

Dance Theatre of Ireland
presents

BLOCK PARTY

A playful performance for public places
Choreography: Robert Connor & Loretta Yurick
Live Music: Brian Fleming & Friends
Set Design: Andrew Clancy



Dance Theatre of Ireland
Bloomfields Centre
Dun Laoghaire
Co. Dublin, Ireland

danceire@iol.ie
+353 1 2803455
www.dancetheatreireland.com



BLOCK PARTY

“...wide eyes, grins and approving nods, ...dancers spilled in and out of structures, ...transformed into couches, houses ...limitless possibilities... joyous leaps, sprints..., and Dance licks...such fun...real stars ”



IRISH TIMES

Block Party - Artists

Robert Connor & Loretta Yurick

Robert Connor & Loretta Yurick have been at the forefront of contemporary dance & mixed media in Ireland throughout their careers as performers, choreographers, teachers and producers. They are founders, principal choreographers and Artistic Directors of **Dance Theatre of Ireland**, Ireland's premiere dance company. They have created over 30 original dance theatre works, most utilising original music and design with some of Ireland's finest artists, including artists Robert Ballagh, Nigel Rolfe, writer/director Joe O'Byrne, and musician Pól Brennan (Clannad), among others.



Recently their work (**EXODUS, WATERMARK, AS A MATTER OF FACT, EVIDENCE, SOUL SURVIVOR, PRISM**) has incorporated Digital Technologies and video, including motion capture & 3-D Digital animation. Their work has toured to **Korea, Italy, UK, France, Sweden, Netherlands, Germany** and has been presented at many international Festivals including **The Montpellier International Dance Festival, the Biennale de la Danse, Val de Marne, Paris, Tanzwochen Dresden, Monaco Dance Forum, London Greenwich Docklands, Dublin Theatre Festival, the Seoul Performing Arts Festival**, and to every major theatre in Ireland. They are founding Members and former Officers of the Association of Professional Dancers in Ireland (Dance Ireland). In 2000, Irish President Mary McAleese officially opened their **Centre for Dance** in Dun Laoghaire, where, under their direction, more than 3,000 people now dance yearly, commenting: "You are powerful Ambassadors for the exhilarating language of dance...".

Robbie Harris, Composer

Robbie Harris is a highly accomplished and versatile bodhrán player and percussionist. Over the years he has performed or recorded with artists such as Emer Mayock, Moya Brennan, Brian Kennedy, Damien Demsey, Finbar Furey, Eileen Ivers, Secret Garden, Zoe Conway, Hector Zazou, Sami Moukaddem, Rodrigo y Gabriela and **Kila**. After having toured extensively with Riverdance-The Show he joined the Broadway production in New York in 2000. While living there he was a guest lecturer at The Julliard and The New School, NYC. He compiled and released a double album called Pure Bodhrán a collection of 19 of the leading exponents of the drum from all over Ireland. In 2004 he and Dave Boyd conceived and composed *Elements* a percussion show for The Ark, Dublin. In 2005 in the Dublin Theatre Festival and in 2007 at The Barbican London he was percussion director of *The Bull* by Michael Keegan Dolan and acclaimed dance theatre company Fabulous Beast. He was musical Director with City Fusion a street theatre performance that featured 75 drummers and went on to win best pageant award in the St. Patrick's Festival 2007.



He has worked on theatre shows with The Abbey, Teatrul National Bucuresti, The Ark, Rough Magic, Corn Exchange, Passion Machine, Macnas, Barnstorm, Siamsa Tire, Rubato Ballet and Dublin Youth Theatre. Film credits include Moll Flanders, Gold in the Streets and Mystics.

Brian Fleming, Musician

Brian is the world-famous, much loved leader of the Afro-Irish music group **De jimbe**, with whom he has played at festivals in Cuba, Gambia, Senegal, France, Bangladesh, Expo 2000 in Hanover and at the World Drum Festival, Seoul Drum Festival and at the Opening Ceremony of the FIFA World Cup in Korea. A compatriot and colleague of Robbie, he has played traditional Irish music in every country in Western Europe and Scandinavia and in the USA, Japan and Singapore.



