

east coast dance arts

March 26 - April 1 2026

Enjoy the beauty of this festival by taking part, watching, visiting, and dancing.

info@screendance.ie

www.screendance.ie

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east coast dance arts

Art of Dance
Making Dance
Making Screendance

Venues

Dance House, Dublin 1

March 26 - April 1 2026

Mermaid Arts Centre, Bray

City Of Dublin FET College

Inchicore

See Website for Ticket Prices

East Coast Dance Arts is a yearly event that celebrates training, performance, screendance, discussion and craft with particular emphasis on the Art of Dance in its many forms.

For programme details go to screendance.ie

ECDA is proud to be one of twelve European partners, representing Ireland, selected to participate in Graham For Europe's centennial celebration of the Martha Graham Dance Company, with events taking place across Europe in 2026. www.grahamforeurope.com





Welcome to East Coast Dance Arts

Hello and welcome to festival season 2026! I am thrilled to be able to bring the Art of Dance in its many forms to you again this year; my dedicated and creative team and I have curated a varied and exciting programme for you, building up to our ninth year of festival output.

East Coast Dance Arts was born in Bray, and this year, as ever, we will finish the festival with ECDA: Live at Mermaid Arts Centre. While we have a growing and naturally unfolding area of Ireland's East Coast to play in, we balance our activities between the capital, Dublin, and the garden county of Ireland, Wicklow. While we started as a purely dance-on-film festival, we want to give space to the many expressions of dance as an art form, through our Dance Intensive training, our live performance showcasing Irish and International dance choreography.

ECDA is proud to be one of twelve European partners, representing Ireland, selected to participate in Graham for Europe's centennial celebration of the Martha Graham Dance Company, with events taking place across Europe in 2026. Our festival recognises and promotes the legacy and innovation of this twentieth-century modernist dance master, while giving space for new choreographies and dance expressions that build on it and other dance techniques.



East Coast Dance Arts 2026 will have its signature film screenings: a great selection of films from artists worldwide, including those who have come back to us from previous years. Themes of the transcendental, the human, Ecology, Morphology, Language and our continuing “Arts in Times of Crisis” will feature; testament to those who have made them. We are indebted to the work of these artists. In our programming, we are not resistant to the exploration of difficult themes, handled and curated with care. During the Dance Intensive, we will have a special screening of Howard Silver’s *Blind Date*: a pedagogical dance masterpiece drawing together an ex-Cunningham dancer, two New York City Ballet dancers and postmodernist Jodi Melnick.

Our special guest artists this year include Penny Diamantopoulou (GR), Rafael Molina (FR), and Berenice Heger-Hedløy (DE/NO). In partnership with Inchicore College and Dance Ireland, they will deliver the Dance Intensive and showcase their own choreographies. We are also joined again by The Zoryanna whom we welcome with two new works. Dublin Youth Dance Company will be with us, along with the renowned Mateusz Szczerek (PL), Sheron Conkova (CZ), Elena Degtyareva and OHR Dance (IE/BR).

Original works created during the Intensive will be performed at ECDA: Live at Mermaid Arts Centre, along with a programme of dance from Irish and International dance artists. We hope you enjoy and participate as much as possible in this week of dance in Ireland.

Festival Founder and Artistic Director

Adrienne Brown

MARCH

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
23	24	25	26 DI Dance Intensive	27 DI Dance Intensive Online film screening 7pm	28 Dance Intensive	29 Dance Intensive Online film screening 2pm
30 Dance Intensive	31 Dance Intensive	1 APRIL LIVE at the Mermaid 7pm				

[Screenings via screendance.ie](http://screendance.ie)

[LIVE via mermaidartscentre.ie](http://mermaidartscentre.ie)

26 March DI
Thursday Dance intensive

27 March DI
Friday Dance intensive
Online film screening 7 pm

FREE ↗

28 March
Saturday Dance intensive

29 March
Sunday Dance intensive
Online film screening 2 pm

FREE ↗

30 March
Monday Dance intensive

31 March
Tuesday Dance intensive

01 April
Wednesday LIVE at the Mermaid 7pm
Ticketed event all welcome

ECDA: Move - Easter Dance Intensive

March 26 - April 1st 2026

Technique



This dance intensive over seven days will be taught by Rafael Molina (FR), Penny Diamantopoulou (GR) and will feature visiting dance artists. Participants will get a taste of Martha Graham's revolution in dance through three lenses: 1) training in Graham technique, 2) improvisation/devising to gain a deeper bodily experience of the organic and dynamic physical impact of this work.

