



XTRAX

XTRAX SHORTS

Saturday 21st June 2014
Festival Central Marquee

XTRAX showcases are supported by



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XTRAX SHORTS AT GDIF 2014

We are delighted to bring the fourth edition of XTRAX Shorts to the GDIF2014 showcase weekend.

XTRAX Shorts is designed to give artists an opportunity to present new ideas in a concise format and in a supportive environment, and to give showcase delegates a sneak preview of projects that are hoping to reach production or tour in the next season.

This model has proven success and many of the companies who presented work last year at XTRAX shorts, have gained bookings, or even commissions, as a result.

Outdoor Arts is thriving in the UK, and embraces a great diversity of art forms, concepts and scales. We are pleased to have such a great range of work from new and established artists to share with you.

We are also very pleased to be continuing our long-standing partnership with **ICEC CATALAN ARTS**, and on Sunday we offer you the opportunity to hear about new projects from artists based in Catalonia, selected by Jordi Duran, Artistic Director of FiraTàrrega. We extend our thanks to the Catalan artists for sharing their work at the festival and to ICEC and Fira Tàrrega for their continued support which has greatly contributed to the success of XTRAX Shorts.

The following pages will introduce you to all of the artists presenting at XTRAX Shorts this year.

Thank you to Angus Mackechnie for charing these presentations and thank you to all the artists who are sharing ideas with us at GDIF2014 and thank you to Arts Council England for supporting this programme through Grants for the Arts. We hope you will find the presentations of interest and we look forward to hearing your feedback.

The XTRAX Team

XTRAX SHORTS PRESENTING ARTISTS SCHEDULE

VENUE: Festival Central Marquee, Pepys Lawn
Old Royal Naval College, Greenwich SE10 9NN

SATURDAY 21st JUNE 2014

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| 10:00 -10:30 | Coffee and Networking |
| 10:25 | Welcome from Angus Mackechnie |
| 10:30-12:00 | XTRAX Shorts: Companies pitching about project to be presented in 2015/2016 |
| 10:30 | Corey Baker Dance – <i>Kapa Haka Tale</i> |
| 10:40 | Dizzy O Dare – <i>Wires</i> |
| 10:50 | Mimbre – <i>Time</i> |
| 11:00 | Drake Music, featuring Sonia Allori and Sheron Wray – <i>Seasons 4.0</i> |
| 11:10 | Company Chameleon – <i>Beauty Of The Beast</i> |
| 11:20 | Simon Mckeown – <i>Cork Ignite</i> |
| 11:30 | Alexander Whitley Dance Company – collaboration with Tal Rosner |
| 11:40 | 2faced Dance Company – <i>The Pod</i> |
| 11:50 | Meet the delegates and Networking: all delegates are invited to briefly introduce themselves. We invite you to join us for a drink whilst you meet other delegates and colleagues before the programme starts. |
| 13:00-23:00 | Festival Programme - Various Locations |



2Faced Dance Company

Tamsin Fitzgerald

Artistic Director

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Tamsin Fitzgerald is Artistic Director of 2Faced Dance Company. Tamsin's material demonstrates a unique, physical language that fuses break and contemporary dance that enables her to produce work that is bold, fearless and strikes at the souls of audiences. Previous work for 2Faced Dance includes *7.0*, *Out of His Skin* and *Two Old Men*. Commissions include *Wings of Desire* with Circa and *Watch This Space* with Hofesch Scheter for IDFB, *The Rock* for Moko and *Soap* for Circle of Eleven. Tamsin was awarded the Jerwood Choreographic Research Prize in 2013 and is researching an outdoor dance experience referencing club culture.

The Pod

The Pod (working title) will be a brand new outdoor theatrical dance experience that can tour to cities across the world attracting a diverse and new audience to contemporary dance. A new work that allows contemporary dance to be seen as cool, accessible and memorable and that can create a shared experience for those watching.

Aimed at audiences aged 18 – 35 who will spend on average £60 going clubbing, but won't spend £10 watching theatre, *The Pod* will be a truly unique immersive experience that orchestrates a succession of emotional bursts for the audience, generating emotions and changing perceptions.

The R&D for this project has so far involved the creative team looking into the effect of colour, light and sound on the brain, visits to iconic club nights in Berlin and Ibiza, interviewing and understanding what entices people to clubbing and visits to a variety of outdoor spaces. Questions we have asked have been, how can design and dance help trigger the same amount of adrenaline and hormones that drugs and alcohol provide?

The practical research with dancers and DJ's will take place in July and August this year.

Alongside myself the creative team working on the R&D of the project has involved Designer Garance Marneur who has produced work for The Royal Shakespeare Company, Novosibirsk Opera and Ballet Theatre and Scottish Dance Theatre, Tony Nominated composer Alex Baronowski, Lighting Designer James Mackenzie who has designed work for Hull Truck, The Unicorn Theatre and IDFB and Berlin based Circus Director Markus Pabst who has produced *Soap The Show*, *Dummy* and *La Clique*.