Brian plays percussion from around the world but specialises in the traditional Irish percussion instruments the bodhrán and bones. He has recorded on over 25 albums, played on several soundtracks for film and TV and has worked extensively in theatre in Ireland as a musical director and musician, including with the Irish National Theatre, The Abbey and for major civic events & spectacles such as 'The Parable of the Plums' 2004, involving 170 performers (as part of Dublin's centenary celebrations honouring James Joyce and Oíche); and the opening night spectacle of *St Patrick's Festival* in Dublin 2006. He is credited in the Guinness Book of World Records 2001 as one of the designers of the Millennium Drum, the world's largest drum, built for the *Millennium Drum Carnival*, which he directed. Brian has also co-directed one of the most exciting new additions to the Dublin events calendar, *The Big Bang Drumming Festival*. Dejimbe.com

Andrew Clancy, Visual Design

Andrew Clancy is a sculptor, living and working in Dublin. He has exhibited widely and has undertaken both private and public commissioned works.



He has also designed the following productions: Opera Theatre Company's production of Hansel and Gretel (2007), Pan Pan's production of Oedipus Loves You (2006), Raw's production of The System (2006), Chasing The Whale's Tale, a play for 3-6 year olds for Sticky fingers (2006), Pan Pan's One Project (2005), The Ark, Childrens Cultural Centre- Save the Robots (2005), Opera Theatre Company's production of Bug-Off (2004), Pan Pan's production of Mac-Beth 7 (2004), Opera Theatre Company's production of Hamelin (2003), Seandailiocht Dance show touring Gaeltacht Area (2002), Triangles, National Youth Theatre for the Deaf (2002), Pan Pan's production of Deflowerfucked for the fringe festival (2001), Opera Theatre Company's production of The Magic Flute (2001).

Block Party (2010-11)



Block Party is a portable performance for public spaces designed to be performed at festivals, venues, events—both indoor and outdoor - including parks, plazas, museums, public buildings and piers.

With choreography by DTI Artistic Directors Robert Connor & Loretta Yurick, design by Visual Artist Andrew Clancy and live music composed by Robbie Harris & performed by *Brian Fleming and Friends*, it is a work for five dancers, 3 percussionists playing live, in an unusual and eye-catching performance incorporating giant Toy Blocks and live percussion & music.

The work is designed for presentation in a number of configurations (utilizing the blocks). It can be presented in its entirety (30 minutes) or it can be presented in 5-10 minute modules. The various sections are derived from the set up of the blocks themselves which (before your very eyes) are transformed into **Jumping Castles, Living rooms, Playgrounds, Dolmens or catwalks**. The giant light-weight blocks are made of polystyrene covered with a soft zote foam.

Block Party is a vibrant show—in colour and sound, for the whole family. The giant toy blocks permit a custom arranged installation setting, constantly changing in design and—by nature of its visual impact, scale & sound—attracting an audience. **It can be performed inside or outside, in a variety of locations and presents an imaginative work** involving dance, design, music, architecture and surprise. Brian Fleming is founder/director of the Afro-Irish music group *De jimbe* and one of Ireland's most respected percussionists.

BLOCK PARTY! is a performance for public areas: colourful, playful, imaginative and theatrical reaching new audiences for dance, collaborating with some of Ireland's best musicians—an event in and of itself.