Composition



3) A choreographic composition and creative session. Works created will be performed at Mermaid Arts Centre, Bray on the final day of the festival; therefore participants should make themselves available for a full -day and evening at the theatre on Wednesday, April 1.

Performance



The workshop is accessible to dancers who have had some training in either ballet or contemporary dance, whether they had previous experience in Graham work or not. A Graham class has inherent physicality and expressiveness that light up a fire within dancers pushing them to thrive and reach for their own limits.

Screenings Session One

19:00 - 21:30 ONLINE

Friday, Mar 27

ECDA 2026 presents a dynamic selection of international works exploring the relationship between choreography, film language and contemporary storytelling. Selected from submissions received from artists across the world, the programme reflects the diversity of current screendance practice, moving through themes of duality, communication, conflict and the expressive possibilities of the moving body on screen. From intimate studies of gesture to powerful reflections on history and place, these films demonstrate the many ways artists are using cinema as a choreographic space. The screening will be accompanied by live discussion with our panel of experts, inviting audiences to engage with the works through conversation, reflection and moderated questions throughout the event.

Panellists: Adrienne Brown, Elena Degtyareva, Linda Higgins



DOUBLES

Unfinished – Casey Avaunt (USA) & Jiwon Ha (KOR)

G E M I N I – Ian Plouffe (USA)

LANGUAGE

Out of Phase – Lizzie Johnstone (UK)

Blue Bird – Shako (CA)

Ancestral Shadows – Wilma Casal (USA)

SENSIBLE – Axel Chemin (FR)

A dance at the bus stop – Marianna Koukoulekidou (GR)

ARTS IN TIMES OF CRISIS

In The Middle – Saba Khatami (IRN)

Tango During the War – Olena Hruzdieva (UA)

DANCE

Strange Age – Fu LE / Tetrapode (FR)

MurMur – Jude Walton (AU)

Hallways – Elizabeth Sears (USA)

Kiss My Wounds – Carolyn Rabbers (NL)

Tread Lightly – Lisa Tighe-Sébiré (IE)

In and Out of Time – Christina Tingskog (SE)

Folkestone in Motion – Michaela Cisarikova (UK)



Screenings Session Two

14:00-16:30 ONLINE

Sunday 29 March

The second screendance programme of ECDA 2026 continues our exploration of the evolving language of dance on screen, presenting a curated selection of international works that investigate the body in relation to environment, architecture and cinematic space. Drawing together artists from across Europe, the Americas, Africa and beyond, the programme reflects on themes of ecology, human presence and transformation through movement and film. From intimate choreographic encounters to expansive visual landscapes, these works highlight the imaginative ways artists are using the camera as a partner in choreography. As with the opening screening, the programme will be accompanied by live discussion with our expert panel, inviting audiences to reflect on the works and contribute questions through a moderated chat during the event.

Panellists: Adrienne Brown, Elena Degtyareva, Linda Higgins



MORPHOLOGY

Frames – Claire Marshall (AU)

Liquid Body – Amandine Garrido & Matthew Gaines (CA)

Porcelain – Paula Gelly (BR)

On Time. – Liz Macro (USA)

ECOLOGY

Eyes Wide Open – Floris-Jan van Luyn (NL)

LUVOS migrations – Editta Braun & Menie Weissbacher (AT)

HUMAN / SPACE

Behind the Sun – Salma Kattass (USA)

A Shadow on the Board – Laura Rivet (FR)

Bá – Orlaith Ní Chearra (IE)

White Witch – Spotlight Studios Wicklow / Kerry Smith (IE)

