

PRESS RELEASE – 30 April 2019



DANCE UMBRELLA ANNOUNCES FURTHER LINE-UP FOR FESTIVAL 2019 INCLUDING **DU DEBUTS FROM FEATURED ARTIST OONA DOHERTY**; COMMISSIONED ARTIST **MYTHILI PRAKASH**, AND **PHILIPPE SAIRE**; PLUS THE RETURN OF **GREGORY MAQOMA**; A SUNDAY CINEMA PROGRAMME AND THE DU LECTURE

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London's international festival of contemporary dance takes place across the capital from 8 – 27 October 2019.

Emma Gladstone, Artistic Director and Chief Executive of Dance Umbrella, introduces the programme *'Dance Umbrella is on the move. This year we will be reaching audiences right across the capital, travelling to more locations than ever before with performances made by choreographers hailing from Africa, Australia, USA and of course Europe. Imagination is the force that makes change possible, and as creators, inventors, thinkers and dreamers they have things to share with all of us. Roll on October.'*

Oona Doherty (Northern Ireland) is **DU19's Featured Artist**. She will be presenting London premieres of two works, curating one of three afternoons of short dance films at the Barbican and creating work with girls as part of DU's *Access Croydon* programme.

***Hard to be Soft* – London Premiere**

Southbank Centre's Queen Elizabeth Hall: Friday 11 October 8pm

Having picked up awards at Dublin and Edinburgh Fringe Festivals, Oona Doherty makes her London debut at Dance Umbrella with her searing evocation of the city streets of Belfast. *Hard to be Soft* unfolds over four distinct verses and, in a tender tribute, weaves everyday stories into a tapestry of mesmerising movement, religious iconography and haunting sound by DJ **David Holmes**. Doherty's unpredictable style and unique way of structuring her work, together with her knack for confounding conventions, has made her stand out as a highly original talent whose work is charged with raw physicality and poetic desire.

Presented by Dance Umbrella in partnership with Southbank Centre

***Hope Hunt & The Ascension into Lazarus* – London Premiere**

The Yard: Monday 14 – Wednesday 16 October 7.30pm

Oona Doherty's solo performance is bursting with fury, swagger and humanity. *Hope Hunt* shatters facades, dismantles stereotypes and finds beauty on the periphery. Doherty adopts multiple personas of disaffected male youth – too often disregarded and stigmatised – and channels aggression, humour, hedonism, joy and despair in quick-fire succession.

Fragmented and meticulously detailed, her intuitive social portrait vibrates with blistering physical and vocal energy. Gestures, words and utterances combine in a wholly distinctive body language, contorting ideas of masculinity and morality. Doherty invites audiences to look behind the mask of ego and affectation.

Presented by Dance Umbrella in partnership with The Yard

Gregory Maqoma (South Africa) – *Cion: Requiem of Ravel's Bolero* – UK Premiere

Barbican: Thursday 17 – Saturday 19 October 7.45pm

A rousing dance theatre work, *Cion* transfixes us with choreography of rhythmic dexterity and ecstatic intensity to the sounds of a live South African choir.

Making his third Dance Umbrella appearance since 2015, celebrated dancer and choreographer Gregory Maqoma is Toloki – a paid mourner confronting a world in which greed, power and religious ideology lead so often to the normalisation of needless death and loss. Inspired by the protagonist from South African author Zakes Mda's stories, this physical lamentation unfolds to the musical motif of Ravel's *Bolero*, reinterpreted here through stirring song and percussion by four traditional vocalists joined onstage by eight gifted artists from Vuyani Dance Theatre.

Maqoma, who sees art as a commentary on how we treat others, created this soaring piece as a response to contemporary political events in his own country and globally.

Presented by Dance Umbrella in partnership with the Barbican

Mythili Prakash (USA) *Here and Now* – World Premiere

Part of DU: FAIRFIELD TAKEOVER

Fairfield Halls: Friday 18 October 7.30pm

Selected by Akram Khan as his 'choreographer for the future' as part of DU's 40th anniversary commissioning initiative ***Four by Four***, LA-based Mythili Prakash presents a world premiere as part of DU's takeover of Croydon's gleamingly refurbished Fairfield Halls for a captivating start to the weekend's events. Classically trained in the Indian dance form Bharata Natyam, Mythili's first contemporary work features live percussive and vocal accompaniment with lighting by Guy Hoare.

Fairfield Takeover is the latest and largest scale phase of DU's ongoing relationship with Croydon and the full weekend programme will be announced in May.

Commissioned by Dance Umbrella

Produced and presented by Dance Umbrella in partnership with Fairfield Halls

Supported by Croydon Council

Philippe Saire (Switzerland) *Hocus Pocus* – London Premiere

Various London venues 11 – 26 October – see listings for full details.

