## Programme Notes

## *AIRE*

## *For My Mother*

## Kirstie Simson

This solo was created to honor my mother who passed away in 2012. When she left us her spirit rose up to fly with the birds. This solo is my wish for all women to fly free.

Kirstie Simson (UK) shares her passion for the exploration of freedom in this autobiographical dance solo/duet performance.

Through the use of humour, eye contact, dialogue and proximity, the performer invites the audience to join her on a journey as she negotiates her way through present moment decision-making that is inherent in improvised performances.

With light-hearted spontaneity, through the use of movement and text, this master performer affirms the fundamental positivity of life. She draws on the wisdom of her ancestors as she weaves her parent’s stories with her own recent confrontation and subsequent healing from a life-threatening illness, in a work that celebrates the depth of human connection and potentiality.

Kirstie always invites an older woman from the place where she performs to be alongside her on stage as a witness, translator, and co-performer.

Part of the charm of the piece is the unfolding of the relationship of these two women who meet for the first time just one hour before the show begins.

**Kirstie Simson**

Kirstie Simson (UK) has been a continuous explosion in the contemporary dance scene, bringing audiences into contact with the vitality of pure creation in moment after moment of virtuoso improvisation. Called "a force of nature" by the New York Times, she is an award-winning performer and teacher who has "immeasurably enriched and expanded the boundaries of New Dance" according to Time Out Magazine, London. Kirstie is renowned today as an excellent teacher, a captivating performer, and a leading light in the field of Dance Improvisation with a dance practice that spans over four decades.

From 2008 – 2020 Kirstie held a position as a tenured professor in the Department of Dance at the University of Illinois. In August 2020 she returned to her home base in Wales from where she continues to share her work internationally. Her work reflects a changing focus as she explores the relevance of artistic practices that help to develop resilience in the face of catastrophe, using her own experience of negotiating a life-threatening health issue in 2020 as a foundation for her research.

Kirstie’s current inquiry considers how embodied intelligence will be advantageous as we undertake the momentous challenge to shift our consciousness from a human-centric perspective to a lived understanding that we are an integral part of the whole of life – as an important ground for addressing the climate emergency.

Kirstie is excited to have served on the Academic Advisory Board for the Black Mountains College in Wales, where she will also be teaching in the future. BMC is a cutting-edge Academic Institution who have developed an academic/practice-based curriculum marrying the Arts and Sciences - an innovative degree course of planet-centric education towards building a better future. The BA in Ecological Futures will launch in September 2023.