Revolve – Claire Marshall (AU)

HYPER-REALISM

Dream's Descent – Sara Gouveia, Inka Kendzia & Gregory Maqoma (ZA)

ElleX / ElleY – Valeria Galluccio (IT)



ECDA: Live

ECDA: Live is the final night of our week-long festival, which will provide dance lovers with a great experience. This show is a must-see with rare pieces not staged before in Ireland. This year, we join a worldwide celebration of the 100th anniversary for Martha Graham Dance Company. Rafael Molina, Penny Diamantopoulou, and special guest dancers will give a Lecture Demonstration on Graham; newly created works from the Dance Intensive will be shown, a compelling solo by Matt Szczerek, new works from Dublin Youth Dance Company and Elena Degtyareva, along with a return of the wonderful Zoryanna. Screenings of dance films from the festival will be included; there are some surprises in store as well! An exciting piece from Berenice Heger-Hedløy will be performed, along with Irish and International dancers from the Intensive, and we proudly welcome emerging choreography from young dancers as well.



Mermaid Run Order 1st April 7 pm

OPENING REMARKS	ADRIENNE BROWN	5.00	LECTURE DEMONSTRATION	PENNY DIAMANTOPOULOU [GR] 12.00 RAFAEL MOLINA [FR] MUSIC: MOISÉS MATURANA MARTÍNEZ [CL]
'ARTS IN TIMES OF CRISIS' (DANCE)				
SHADOWS OF WAR	SARAH MCGUINNESS [IE]	3.00	THREAD OF US	OHR [IE/BR] 5.58 CHOREOGRAPHY ERICA BORGES [IE/BR] DANCERS: HANNAH MCCORRY, MEADHBH DOYLE, OLIVIA GOLON, SHERON CONKOVA
THE TROUBLES	LAUREN RYAN [IE]	2.53		
SCREENINGS			PETRICOR	ELENA DEGTYAREVA [UZ/IE] 4.00 DANCERS: AMELIA LAU, ANA WALSH, ELISE JEWUSHENKO, EMMA ENGELSTAD, EMMA LYONS, IVANA JEWUSHENKO, LEAH HACKETT, MARIA BESCHIU, MAGGIE JONES, NICOLE GUINEY, NICOLE MAHER, ULIANA PUGACHOVA
REVOLVE	CLAIRE MARSHALL [AU]	11.59		
BEHIND THE SUN	SALMA KATTASS (US)	2.48	IN-BETWEEN	SHERON CONKOVA [CZ/IE] 5.00
BLUE BIRD	SHAKO (CA)	1.20	QUESTIONING PURITY	ALETH BERENICE HEGER- HEDLØY [DE/NO] 11.00
DANCE			SWING 2.0	PHOEBE BROWN [IE] 10.45 DANCERS: ITZEL LIMÓN, ARIANA GUASSO, ALICE GAVIGAN, SARAH SAMMUT
BAD MAN	MATEUSZ "MATT" SZCZEREK [PL] HUMAN COLLECTIVE *SENSITIVE/CONTROVERSIAL CONTENT WARNING*	5.00	FLEETING FUTURE	SAMANTHA LYONS [UK/IE] 4.00 DANCERS: CHARLOTTE ROSE WALSH, AOIFE O'GRADY, SHEONA RYAN, SAOIRSE LALOR, ABBIE FITZPATRICK, CLODAGH O'MEARA RYAN, LILY ELLEN MORAN KEALY, KARL PARGE, ARIANA CALLAN, ELIZA PRZYGODA, AMY CORROON, EMILY FARRELL, EVA DYJAK, EVA MCMAHON, SIOBHAN MCCULLOUGH, ELLA MARTIN, GRACE HONNEY, HEATHER HOMAN, ORLA REVILLE, KAYLA LAWLOR, LAUREN RYAN, RACHEL RYAN
CRYSTALLIZE & CHRULI	THE ZORYANNA FUSION DANCERS	5.00		
	DEIRDRE FITZGERALD [IE] MARY BUSHE, SARAH LEDWIDGE	5.00		
IF WE REACH	DUBLIN YOUTH DANCE COMPANY MENTOR: HANNAH ROGERSON [IE] DANCERS & CHOREOGRAPHY: GEORGIA FEELEY, MAI LY THAM, DAISY MCKENNA	12.00	INTENSIVE PERFORMANCE PIECE	PENNY DIAMANTOPOULOU 7.00 RAFAEL MOLINA [FR]
INTERVAL				