For DU19's London Orbital Tour, Lausanne-based choreographer **Philippe Saire** directs a dreamlike spectacle, with dance, theatre and stage trickery set to music from Grieg's *Peer Gynt*. Igniting the imaginations of children aged six+, this international hit features two awesomely dextrous performers, vivid costumes and eerie props. Voyage into the unknown with this bewitching gem of a family show, in which gravity dissolves, bodies bravely contort and optical illusions conjure other worlds.

A Dance Umbrella Orbital Tour in partnership with artsdepot, Fairfield Halls, Stratford Circus Arts Centre, The Albany, The Place and Watermans

Presented at the Barbican Cinema, **Dance Umbrella Sunday Shorts** brings three mixed bills of choreographically inspired films curated by DU19 featured artist Oona Doherty, *Out of the System* curator Freddie Opoku-Addaie and Independent Dance Co-Director Gitta Wigro to the big screen.

Dance Umbrella: Sunday Shorts 1 – Oona Doherty

Barbican Cinema: Sunday 13 October 3.30pm

Dance Umbrella: Sunday Shorts 2 - Freddie Opoku-Addaie

Barbican Cinema: Sunday 20 October 3.30pm

Dance Umbrella: Sunday Shorts 3 – Gitta Wigro

Barbican Cinema: Sunday 27 October 3.30pm

Curated by Dance Umbrella, presented in partnership with Barbican Cinema

Dance Umbrella Lecture: The Role of the Artist in Cultural Democracy

François Matarasso (France) in conversation with **Lyn Gardner**

National Theatre, Cottesloe Room: Wednesday 9 October 5pm

Community artist, writer and researcher, François Matarasso is a firm believer in the positive outcomes of people's participation in art and he continues to combine community arts practice with research and consultancy all over the world. His latest book *A Restless Art, How participation won and why it matters*, was published by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation in 2019; www.arestlessart.com

A Dance Umbrella event in partnership with the National Theatre
Supported by One Dance UK

Previously Announced

Gisèle Vienne (France) - Crowd - UK Premiere

Sadler's Wells: Tuesday 8 – Wednesday 9 October 7.30pm

<http://www.danceumbrella.co.uk/event/crowd/>

Supported by the Institut Français as part of FranceDance UK

Four by Four Commission: Georgia Vardarou (Greece) - Why Should It Be More Desirable... - World Premiere

Lilian Baylis Studio, Sadler's Wells: Wednesday 23 – Thursday 24 October at 8pm

<http://www.danceumbrella.co.uk/event/why-should-it-be-more-desirable-for-green-fire-balls-to-exist-than-not>

A Dance Umbrella Commission

Presented by Dance Umbrella in partnership with Sadler's Wells

-ENDS-

For further information please contact The Corner Shop PR on 020 7831 7657

[Laura Myers](#) | [Augustin Wecxsteen](#)

UPDATED FESTIVAL LISTINGS

CROWD – GISÈLE VIENNE

Sadler's Wells: Tuesday 8 – Wednesday 9 October 7.30pm; Tickets: £20-£25; On sale now

<http://www.danceumbrella.co.uk/event/crowd/>

Press Night & Free Post show Talk: Tuesday 8 October at 7.30pm

DANCE UMBRELLA LECTURE:

THE ROLE OF THE ARTIST IN CULTURAL DEMOCRACY

FRANCOIS MATARASSO IN CONVERSATION WITH LYN GARDNER

National Theatre, Cottesloe Room: Wednesday 9 October 5pm; Tickets £10/£8; On sale mid May

<http://www.danceumbrella.co.uk/event/dance-umbrella-lecture-2019/>

HARD TO BE SOFT - A BELFAST PRAYER – OONA DOHERTY

Queen Elizabeth Hall, Southbank Centre: Friday 11 October 8pm; Tickets: £22/£18; On sale 2 May <http://www.danceumbrella.co.uk/event/hard-to-be-soft-a-belfast-prayer/>

Press Night: Friday 11 October at 8pm & *Talking Amongst Ourselves* (DU's popular audience-led discussion, giving audiences a chance to share opinions with your fellow audience members)

HOCUS POCUS – PHILIPPE SAIRE

Press Night: **Watermans Arts Centre:** Friday 11 October 8pm; On sale in August

The Albany: Sunday 13 October 2.30pm and 5pm; On sale in August

Fairfield Halls: Friday 18 October 11am and 4.30pm; On sale 8 May

The Place: Saturday 19 October 2.30pm and 5pm; On sale now

artsdepot: Thursday 24 October 11am and 2pm; On sale now

Stratford Circus Arts Centre: Saturday 26 October 11am & 2pm; On sale now

Tickets from £6 check venues for details <http://www.danceumbrella.co.uk/event/hocus-pocus>

