Dance Collective, an exciting group of Limerick based professional dance artists, who will present a series of new works at Dance Limerick on Thursday 30 April at 8pm. Entitled "Sum of Parts", this performance event is the culmination of a collaborative project and a wonderful opportunity to experience the diversity of the professional contemporary dance community in Limerick in the atmospheric surroundings and discrete spaces of St John's Church. Featured artists include Lisa Cahill, Mark Carberry, Lucy Dawson, Kristyn Fontanella, Megan Kennedy, Lisa McLoughlin, Siobhan Ni Dhuinnin, Isabella Oberlander, Nina Pongratz, Nora Rodriguez and Angie Smalis. Tickets €12/€10 available online at www.dancelimerick.ie

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