Adrienne Brown



Adrienne Brown is a choreographer, academic and dance educator. She was a founding member of, and latter chair of Dance Ireland from 2008 - 2013, trained at the Martha Graham Center for Dance in New York, and was awarded an Ad Astra Research Scholarship from U.C.D. to write a PhD in Musicology and Dance, based on the proposal “Meaning Indicators in Twentieth-Century Music and Dance”. The collection of her choreographic work is housed in the National Dance Archive, University of Limerick. Adrienne instigated the Erasmus+ programme for dancers to travel to Le Briqueterie (Paris, France) to undertake a choreographic residency there; it is now running into its 9th year (Covid cancelled).

She consulted on the development of Wicklow’s dance strategy and was a contributing author on its final report, Making Strides (2016).

When her work as a dance artist expanded into film, she set up East Coast Dance Arts (formerly Wicklow ScreenDance Laboratory) (2016), now its ninth year. She made two films with Eoghan O’Reilly, I See His Blood (2016) and Contrition (2017). She is on the scientific committee of Screendance Festivals (eds. Blas Payri/Rafel Arnal) and is a published author.

Rafael Molina

is a French Artist and Graham technique teacher based in Paris. Trained at the Conservatoire National de Région de Saint-Etienne, Rafael Molina graduated in classical ballet and contemporary dance. In his dance career, Rafael performed both neoballet roles and contemporary dance new works, touring in France, Spain, Israel and Singapore.

He is the founder and Artistic Director of 'Graham For Europe', a European organisation dedicated to the work of Martha Graham. He graduated from Sciences Po Paris and the Martha Graham School in New York City, where he performed the Graham repertory with Graham 2.

In 2019, Rafael was funded by the Centre National de la Danse for the research project on Graham educational practices. Therefore, he travelled around the globe and interviewed more than 30 Graham technique instructors and Masters about Graham fundamental principles and concepts.

Rafael teaches Graham principles through technique, repertory, and composition in various institutions all over Europe. He believes in a modern and innovative pedagogy. His teaching approach respects individual specificities (bodies, histories, abilities) and encourages autonomy. He creates a safe space for his students to explore their singularities as individuals/artists, in order to unlock possibilities for artistic interpretation.

grahamforeurope.com/graham100





artist highlight

PENNY DIAMANTOPOULOU

Penny Diamantopoulou is a Greek-born dancer, educator, and choreographer, and a former member of the Martha Graham Dance Ensemble (Graham II). A graduate of the Martha Graham School of Contemporary Dance, she completed the Professional and Post-Certificate programs in New York and trained extensively in Graham pedagogy. Penny has taught internationally for over two decades, including at the Greek National School of Dance and as a guest teacher at institutions such as Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre and SUNY Purchase. In collaboration with the Martha Graham Centre, she stages and reconstructs works from the Graham repertory across Europe and the US. She is the founder and artistic director of ARTHROSIS Dance Company and serves as Artistic Advisor to Graham for Europe. At ECDA 2026, Penny joins us as a guest artist and Intensive teacher.



Aleth Berenice (she/her)

is an interdisciplinary artist whose practice fuses choreography, performance, filmmaking, and pedagogy. A graduate of the Martha Graham School of Contemporary Dance, The Ailey School, and the Royal Academy of Dance, she was awarded the prestigious Pearl Lang Award for excellence in choreography in 2019.