DU: SUNDAY SHORTS 1 – OONA DOHERTY

Barbican Cinema Sunday 13 October 3pm; Tickets £12/£11 concs; On sale 1 May

<http://www.danceumbrella.co.uk/event/du-sunday-shorts/>

Hope Hunt promo - Oona Doherty & Luca Truffarelli (UK 2017)

Concrete Song - Oona Doherty, Dave Tynan, Hugh O'Connor (UK 2017)

Lazarus & the Birds of Paradise - Oona Doherty & Luca Truffarelli (UK 2016)

Sugar Army - Oona Doherty & Luca Truffarelli (UK 2018)

Meat Kaleidoscope - Oona Doherty & Luca Truffarelli (UK 2018)

Helium - Oona Doherty & Luca Truffarelli (UK 2018)

Heartbreak - Dave Tynan (UK 2017)

Sonny - Rubber Bandits (UK 2017)

Dad's Best Friend - Rubber Bandits (UK 2014)

Here and Through - Luca Truffarelli (UK 2016)

The Wilderness Within - Luca Truffarelli & Neil Fleming Brown (UK 2019)

HOPE HUNT & THE ASCENSION INTO LAZARUS – OONA DOHERTY

The Yard: Monday 14 – Wednesday 16 October 7.30pm; Tickets: £14; On sale now

<http://www.danceumbrella.co.uk/event/hope-hunt-and-the-ascension-into-lazarus>

Press Night: Monday 14 October

Tue 15 October: Free post-show talk

DU: FAIRFIELD TAKEOVER – HERE AND NOW - MYTHILI PRAKASH
Fairfield Halls: Friday 18 – Saturday 19 October 7.30pm; Tickets £12; On sale 15 May;
<http://www.danceumbrella.co.uk/event/du-fairfield-takeover/>

CIION: REQUIEM OF RAVEL'S BOLERO – GREGORY MAQOMA
Barbican: Thursday 17 – Saturday 19 October 7.45pm; Tickets £16 - £28; On sale now
<http://www.danceumbrella.co.uk/event/cion-requiem-of-ravels-bolero>
Press night: Thursday 17 October 7.45pm
Fri 18 October 7.45pm: Free post-show talk

DU: SUNDAY SHORTS 2 – FREDDIE OPOKU-ADDAIE
Barbican Cinema Sunday 20 October 3pm; Tickets £12/£11 concs; On sale 1 May
<http://www.danceumbrella.co.uk/event/du-sunday-shorts/>
THICK AND GREY - Jorge Crezis and Jesus Robisco (ES 2013)
Ina (Light) - Aneil Karia & Alesandra Seutin | Vocab Dance (2018)
Ease On Down - The Motion Dance Collective (UK)
Line Dance - Alex Reuben (UK 2004)
Don't Look at the Finger - Hetain Patel (UK 2017)

WHY SHOULD IT BE MORE DESIRABLE... – GEORGIA VARDAROU
Lilian Baylis Studio, Sadler's Wells: Wednesday 23 – Thursday 24 October at 8pm
Tickets £17; On sale now <http://www.danceumbrella.co.uk/event/why-should-it-be-more-desirable-for-green-fire-balls-to-exist-than-not>
Press Night & Free Post show Talk Wednesday 23 October
Wednesday 23 October: Free post-show talk

DU: SUNDAY SHORTS 3 – GITTA WIGRO
Barbican Cinema Sunday 20 October 3pm; Tickets £12 / £11 concs; On sale 1 May
<http://www.danceumbrella.co.uk/event/du-sunday-shorts/>
Vertical - Eddie Frost (UK)
Bhairava - Marlene Millar (CA)
Pilgrimage - Marlene Millar (CA)
Swarm - Emma Miranda Moore (UK)
Cargo - Jasmin Ellis (DE)
Crashing Waves - Emma Gilbertson (UK)
Separate Sentences - Austin Forbord (USA)
JA:PA - Jiri Karmasin (CZ)
Globe Trot - Mitchell Rose (USA)

NOTES TO EDITORS

About Dance Umbrella

Dance Umbrella is London's international Dance festival. We shine a light on new choreography every October, sharing memorable shows from around the world with audiences across the capital.

We are committed to taking dance out and bringing audiences in by touring in inner and outer London, broadening definitions of contemporary dance, and developing partnerships with non-dance venues and organisations such as The Big Draw, National Theatre, Battersea Power Station and local councils.

