

BIOGRAPHY

PHILIPPA DONNELLAN | CHOREOGRAPHER / TEACHER / ARTS FACILITATOR

Email: philippa.donnellan@gmail.com

Philippa Donnellan trained in Contemporary Dance Technique at the Martha Graham School, New York, and gained an M.A in Dance Studies from Surrey University, UK. Philippa worked as a professional dancer and teacher in UK and Europe, before joining CoisCéim Dance Theatre in 2006 to help establish BROADREACH participation and engagement programme, for whom, she has facilitated residencies, associations and partnerships with a number of leading Irish institutions.

As Director of BROADREACH, Philippa has led a range of projects with different communities of age, place and location. From 2007 to 2015 she directed an annual Dublin City Council/BROADREACH performance project for people aged 50+ for Age & Opportunity/Bealtaine Festival. Philippa has collaborated with many artists, among them musician Brian Fleming on *The Beat Project* (2013) and *Striking Moves* (2014) –two intergenerational dance/music projects presented at the Big Bang Festival of Rhythm, Dublin. And with theatre maker Noelle Brown on *Emily*, a poetry and performance project inspired by author Emily Dickenson.

From 2013 – 2016 Philippa coordinated the Teacher Education strand of CoisCéim's 3 Year Dance Residency/School of Arts Education & Movement, DCU (formerly PE Unit, St Patrick's College, Drumcondra), and in 2015-2017 led Creative Dance Tales, a workshop series for primary school children in parallel with CoisCéim's production *The Wolf and Peter*.

In 2016, Philippa directed an intergenerational women's performance project *38 WOMEN* with performances at the National Museum of Decorative Arts, Collins Barracks for the public engagement strand of ANU /CoisCéim co-production *THESE ROOMS*. In 2017 Philippa was invited as guest artist in residence to Hyde Park Art Center in Chicago, USA to present material about *38 WOMEN* as part of (Re)Public exhibition, supported by CREATE National Development Agency for the Arts and Culture Ireland. In April 2017, Philippa directed performance piece *Off The Walls* with young /older people, inspired by visual artist Theresa Nanigian exhibition *Trying to Behave* at DCC the LAB Gallery, commissioned by DCC Arts Office for Crinniu na Casca Festival.

In 2018, Philippa directed *Dance Latitudes* – a dance, architecture and performance project for people aged 50+ which culminated in performances during Culture Night, and *Shoreline* - an intergenerational choral song and contemporary dance project, supported by DLR Arts office, DLR LexIcon and Pavilion Theatre. From 2019 -20 Philippa led *Exit 15 Dance Project* an extended community arts project in Ballyogan, commissioned by Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown/Voluntary Arts Ireland/Queens University, Belfast, and directed Phase 1. *THE DOOR*, a dance theatre project for people ages 50+ commissioned by Age & Opportunity/Bealtaine in partnership with the National Concert Hall and Fatima Groups United. Most recently, she has led 3 digital dance projects: the Choreography Project #17 for adults *Odd Recipes & Unusual Routines*; for people aged 50+ *Love Letters*, and for Creative Steps Youth Dance group *Last of the Big Shoes*.

Philippa Donnellan | Independent artist 2013 – 2020

As an independent dance artist, in 2013 Philippa was awarded funding from DLR Arts Office, Kildare County Council and a Dance Ireland residency to develop new dance piece *Pat & Patricia* with dancer Mónica Muñoz Marín, touring to older audiences in care & community centres. In 2014 she was awarded an Artist in the Community Award, Dance Limerick Residency and a DCC Dance Bursary to undertake research project *Tasty Habits*, concerning relationships to food.

In 2017, she was awarded an Arts Council Dance Artist in Residence at axis, Ballymun and a Dance Ireland residency to develop *BODY OF WORK | What's the story?* a new creative research and performance

collaboration with local Ballymun communities, which was presented at axis, Ballymun as part of Dublin Dance Festival 2018. In 2019, BODY OF WORK (men's piece) was presented as part of a symposium on men, movement and mental health at Rua Red, Tallaght. In the same year, Philippa began a second collaborative project exploring themes of women and work with a local women's community as part of a Percolate Residency at Dance Limerick, supported by an Arts Council Participation Bursary Award.

Philippa currently leads weekly dance classes with Fatima Groups United, Dublin, and aids development of their arts and culture programme Fatima Arts for All. Following a Research Grant awarded by Kildare County Council Arts Service in 2019, she is also embarking on new dance/sociological research on *themes of work; practices and patterns* with communities in Kildare 2020-21.

SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT and COLLABORATIVE ARTISTIC PRACTICE

In engaging with diverse communities, my movement and performance-based practice places the individual at the heart of the creative process – and focuses on shared creation, dynamic exchange and building a sense of inclusivity, pride and ownership. This approach is collaborative in nature and coloured by a sense of spontaneity and fun, where play, chat, and laughter are interwoven with rigorous and challenging inquiry. Artistic collaboration with communities takes time and requires a flexible approach on all levels. My role as a dance artist alternates between that of teacher, facilitator, director and choreographer. My methodologies are varied and interdisciplinary, and embrace different dance styles and other art forms and technologies in order to respond to the diverse needs, demands and interests of each specific community and setting.