The end piece will involve contemporary dance, circus, live DJ's and mind-blowing projection to create an experience that will be truly unforgettable.



Alexander Whitley Dance Company

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Producer

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Choreographer Alexander Whitley has had works commissioned by the Royal Opera House, Sadler's Wells, Rambert Dance, Birmingham Royal Ballet and the Balletboyz. Recently nominated for the 2014 Times Breakthrough Award, South Bank Sky Arts Awards, Alexander has twice been nominated for the Critics Circle National Dance Awards. He is an Affiliate Choreographer of the Royal Ballet and a New Wave Associate at Sadler's Wells Theatre.

Tal Rosner is a BAFTA-winning artist and filmmaker. His work on multi-disciplinary collaborations, from orchestral music and contemporary dance to television graphics, has been described as 'most astounding' (The Times) 'ingenious' (Variety) and 'heralding a new genre' (The New Yorker).

This collaboration between choreographer Alexander Whitley and filmmaker/digital artist Tal Rosner is currently in its initial stage of development. The work is a site-specific intervention-event combining live dance performance, large-scale projection and music that would take place in a central location in each of the commissioning cities. At each site, a building will be selected for projection mapping and at street level, an elevated arena will be set up with a floor pattern derived from the architecture of the building marked out on the performance space. Cameras will be positioned above and to the sides of the ring to capture images of the dancers and props inhabiting the space from different perspectives.

Alternating between different camera angles, the projected image will be edited live, defining the narrative of the work and constantly changing the audience's perspective with the top-down camera making the floor pattern visible to the audience viewing the dance at ground level as it is seen from the top camera and projected onto the building. Through this multi-layered sensory experience, the full meaning of the work emerges between the two spaces for the duration of the event, a live feed of the recorded movement will be interwoven with pre-prepared segments of abstract graphics, both exploring the idea of bringing the building to life in an exciting and playful way.

The choreography will reflect the geometry and architecture of the building providing the structure and framework for floor patterns etc. but interpreted and abstracted into a site-specific movement vocabulary thus bringing a familiar inanimate structure to life in an original and thought provoking way. The choreography will also reflect on various imaginary storylines (human interaction, relationships) that could be found in the building during the day re-presented during the evening intervention. This new work explores both the building and human relationships from different perspectives and on different scales from the macro scale of societal structures and the movement of people across large spaces in cities, to the intimacy of interpersonal relationships unfolding in the confines of a room in the building.



Company Chameleon

Anthony Missen

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Company Chameleon Dance Theatre was formed in 2007, out of the collective vision of artists Anthony Missen and Kevin Edward Turner. Their collaboration began in 1994 at Trafford Youth Dance Theatre, they both received formal dance training at NSCD and upon graduating went on to work collectively and independently with some of the most innovative and exciting British and International Dance Companies/Choreographers. In creating Company Chameleon the duo have come together to develop and present their own works, alongside works from some of the UK's foremost contemporary choreographers. Through indoor/outdoor performances and educational programmes, they hope to support social cohesion and artistic understanding.

Beauty Of The Beast

Beauty Of The Beast is currently an indoor ensemble work being created in 2014 to premiere at The Lowry on 22nd & 23rd October 2014. Company Chameleon will be creating an outdoor ensemble work in 2015 that will explore themes from this original theatre work and will be redeveloped into a self-contained outdoor performance.

The outdoor version of *Beauty Of The Beast* will be powerful, explosive and energetic and will premiere in the UK summer festival season, to then tour throughout Europe. Similar to the indoor ensemble, the outdoor *Beauty Of The Beast* will be for five male performers. *Beauty Of The Beast* will involve the physical and performative exploration by five artists under the direction of Anthony Missen (who will also perform). Exploring male group behaviour in all its tribal glory, both ugly and beautiful.

The work is inspired by observations and theories of identity - reference groups where men's commitment to the group is so strong that affiliation to it is part of their identity; where pressure to conform to group norms is irresistible and inter-group rivalries can be highly competitive and hostile. The aim is to get under the skin of group members (affiliates of football teams, political movements and social groups of all kinds) to unpack the physicality and intimacy, both subtle and blatant, of peer pressure and tribalism in order to draw more universal conclusions about male relationships.

The work will draw on a long tradition within Company Chameleon of working thematically on male-relationships, extending the exploration through a larger cast of collaborators, whilst exploiting the proximity of the company's base close to the Old Trafford home of Manchester United through social connections of the artistic team. *Beauty Of The Beast*, as an indoor production is commissioned by The Lowry, DanceXchange and Live at LICA, Without Walls will commission the outdoor production.