Founded in 1978, Dance Umbrella has reached audiences of well over a million people. Pioneering commissions by world class choreographers have been presented at sites ranging from the Royal Albert Hall and inner-city rooftops, to Tate Modern and outer London parks. Emma Gladstone was appointed Artistic Director & Chief Executive in 2013, and in addition to the festival, Dance Umbrella now runs digital projects, creative learning schemes and professional development programmes throughout the year.

danceumbrella.co.uk

BIOGRAPHIES

Oona Doherty

Northern Ireland based choreographer Oona Doherty has created and performed dance and theatre works with companies and artists including TRASH (NL) Abattoir Ferme (BE), Veronika Riz (IT), Emma Martin /United Fall (IE) and Enda Walsh (UK). She won the Major Individual Award from the Arts Council of Northern Ireland in 2017 for *Hard to be Soft - A Belfast Prayer*. Accolades for *Hope Hunt and the Ascension into Lazarus* include Dublin Tigre Fringe Best Performance Award 2016, the Edinburgh Fringe Total Theatre Award 2017, The Place Dance Award Edinburgh Fringe 2017 and (RE) Conisance Choreographic Grenoble 1st Prize Jury and 1st Prize Audience Vote. Her newest work *Lady Magma* premiered recently at the Atelier de Paris.

Gregory Vuyani Maqoma

Born in Soweto Gregory Vuyani Maqoma became interested in dance in the late 1980's as a means to escape the political tensions growing in his place of birth. He started his formal dance training in 1990 at Moving into Dance where in 2002 he became Associate Artistic Director. He founded Vuyani Dance Theatre (VDT) in 1999 when studying at P.A.R.T.S in Belgium under the direction of Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker. Since 2000 he has collaborated with choreographers such as Akram Khan, Vincent Mantsoe, Faustin Linyekula, Dada Masilo, Shanell Winlock and Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui.

Several works in his VDT repertoire have won accolades and international acclaim, including winning the FNB Vita Choreographer of the Year three times. In 2017 Maqoma was honoured by the French Government with the Chevalier de L'ordre des Arts et Lettres (Knight of the Arts and Literature award).

His 14-18NOW collaboration with visual artist William Kentridge, *The Head and the Load*, has sell out performances at Tate Modern last year and his choreography for *Tree* – a collaboration with Idris Elba and Kwame Kwei-Armah, will premiere at MIF this summer.

François Matarasso

François Matarasso is a community artist, writer and researcher. Between 1979 and 1994 he worked with communities in London and the East Midlands. He subsequently began to explore the theory, experience and outcomes of people's participation in art through research, such as *Use or Ornament?* (1997).

His work has been widely published and translated. He has served as trustee of NESTA, Arts Council England and the Baring Foundation and held honorary professorships in the UK and Australia. He continues to combine community arts practice with research and consultancy, and has worked in many countries, from Colombia to Kyrgyzstan.

His latest book *A Restless Art, How participation won and why it matters*, was published by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation in 2019; www.arestlessart.com

Mythili Prakash

Classically trained in the Indian dance form Bharata Natyam, Mythili Prakash grew up in Los Angeles learning from her mother/dancer Viji Prakash, and is currently mentored by dancer/choreographer Malavika Sarukkai. She performed her solo debut at eight years old and has since presented her work worldwide. Her full length solo choreographies include *Stree Katha*, *Yamuna*, *Seasons of Love*, *Chandalika*, *Aikya*, and *Jwala- Rising Flame*. She has also collaborated with musician Anoushka Shankar in *Svatantraya*, with director Gowri Ramnarayan in *Yashodhara*, and with brother/musician Aditya Prakash in *MARA*. She has worked with Director Ang Lee in the film *Life of Pi* and was featured on *NBC's Superstars of Dance*. A recipient of numerous accolades, Mythili has recently been nominated "choreographer of the future" by Akram Khan for one of Dance Umbrella's *Four by Four* commissions. She will also be performing in Akram Khan's latest touring production, *Outwitting the Devil*.

Philippe Saire

Swiss choreographer Philippe Saire has created more than thirty shows. His company Compagnie Philippe Saire, founded in 1986, contributed significantly to the emergence of contemporary dance throughout Switzerland and in 1995 opened its own workspace in Lausanne; the Théâtre Sévelin 36. Saire's awards include the Grand Prix by the Fondation Vaudoise pour la Promotion et les Créations Artistiques, the Prix d'auteur of Conseil général de Seine-Saint-Denis (France) for his piece *Étude sur*

la Légèreté and the Swiss dance and choreography prize awarded by ProTanz Zurich. In 2013, Théâtre Sévelin 36 was the laureate of the “Prix spécial de danse” awarded by the Swiss Federal Office of Culture.