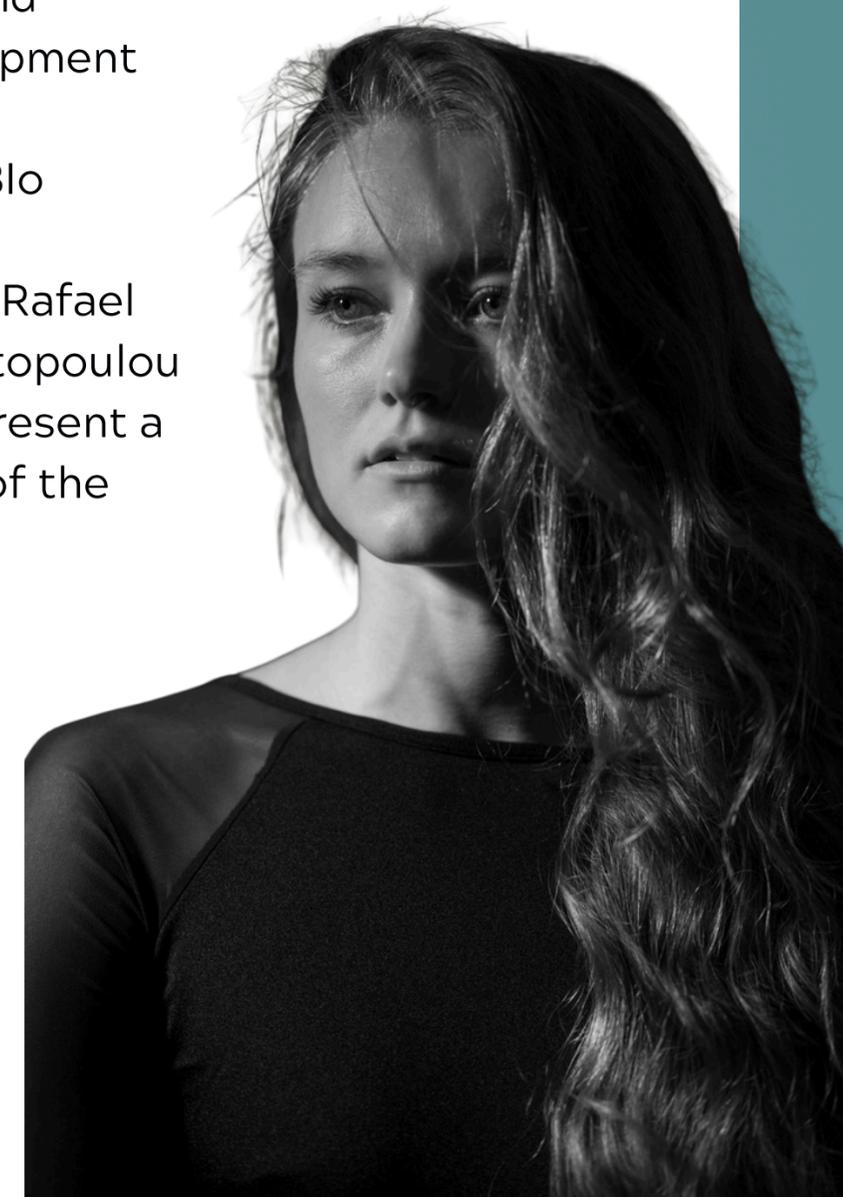
Her dance-on-screen work *iuSui* (2021) has received multiple international awards and has screened globally, including at Lincoln Center in New York.

Her creative practice explores how physicality shapes perception, memory, and collective experience, moving fluidly between live performance and digital creation.



Alongside her choreographic work, Aleth is a dedicated educator, teaching internationally and contributing to the development of contemporary Graham technique across Europe Blo

. At ECDA 2026, Aleth joins Rafael Molina and Penny Diamantopoulou as a guest artist and will present a solo performance as part of the live programme.





Ohr Dance Company

Rooted in sisterhood and shared beginnings, Thread of Us explores how people grow alongside one another while finding the courage to choose their own paths. As lives begin to unfold in unexpected directions, the dancers reflect on connection, independence, and the threads that continue to bind us – even as we move toward different futures.

Ohr Dance Company @ohrdancecompany is a pre-professional dance company that supports dancers in full-time training and new dance graduates as they develop their artistry, performance, choreography skills, and networking. The company is an extension of Laois Youth Dance Ensemble at a more mature level, directed by Erica Borges.