Corey Baker Dance

Corey Baker

Artistic Director

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Corey Baker Dance was established in 2008 by New Zealand born Artistic Director Corey Baker. Corey has danced and created work in NZ, Australia, Switzerland, Germany, America and the U.K. Corey and the company specialise in outdoor work, bringing accessible shows to public places with the hope of sharing dance to a demographic not normally engaged with the arts. Corey is the assistant choreographer of *Spill* and Choreographer of *Headphones* both of which are outdoor works and currently touring the U.K festival scene. Corey's performance and workshop initiative *A Haka Day* is also currently touring. Corey is 'International Choreographer in Residence for International Dance Festival Birmingham 2014', through this role Corey created several new works.

Kapa Haka Tale

Kapa Haka Tale is a production that uses the beautiful and rich art form Kapa Haka, the native art of the Maori people from New Zealand. Kapa Haka involves poi & stick/weapon dancing, choral singing, tribal foot work and commonly known from the All Blacks rugby team, the Haka. Using this powerful form with native Maori performers and U.K contemporary dancers as well as rugby players and rugby movement and formations, Corey is creating a full-length show to tour to theatres around the Rugby World Cup 2015 (RWC) in association with Visit England 2015. Visiting host cities of games, *Kapa Haka Tale* is an hour-long show sharing the enchanting and misrepresented Maori people and art form in an accessible show that tells a beautiful Maori legend. Capitalising on the hype and audiences associated with the RWC. *Kapa Haka Tale* allows U.K NZ fans, dance audiences and the general public a cultural experience with a clear cross over between sports and dance.



Dizzy O'Dare

Alana Jones

Co Director

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Since 2008 Dizzy O'Dare have created a range of work for all ages from full-length outdoor circus shows to small intimate roam-about acts. Their bizarre and quirky style has led to the creation of many imaginative and original shows. *The Tiny Travelling Tightwire Show!* created in 2009 is still touring, has charmed audiences across Europe and been performed numerous times in French. *The Wonderful World of Mr E* has received great success, and the Dizzy O'Dare company are currently in talks with CBBC about turning the show into a children's television programme. The company also programmes events and festivals in Medway, Kent.

Wires

Wires is a 30-45 minute, non-verbal outdoor tight-wire show, using multiple tight-wires and an international ensemble of wirewalkers.

The show will explore the dynamics of multiple wirewalkers; their styles, personalities and relationships with each other on the wires, and the movement across multiple tight wires. The potential of the tight wire is more than just balancing, mere spectacle or working at extreme height; through dance, physical theatre and technique on the wire we will produce a contemporary, unique, provocative and powerful piece, using abstract devices to create a deeper resonating narrative.

The show is currently in the R&D stage, working with 4 tight-wire walkers, circus director Nordine Allal (Amiens circus school), tight wire artist Tatiana Bongunga (gold medalist at Cirque de Demain 2013), and dramaturge Hal Chambers (Tucked In Productions), among others. Through the R&D we are exploring choreographic techniques, musicality on the tight-wire and these innovations:

- 1) Using rigging on the wire to invert a performer under the tight-wire, mirroring the walker above to create a reflection and incorporate aerial circus skills.
- 2) Creating an 'audio tight-wire' - using contact mics on the tight-wire to sample and manipulate the vibrations and sounds the tight-wire makes, creating a live soundscape.

As one of the only companies in the UK that uses tight-wire creatively we have previously explored many of these creative notions but have not been able to bring them together in one piece. We now have a highly skilled ensemble of wirewalkers, as well as the equipment, rehearsal space and the creative experience to tie all these elements together.



Drake Music

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Drake Music has a 20-year history of breaking down disabling barriers to music through innovative approaches to teaching, learning and making music. *Seasons 4.0*, led by Sonia Allori in collaboration with Sheron Wray, is the first major commission in our Artistic Development and Innovation strand.

Sonia Allori is a Scottish/Italian composer, musician, music therapist and writer. She has a PhD in music composition and an MSc in Music Therapy. Sonia plays the clarinet, sax, bassoon, flute, whistles and performs with The British Paraorchestra. She has recently toured with Graeae Theatre Company's production of *Threepenny Opera* and is working to develop several mixed-media collaborative arts projects.

Seasons 4.0

Seasons 4.0 is developed by the composer and musician Sonia Allori, and nurtures her interests in Vivaldi's 'Four Seasons', electro-acoustic music, and cross-art form collaboration. Inspired by the contemporary resonance of Vivaldi's music and also the sonnets attached to the score, Sonia will create a new composition for electro-acoustic score and three live musicians, that leads a creative collaboration across dance, theatre and digital technology.

