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Swimming with My Mother

Office of Arts + Cultural Programming

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Dr. Susan A. Cole, President
Daniel Gurskis, Dean, College of the Arts
Jedediah Wheeler, Executive Director, Arts & Cultural Programming

Regional Premiere!

CoisCéim Dance Theatre

Swimming with My Mother

Performers **David Bolger, Madge Bolger**
Concept and Choreography **David Bolger**

Lighting Design **Eamon Fox**
Sound Design/Additional Composition **Ivan Birsthite, Vincent Doherty**
Projection Artist **Jym Daly**
Stage Manager **Clive Welsh**
Bench Design **Ken Bolger**
Carpenters **Sean Kennedy, Ian Thompson**
Publicity **Conleth Teevan**
Photography **Maria Falconer, Jym Darling, and Clive Welsh**
Production **CoisCéim Dance Theatre**

Deep End Dance

Performers **David Bolger, Madge Bolger**
Director **Conor Horgan**
Writer and Choreographer **David Bolger**
Original Music **Michael Fleming**
Director of Photography **Richard Kendrick**
Editor **Roisin O'Donnell**
Producer **Martha O'Neill, WildFire Films**
An **Arts Council/RTÉ Dance on the Box** commission

CoisCéim Dance Theatre is funded by the Arts Council of Ireland, Culture Ireland, and Dublin City Council.



Swimming with My Mother premiered as a work-in-progress at the Dublin Dance Festival, 2010.

Deep End Dance was produced as part of the Arts Council/RTÉ Dance on the Box scheme, 2010.

Duration: 50 minutes, no intermission.

In consideration of both audience and performers, please turn off all electronic devices.
The taking of photographs or videos and the use of recording equipment are not permitted.
No food or drink is permitted in the theater.

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Montclair State's **Office of Arts & Cultural Programming (ACP)** presents and produces leading artists of the world in dance, music, theater, and opera. Under its signature series Peak Performances, ACP has produced works such as *Zinnias: The Life of Clementine Hunter* by Robert Wilson, Bernice Johnson Reagon, Toshi Reagon, and Jacqueline Woodson; *Dog Days* by David T. Little and Royce Vavrek; Harry Partch's *Oedipus*; and Ridge Theater's *The Difficulty of Crossing a Field* by David Lang. In addition, ACP has commissioned works by Bill T. Jones, Kronos Quartet, Jan Fabre, Liz Lerman, Wayne McGregor, Laurie Anderson, Romeo Castellucci, Richard Alston, Susan Marshall, Fred Hersch, and David Gordon.

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The 2013/14 season is made possible in part by funds from:

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Peak Performances

THE 2013|14 SEASON

Regional Premiere!

