

TESS LETHAM

INDEPENDENT DANCE ARTIST

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PERSONAL STATEMENT

I am a versatile and thoughtful dance artist, experienced in many forms of contemporary practice, through having the privilege of working with a variety of inspirational choreographers, teachers and artists.

My own creations, with current emphasis in improvisation and physical theatre, utilise the experiences encountered in my life to draw upon, constructing both obscure and deeply authentic environments, bringing the audience fully into an intriguing theatrical world.

*I have spent the last six years studying the methods of *Flying Low* and *Passing Through*, created by David Zambrano, which has become a main focus of my teaching practice - I am an ambassador for sharing this work across Scotland and further afield. This has also become a vital part of my individual movement practice and philosophical understanding of what dance represents in the wider context of community and culture. I have also recently started to teach improvisation for performance, developing a practice that can cross disciplines and encouraging people to use their own life to express themselves through their chosen form.*

Within my whole practice I seek an open and encouraging environment, nurturing the possibility to share, discuss, feedback and discover ideas with others.

PERFORMANCE

- **AGE**, David Zambrano - TicTac Art Centre, Brussels
- **Something Smashing**, Dance Base Festival 2019, Heads Up, Edinburgh. WIG, CCA, Glasgow.
- **Epic Fail** - *Cultured Mongrel* - Imagine International Children's Festival 2019, Dance Base, Edinburgh.
- **Instructions on How to Cry**, Anahat Theatre - Edinburgh Science Festival, Scottish Storytelling Centre, Edinburgh.
- **How to Survive the Future**, Tess Letham Dance, Hidden Door Festival 2017, Dance Base - Heads Up 2017, The Space, Dundee/ Brighton Fringe 2018 / Dance Base Fringe Festival 2018 /DANCELIVE 2018 Aberdeen, Flock Festival 2019 The Riley Theatre - Northern School of Contemporary Dance, Leeds.
- **Making Her Mark**, Mairead McClean - production by The Wapping Project, North Uist
- **Ring Time**, Monica Wilkonson - Dalcroze UK, Drygate Brewery, Glasgow
- **R.I.O.T**, PanicLab, Lancaster Arts, Pavillion Dance, Bournemouth / Edinburgh Fringe Festival 2015, Zoo Venues /The Place / Stratford Circus, London /Unity Theatre, Liverpool /Cambridge Junction and Dance City, Newcastle.
- **Lauda Adrianna** - Stephen Pelton, Cottier Dance Project, Glasgow / City Moves, Dance Live Festival, Aberdeen.
- **Sound to Sea by Cryptic** - *All or Nothing*, Glasgow Science Centre, Commonwealth Festival 2014, Glasgow.
- **Held Up** - *Underhand Dance*, Dance Hunt, Citymoves, Aberdeen
- **Like Losing a Limb** - *Underhand Dance*, Cottier Dance Project, Glasgow /Dundee Rep Theatre /Dance Base's Playground and Dance Base Festival Programme: Heads Up, Edinburgh.

- **Flying High** - *All or Nothing*, Charity Gala, Macrobert Arts Centre, Stirling.
- **Tam O' Shanter** - *Kevin Williamson, Neu! Reekie*, Yes Scotland Campaign Burns Supper, The Hub / Neu! Reekie Alternative Burns Night, Pilrig Church, Edinburgh and Neu! Reekie, Aberfeldy Festival.
- **Rabble** - *Underhand Dance*, Pivotal, Eden Court, Inverness. Fourth Valley Schools Tour, Macrobert Arts Centre.
- **Toxic** - *PanicLab*, Touchwood at The Place, London.
- **Lustrum Soloist** - *Gary Clarke*, Dance Base, Edinburgh.
- **The Voyage** - Motionhouse, in collaboration with Legs on the Wall, London 2012 Festival, Birmingham.