Choreography: Robert Connor & Loretta Yurick
Dancers: Kathleen Doherty, Khyle Eccles, Jessica Rowell, Adam Murphy, Cosimo De Tommaso
Design Artist: Andrew Clancy
Music Composed by Robbie Harris; performed by Brian Fleming, Hugh O'Byrne, Robert Connor
Costumes: Nicola McCutcheon



Block Party - Dancers



Kathleen Doherty

Kathleen became a member of the Ssins Company in Wales in 2006. She began her training with Cynthia O'Dúnlaig, a ballet teacher in Ireland and then continued her dance education at the Florida State University. Kathleen has twice been voted *The Irish Young Dancer of the Year for Ballet and Contemporary Dance* by L Dance's (Shawbrook Ballet School). Since training at the Northern School of Contemporary Dance, Kathleen has worked for Mork-Dans (UK), Irish Modern Dance Theatre, Cois Ceim and has performed in Block Party with Dance Theatre of Ireland, since 2007. Kathleen enjoys reading and drawing in what little free time she gets and other interests include falling over, singing at the top of her lungs when no one is around, staring into space and farming crystals.



Khyle Eccles

Khyle's love of street and break dance led him to train at Rambert School of Contemporary Dance & Ballet graduating recently and studying with Ross McKim and Darshan Singh Bheller, among others. He has performed with in the UK with Barebones, and with Upswing Ariel dance Company and with Fleur Darkin and Mavin Co. He has performed in **Block Party!** since 2008 with **Dance Theatre of Ireland**.



Sandro Francini

Sandro trained at the Ballet and Contemporary Academy of Performing Arts in Rome, Italy. He has appeared in many stage shows including *Dracula*—Opera Rock Arena, 2006 and in the *Jesus Christ Superstar* Italian tour with Carl Anderson and Amij Stewart Ensemble. He is now based in London and this is his first production with **Dance Theatre of Ireland**.



Jessica Rowell

Jessica Rowell is a graduate of London Contemporary Dance School. Her work in Ireland includes; Direction of 'Maximum Exposure' site specific dance festival, funded by Waterford City Council. For Animated State Dance Theatre Company *Eat, sleep, breathe...dance*, a public engagement with dance, *Samsara* a trio for two dancers and a pianist and *Happendsdance*, an interactive dance and sound installation. As a choreographer her work has been presented at dance festivals in Ireland and Europe. She is co-director of a creative dance programme with the Down Syndrome Ireland Association and is an experienced facilitator of dance within the community. This is Jessica's first time performing with Block Party! and she is delighted to be on board!



Adam Murphy

Adam trained at the Northern School of Contemporary Dance, mentored by Vivian Wood, Newcastle. He has worked with several choreographers in Newcastle, including Neville Campbell and Scott Richie. He has worked for FFIN dance on a tour of Wales and London with choreographer Sue Lewis for the past three years, as well as Julia Thornycroft in "Four". Since September 2008 he has danced with British Choreographer Henri Ougike in London. Adam teaches in London. Adam has performed with **Dance Theatre of Ireland** since 2008



Cosimo De Tommaso

Cosimo trained in ballet and contemporary dance and received full scholarships to the Cunningham Dance Foundation, Academie d'Danse Classique "Princesse Grace" Monte Carlo, and Tersicore, Brindisi. Before moving to the United States in 2002 to join the original cast of Celine Dion's *A New Day*, Cosimo performed with several European companies including Purple Lotus, Metros, and IT Dansa. He performed in **Dance Theatre of Ireland's Evidence** and **Handle with Care** and in **Block Party** since 2008. Throughout his career, he has received several awards including a Critic' Award at the Dance Festival-Rome, as well as 1st Place Awards at the San Donatello D'Oro, Dance Festival Latina, and Dance Festival Lecce.

Block Party - Technical Requirements

Basic TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS “Block Party”

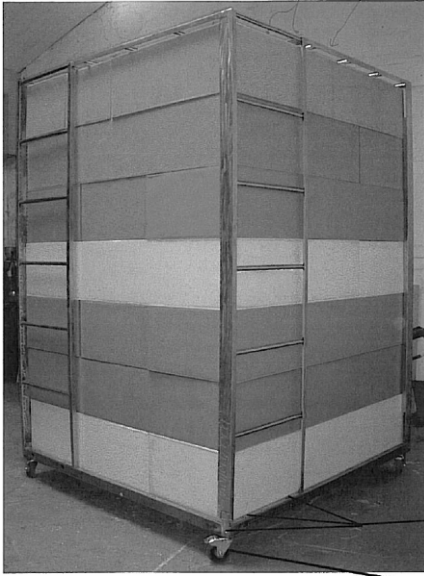
Open Air Performance (subject to favourable climatic conditions)**

Programme Duration: Full show :approximately 30 min. or performed in 10 or 20 min. sections

Performances can be repeated a number of times over a four to five hour period.