Alongside the musical composition, Sonia will work with the critically acclaimed choreographer Sheron Wray, the academic and technologist Fleeta Siegel, and the theatremaker Danny Braverman. Sheron will devise a choreographic piece in response to Sonia's composition, working with three dancers. Fleeta will work with the artists to develop a method of audience interaction, which invites audience members to input into the creative direction of the show using their mobile phones. Danny will provide dramaturgical input.

Together, the creative team will produce a new performance exploring how music affects and reflects the ways that people use space, with a focus on interaction between disabled and non-disabled people



Mimbre

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Mimbre create nuanced, breathtaking and highly-skilled acrobatic theatre. We use circus and dance innovatively as a physical language to illuminate human connections and promote a positive image of women. With an artistic voice that is physical and accessible, Mimbre build relationships with broad, non-traditional audiences and participants, creating unexpected moments in unusual spaces and reclaiming some beauty within the urban environment. Our performances and participation programme reach beyond social, financial and cultural boundaries and find fresh ways to engage, encourage and inspire people, showing that the impossible can be possible on a local, national and international level.

Time

Are a minute of sadness and a minute of happiness really the same length? Mimbre are looking for partners to support the development of their new, exciting, large-scale production for 2015. *TIME* is a highly visual production, using acrobatics, dance and film-projections with digital interactive techniques, to explore one of humankind's most complex questions: "What is Time?"

The Show

'Time flies', 'time froze', 'the longest minute of my life'. The feeling of time is relative, but we still try to measure it, schedule it and live it using the nano-seconds, minutes and hours that we think define it. *TIME* will use the strength of dance and acrobatics to explore the absolute and relative nature of time mixed with film and animation to create an ever changing set and transport the story beyond the here and now. *TIME* promises to be a visual extravaganza as well as an emotional journey of explosions and stillness. It will express the feeling of eternity and your fear of time running out. It will try to encapsulate the feeling of that immeasurable minute of happiness...

Staging and Audiences

The set will be made out of towering scaffolding compartments illuminated with projection mapping to become a live and evolving design, framing the performers and animations in a way that makes it visible and accessible for audiences of up to approximately 2000.

The location for the show can therefore be quite different from one performance or festival to the next – in a large venue, in a park, a square or in abandoned urban spaces. We are looking for partners interested in discussing unusual ways of presenting the show – including using factories or industrial spaces and making it more of an event with additional exhibitions, interactive digital elements, bar and music.

Digital technology – audience reach and interaction

Digital technology will be integral to the creation process and audience reach as well as the production design, allowing the audience insight and involvement in the creation process throughout the process. We have researched ways in how to use social media to reach hyper-local audiences as well and see this as a great chance to develop new audiences in partnership with commissioning festivals.



Simon Mckeown

Simon Mckeown

Director

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Exemplary digital artist Simon Mckeown is developing a new large-scale outdoors event, exploring his interest in the 'representation of difference' an ambitious mix of performance, participation and projection. The project has a significant collaborative element and this is central to its development.

In 2012 Simon was awarded his own London 2012 commission and took part in two other London 2012 Festival projects widely recognised as a watershed moment for contemporary disability art. These were: Motion Disabled Unlimited; Visual Director for Prometheus Wakes for GDIF and Stockton International Riverside; and an extensive outdoor projection event for M21 – Dash Arts.

Cork Ignite

Simon Mckeown is developing a new large scale outdoors commission in Cork (Ireland), '*Cork Ignite*', which will use a mix of digital technology and disability ethos and culture, featuring a significant collaborative element to drive large scale projection, audio and inflatable work. Simon has considerable creative and technical skills and this project will continue his examination of the spaces around disability, body form and difference in new and exciting ways.

Cork Ignite is supported by artist resource and commissioning body the National Sculpture Factory (Ireland), collaborative arts agency Create (Ireland), FACT (UK) and Teesside University. We are currently exploring possibilities to develop *Ignite* into a viable touring event that will draw thousands to UK cities or towns.

Ignite would be bespoke to each location, through collaboration with local disabled communities. Early on at the tour location there would be a creative residency week with 12 – 15 people with disabilities, using the studio floor as a storyboard frame, using stop frame animation with a ceiling based camera. This process will allow wide access for all capabilities with the ability to contribute at both a conceptual and physical level using card, paper and paint, wheelchairs and floor based bodies.

Simon is also exploring other interactive elements such as a bespoke interactive computer game engine to control projection material in real-time, responding to a musical keyboard and or other devices such as hand held computer game app to aid audience engagement. He will also be investigating the possibilities of Video Projection in Stereo 3D – projecting material with the public wearing 3D glasses.

We are also proposing an optional exhibition programme featuring film and photography, text based display and projection demonstrations plus a panel discussion featuring Simon Mckeown and other key UK practitioners within the field of Arts + Disability.

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