CoisCéim Dance Theatre

Swimming with My Mother

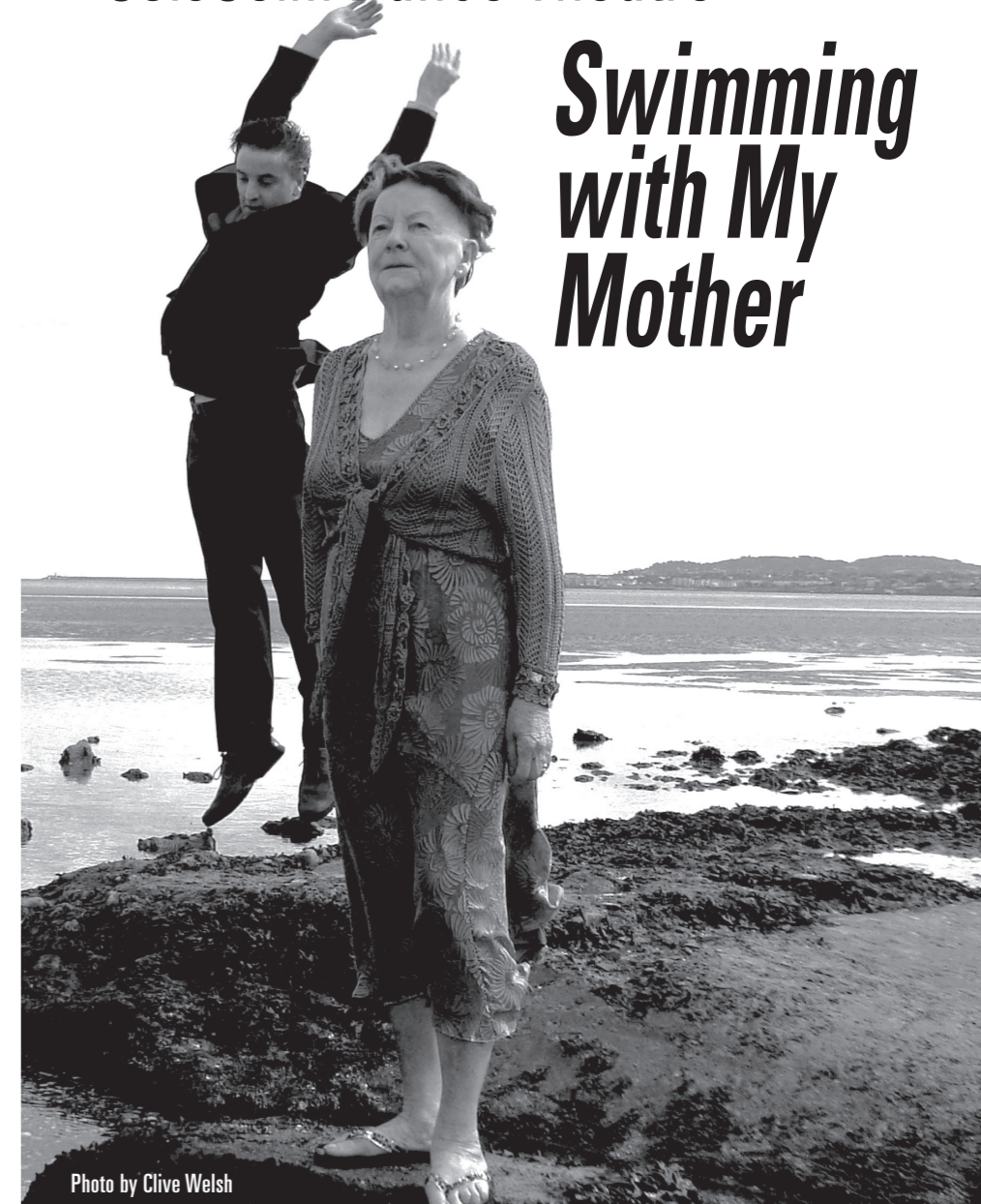


Photo by Clive Welsh

May 10 & 11, 2014

Alexander Kasser Theater



MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY



Program Notes

Having been familiar with David Bolger and CoisCéim's work primarily via watching videotapes, it wasn't until I saw the revival of *Knots* at Project Arts Centre in 2008 that I really got hit with the electricity of CoisCéim. And the highest voltage onstage was David himself.

David Bolger with his mother, Patricia, in a scene from Swimming with My Mother.

A modest man, beyond the conventional prime age of a 20-something dancer, David had mostly taken himself out of his work. In summer 2009, we sat down to talk about what might make sense for the company to present in Dublin Dance Festival 2010, given that they had a season in January 2010 with two major premieres. In addition, his most recent pieces had been group works created in collaboration with writers, directors, and visual designers. Given all that, I said I would love to see him perform and would he consider making a solo for himself? After a pause, he responded that he'd actually been thinking about making a duet with his mother. He told me about her having been a swimming instructor and how she was still doing a mile a day. Now, I've been a swimmer all my life (though only managing 1/2 mile these days), so I loved this idea.

David Bolger with his mother, Patricia, in a scene from Swimming with My Mother.

It also fit in with one of the Festival's themes regarding the role of different bodies and ages in contemporary dance. I left that meeting thrilled beyond belief at the prospect of this duet. Having seen Madge perform in CoisCéim's Bealtaine show *La vie en rose* at Dublin City Hall in May 2009, I had first-hand experience of her magnetism onstage. It was clear this would be a magical collaboration.

David Bolger with his mother, Patricia, in a scene from Swimming with My Mother.

As they say, the rest is history. David and Madge made a beautiful film in a real swimming pool and created a poignant live duet incorporating a theatrical hint of a pool and the Irish Sea. The movement vocabulary is evocative. The relationship of mother and son comes full circle. She taught him to swim, he taught her to dance. They are a superbly well-matched team. It's a privilege to be in the company of the honesty, integrity, and love of *Swimming with My Mother*.

David Bolger with his mother, Patricia, in a scene from Swimming with My Mother.

David is still modest.

David Bolger with his mother, Patricia, in a scene from Swimming with My Mother.

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David Bolger with his mother, Patricia, in a scene from Swimming with My Mother.