1. **COMPANY: 10– 11 people total**
 - 5 Dancers,
 - 3 Musicians
 - 1 Artistic Director
 - 1 Technical Staff (including Transport—Driver)
2. **Set Up:** 2-3 hours Strike: 1 hour. (photos of site required)
3. **Local Crew & marshals (from Festival/Venue) 2-3 Tech crew to assist in Get-in/Get out**
At least **4 –5 Marshalls** (Volunteers—Minder/Security persons) on site at all times—from get-in and set-up of instruments through performance. They are also needed for **crowd control** throughout the day, between & during performance. Assistance with Loading and Unloading.
4. **Playing Area**
Performing area can be indoors or outdoors; **Ideal size: 11 m wide by 10 m deep**; PLUS area for the Musicians at the side—approximately: 2.5 x 2.5 metres.
Minimum Playing area: 9 m wide by 8 m deep ; other shaped spaces are possible (plus area for musicians as above).
Flat clean surface imperative - wood, concrete, tile or other (preferable).
5. **Dressing Area / Changing Area**
One large room (or 2) within the local vicinity of the performance space is requested
6. **Transportation—provided by Festival/venue**
Ground transport for Performers (cars or public transport from accommodation to site— **provided by Festival/Venue**) (The company Truck travels with the set & instruments)
DTI Vehicle Size Length 6.5m x height 3.1m x Width 2.1m)
Parking for the DTI Vehicle to be provided by the Festival/Venue
7. **Instrument list (supplied by Dance Theatre of Ireland)**
 - Drum Kit** – 5 Piece, Cymbals, Hi-Hats
 - Taiko** – Okedo Daiko + Stand
 - Taiko** – Nagado + Stand
 - Bass Drum** -- 36” Drum+ Stand
 - Balafon** – African Xylophone + Stand
 - Bongos** – Latin Percussion + Stand
 - Djembe** – x 3, African Hand Drums + Stand
 - Shakers** – Selection of Shakers
 - Agogo Bells** – Brazilian Bells
 - Tamborim** – 6” Brazilian Frame Drum
 - Spring Drum** – 7” x 16”
 - Wind Wand**

8. Set /Costume - provided by Dance Theatre of Ireland.



Foam rubber blocks (28 in number - 9 cubic meters volume). They are Rectangles, triangles, and a few circles.

(approximate size of each rectangle: 6ft x 2 ft x 14 inches).

Metal Cage (190cm x 190cm x 250 cm). Set is transported by van and can be wheeled in its cage.

Costumes including Umbrellas & Coats.

Flag: Dance Theatre of Ireland Flag. Telescopic Flag pole with base. Flag pole is 5 m tall; base 1 meter squared. Base is stabilized with water.

Set (provided by Festival/Theatre): 5 litres of water. For stabilising flag (above). (There are five 3ltr water containers to travel with the flag.) PLUS 2 sheets of 4 x 8 plywood for musicians (if on grass).

9. Set/technical facilities - to be provided by each venue:

*Full Tech assistance on site from Festival or venue with loading & unloading (2-3 Tech Crew)

*Flat clean surface, pavement, plaza, cement or wooden floor, preferably not grass

*Floor Flat and Clear of debris

*5 Litres of for stabilizing Flag (above)

*2 sheets of 4x8 plywood for musicians (if performance is on grass)

10. Accommodation (with breakfast) Provided by Festival/Venue

****11. Alternative site (indoors) in case of rain—to be specified by Festival/Venue**

This is a general specification and can be adapted to particular situations.