INTENSIVE PROFESSIONAL TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

- **60 DAYS, David Zambrano**, Improvisation for Performance, TicTac Arts Centre- Brussels, supported by **Creative Scotland** through Open Project Fund
- **EX-IN 2018, David Zambrano**, One month, Flying Low and Passing Through advanced techniques, Corfu, Greece
- **Passing Through Intensive, David Zambrano**, One month, Sicily, Italy, 2017
- **EX-IN 2014 David Zambrano**. One month long training programme in Flying Low and Passing Through advanced techniques, supported by funding from **Creative Scotland**, Ponderosa, Germany.
- **Flying High** Aerial Harness Training Program with **All or Nothing**, Scotland, 2013-2014
- Participant at **Festival Deltebre Dansa** 2013, supported by professional development funding from **Creative Scotland**, Deltebre, Spain

QUALIFICATIONS

- 2012-2013 *Recipient of **Dancers Emerging Bursary Scheme** at Dance Base, Edinburgh*
- 2011-2012 ***Northern School of Contemporary Dance** - Postgraduate Apprenticeship -
Motionhouse*
- 2007-2011 ***Scottish School of Contemporary Dance**
(1st Class BA Honours Contemporary Dance Performance)*

TEACHING

- **Flying Low, Passing Through & Improvisation Workshops:** Scottish Dance Theatre, G25 - St Margarets House, Northern School of Contemporary Dance, Dance Base, LIEUES, GRIT, Yorkshire Dance, POZA Project, Kinning Park Complex, The Scottish School of Contemporary Dance, Petite Mort Company.
- **Professional classes:** Scottish Dance Theatre, Barrowland Ballet, Talent Garden- International Dance Competition 3.0, ProDance Leeds, Dance Base (including Pro Festival Classes), Citymoves, Alan Greig Dance Theatre, PanicLab and Motionhouse.
- **Community, Student and Youth: Creative workshops and technique classes:** Fusion Youth Dance Company, Lane Yoga, Edinburgh University Modern Dance Society, DannsEd, Dance Base, MGA, Edinburgh College (PASS) students, YDance, Scottish School of Contemporary Dance, Northern School of Contemporary Dance, Scottish Dance Theatre Youth Group, Motionhouse for The Quest including: B.O.A, Coventry Youth Performance & Quest Adults.

CREATIONS

- **Remedy for Memory**, in collaboration with Alice Wilkins, residency at Dance Base (September 2019)
- **Of all the Earthly Things** - Commissioned by Citymoves Dance Agency for Fusion Youth Dance (April 2019)
- **How to Survive the Future**, supported through residencies at Dance Base, Edinburgh (Feb 2017 & April 2018) and The Brunton, Musselburgh, hosted by **Room 2 Manoeuvre** (May 2018)
- Two week residency at Espacio LEM, Buenos Aires, Argentina (Jan 2016)
- **Go Somewhere**, in collaboration with Paola Di Bella, one week residency at Dance Base, Edinburgh (Dec 2015)
- Choreographer for **YDance Routes Connections Weekend** (Nov 2015)
- **I'd really like to have a car one day**, BA Degree students at the Scottish School of Contemporary Dance (Dec 2014)
- **Remedy for Memory**, in collaboration with Alice Wilkins, two week residency at Dance Base, Edinburgh (Dec 2014)
- **I go from here** R&D, Solo Research, one week Creative Lab at Dance House, Glasgow (June 2014)
- **We go from here** R&D, residency at Dance Base, awarded the **Dream Time** residency, Studio on the Green (Oct 2013)
- Solo research for **Dancers Emerging Bursary Scheme**, Dance Base, Edinburgh (Dec 2012)
- **Will They See Me?** Greenside Venue, Edinburgh Fringe (Aug 2011)

RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT/ OTHER PERFORMANCE/ COLLABORATIVE

- **PanicLab collaboration**, Research project in times of COVID-19
- **Untitled Disco Project**, ShotPut, research project for Imagine Accelerator Programme 2020.
- **Something Smashing**, Organiser of monthly improvised music and dance performance events.
- **Cagoule Productions**, Film project for Skyscanner, Edinburgh
- **PanicLab and Mark Ravenhill**, Prologue Project, Arts Admin, London
- **Alan Greig Dance Theatre**, Goddess, Dance Base, Edinburgh, Dance House, Glasgow
- **Angus Balbernie**, Slanted, Showcase at Dance Base, Edinburgh
- **Claire Hughes**, Life Beyond Cancer R&D, Dance Base and The Brunton Theatre, Musselburgh

REFERENCES AVAILABLE ON REQUEST