About the Artists

David Bolger (Performer/Concept and Choreography) is the artistic director and co-founder of CoisCéim Dance Theatre. His work has been seen by millions of people worldwide and has received prestigious awards for its innovation, performance, and choreography. Over the last two decades, Bolger has directed and choreographed over 20 original productions for CoisCéim, including the award-winning *Swimming with My Mother*, *Touch Me*, *Pageant*, *Missing*, and, most recently, *Agnes*. He has also written and choreographed extensively for film, most notably the multi-award-winning dance films *Hit and Run* (CoisCéim/Rough Magic Films) and *Deep End Dance* (Wildfire Films). Bolger has received numerous choreographic commissions including

Tanztheater Freiburg/Heidelberg, Fidget Feet Aerial Dance Company, Druid Theatre Company, Cameron Mackintosh, the National Theatre (London), the Guthrie Theater (Minneapolis), Abbey Theatre (Dublin), Spoleto Festival, and Riverdream's *Heartbeat of Home*. He made his opera direction debut in 2004 with Gluck's *Orfeo*, which received an *Irish Times*/ESB Theatre Award and became the first Irish opera to be invited to the State Theatre (Wiesbaden). Other opera work includes *Idomeneo* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Opera Ireland), *La Traviata* (English National Opera), and Nicholas Maw's *Sophie's Choice* (Royal Opera House, London). Bolger has been a member of Aosdána since 2007.

Madge Bolger (Performer) is a qualified swimming teacher and lifeguard and has a teaching certificate in synchronized swimming. Over the years, she has specialized in teaching parent and baby classes in the Marian College swimming pool. Bolger has a keen interest in dance and as a child attended the Connie Ryan School of Dance. She subsequently performed at the Gaiety Theatre, Dublin, and in 2010 performed *Swimming with My Mother* at the Dublin Dance Festival and was featured in *Deep End Dance*, an Arts Council/ RTÉ Dance on the Box commission, directed by Conor Horgan and produced by Wildfire Films. *Swimming with My Mother* also has toured to Paris and Edinburgh. Bolger now keeps fit, swimming half a mile five times each week and attending weekly water aerobic classes. She regularly attends CoisCéim's dance classes for older people and performed in *La vie en rose* as part of the Bealtaine Festival in 2009.

Eamon Fox (Lighting Design) has created lighting designs for CoisCéim productions including *Missing* and *Boxes*. Other recent lighting designs include *Stones in His Pockets* (Pat Moylan Productions); *Carmen* (Ballet Ireland); *Table Manners*, *Freedom to Go*, and *Stopping at Red Lights* (Nightstar Dance); *Mortuus est Phillippus* (Philip Connaughton); *In this Moment* and *Fall & Recover* (Irish Modern Dance Theatre); *The Memory of Water* (national tour, Theatre Royal Productions); *Eternal Rising of the Sun* (Hot for Theatre Productions); *The Merchant of Venice*, *Macbeth*, *King Lear*, and *Hamlet* (nominated for an *Irish Times* Theatre Award; Second Age Theatre Company);

Observe the Sons of Ulster Marching Towards the Somme (Nomad Theatre Network); *Unraveling the Ribbon* (Guna Nua); *It Only Ever Happens in the Movies*, *A Dream Play*, *The Seagull*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* at the Peacock Theatre and *The Old Lady Says No!* at the Samuel Beckett Centre (National Youth Theatre); and *Talking to Terrorists*, *I Have Before Me...*, and *Five Kinds of Silence* (nominated for an *Irish Times* Theatre Award). He has also designed for Calypso Productions, Gallowglass Theatre Company, Landmark Productions, Calipo Productions, Team Theatre, Queens University Belfast, Ransom Productions, Aisling Ghéar (Belfast), Dublin Youth Theatre, The Corn Exchange, Upstate Theatre Company, Live Theatre Newcastle, Glasthule Opera Society, and Co-Opera.

Ivan BIRTHISTLE and **Vincent DOHERTY** (Sound Design/Additional Composition) work together on a collaborative basis. Past work includes *Agnes*, *Missing*, *Dance Talking*, *Pageant*, *Touch Me*, *As You Are*/*Faun*, and *Boxes* (CoisCéim); *The Absence of Women*, *Dockers*, *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*, *Dancing at Lughnasa*, *Much Ado about Nothing*, *Shadow of a Gunman*, and *True West* (The Lyric); *The Boys of Foley Street* and *Laundry* (Anu); *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, *No Escape*, *Playboy of the Western World*, *Saved*, and *Alice Trilogy* (Abbey Theatre); *Tiny Plays for Ireland 1 and 2*, *The Great Goat Bubble*, *End of the Road*, *Big Ol' Piece of Cake*, and *Rank* (Fishamble); *Freefall*, *Mud*, *Foley*, and *Lolita* (The Corn Exchange); *The Sanctuary Lamp* and *Honour* (b*spoke); *Pentecost* (Rough Magic); *Pineapple* and *Chatroom* (Calipo); *Miss Julie* and *Blackbird* (Landmark); *Ladies and Gents* (Semper Fi); *Over the Wire* (Derry Playhouse); and *Romeo and Juliet* (Second Age).

Jym DALY (Projection Artist) began his career at the Crawford Municipal Art Gallery in Cork, Ireland, becoming involved in all aspects of local theater from acting to set design. Making his first animation in super 8, he received an award from the South Bank in London. After a one-man exhibition, he found hanging art on walls far too limited in terms of expression and was attracted to the world of performance art. He used all forms of media, including film, sound, a goat's head, and a ladder. Forming a group that left to take on the bigger playing field of London, Daly attracted the attention of London's avant-garde scene by playing kitchen sinks along with Chinese violins in nightclubs such as Camden Palace. Never feeling any one art form to be fully satisfactory, he worked in several fields, from playing with music groups like Psychic TV to acting with theater groups such as Wet Paint while keeping a hand in the art world. He later found himself involved in the development of a new sound combining spiritual music from around

the world with dance beats. Loop Guru toured for many years, leaving a rich legacy of albums. Daly also created videos for the band and a cartoon that ran in a national music magazine. His eclectic artistic past now culminates in Fidget Feet aerial dance company, co-founded with his wife, Chantal McCormick, where music, film, dance, acting, and swinging boats off cranes co-exist peacefully in one expression.

Clive WELSH (Stage Manager) has worked with CoisCéim Dance Theatre on *Pageant*, *Touch Me*, *Intimate Details* (Ryder Cup Opening Ceremony), and *Swimming with My Mother* (also national and international tours). Other work includes *Howie the Rookie* and *The Talk of the Town* (Landmark Productions); *Love and Money* and *Further than the Furthest Thing* (Hatch Theatre); *The Lulu House* and *Macbeth* (Siren); *Plaza Suite* (Rough Magic); *Slattery's Sago Saga* (The Performance Corporation); *Five Ways to Drown* (Junk Ensemble); *Rank* and *Turning Point* (Fishamble); *Macbecks* (Long Road and MCD Productions); *Cinderella*

Clive Welsh at the Dublin Dance Festival 2010.

Clive Welsh at the Dublin Dance Festival 2010.

About the Company

CoisCéim Dance Theatre was founded in 1995. CoisCéim's style of performance is contemporary and vibrant, with a knowing regard for the everyday. Artistic director David Bolger embraces a selection of dance styles to articulate stories and emotions that are relevant to the landscapes in which we live. The scale of the company's work ranges from duets in a hotel bedroom, *Chamber Made*, to the large-scale spectacle *A Dash of Colour* (which was seen by millions on television and involved over 75,000 people for the opening ceremony of the Special Olympics, 2003). National and international touring is a key element of the company's work. In addition to a national tour, CoisCéim will be performing in the United States and at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in 2014. The company conducts an original and comprehensive art-form awareness and participation program through CoisCéim Broadreach.

Swimming with My Mother received the Argus Angel Award at the Brighton Festival 2012 and the award for Best Production at Limerick Unfringed 2011.

Clive Welsh and David Bolger performing at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival 2014.

Deep End Dance was nominated for an Irish Film & Television Award in 2011 and won Best Short Film at the Boston Irish Film Festival. To date it has been seen by more than 99,000 people on Vimeo.

and *Snow White* (Gaiety Theatre); *Off Plan* and *Under Ice* (RAW Theatre); *King Ubu* (Galway Arts Festival); and *Saved*, *Woman and Scarecrow*, *The Recruiting Officer*, *A Number*, and *Terminus* (Abbey Theatre). Work in opera includes *Thérèse*, *La Navarraise*, *The Golden Ticket*, *The Ghosts of Versailles*, and *Italian Postcard* (Wexford Festival Opera); *A Streetcar Named Desire* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Opera Ireland); and *The Pearl Fishers* (Anna Livia Festival). Welsh also works on large-scale arena events for Sulu Management, the European Rugby Committee, and the Union of European Football Associations.

CoisCéim Dance Theatre at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival 2014.

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