Dublin School of Dance and Etiquette

Our piece is called "Petricor" - In it, we explore the theme of the cycle of life, how we are all connected, how the decision of one can ultimately change the flow of life for another and how the shadows and lights of life are all big parts of the life cycle experience.



Amelia Lau
Ana Walsh
Elise Jewtushenko
Emma Engelstad
Emma Lyons
Ivana Jewtushenko
Leah Hackett
Maria Beschiu
Maggie Jones
Nicole Guiney
Nicole Maher
Uliana Pugachova
www.thirdarabesque.com

THE COLLEGE OF DANCE

IRELAND'S PREMIER DANCE EDUCATOR



WWW.COLLEGEOFDANCE.COM

Founded in 1990, The College of Dance is now recognised as Ireland's premier dance college providing full-time, foundation level, professional dance and performing arts training. Its' graduates have gone on to study, and win scholarships to, some of the most prestigious international conservatoires for dance and theatre studies. Graduates can be found working in these fields worldwide.

The College's two-year course provides an intensive and stimulating education in all aspects of dance studies required by those aiming to pursue a career as a professional dancer. This education is provided in an environment where each student's talents are nurtured and guided by the faculty, all of whom are experienced working professional dancers and / or choreographers.

The College has a pedigree of success that is second to none, making it the pre-eminent dance educator in Ireland. Entry is by audition only with only the most talented and committed accepted to undergo comprehensive training in Classical Ballet, Pointe work, Contemporary, Jazz, Musical Theatre, Tap, Commercial, Pilates and Vocal and Drama Studies. Lectures in Dance History, Anatomy and Physiology are also an integral part of the curriculum.

Dublin Youth Dance Company – If We Reach

Performed by Georgia Feeley,
Mai Ly Tham, Daisy McKenna
Duration: 7.5 mins

Developed as part of DYDC's Emerging Voices Programme, *If We Reach* is a choreographic work created by senior dancers Georgia Feeley, Mai Ly Tham, and Daisy McKenna, under the mentorship of choreographer Hannah Rogerson. The programme is designed to support young artists in developing their own choreographic voice, guided by experienced professionals.

If We Reach reflects this process of exploration and collaboration, offering a dynamic and expressive work shaped by emerging perspectives and contemporary movement practice.

www.dublinyouthdance.com



Photo credit Ewa Figaszewska

Dublin Youth Dance Company (DYDC) is Ireland's leading contemporary youth dance company, offering talented young dancers the opportunity to engage in high-level training, creation, and performance. Through weekly classes, workshops, and national and international performance opportunities, DYDC supports the artistic and personal development of its members while fostering connections with Ireland's professional dance sector.



Emily Noble began her dance training in September 2015 when she enrolled in Pre-Primary Ballet. She trains at Coastal Ballet School in Drogheda under the direction of Suzanne Bergin and her teaching team. Emily has progressed steadily through the graded ballet syllabus and currently studies Grade 6, Intermediate Ballet and Repertoire, continuing to develop her technique, artistry, and performance skills. In September 2024, Emily joined the Junior Ensemble of Dublin Youth Dance Company (DYDC) under the direction of Amanda Braide. She continues her work with the Junior Ensemble under the direction of Martha Tribe and Amanda Braide. Through DYDC, Emily has participated in a number of dance residencies and workshops with guest teachers, gaining valuable experience in contemporary dance and collaborative performance.

Emily enjoys expanding her experience across different dance styles and is enthusiastic about continuing her training and pursuing performance opportunities.



Elle was born in Barbados, West Indies and has lived in Vancouver, Toronto and Victoria, Canada. She started dance at the age of three in Victoria, British Columbia. Throughout her dance career, Elle has enjoyed ballet, hip hop, lyrical, tap, modern, contemporary, aerial silks, acro, musical theatre and jazz. At the age of eight, Elle was invited to join the Swansea School of Dance Company group in Toronto, Ontario, and at the age of ten, Elle joined the Pirouette Dance Studios Elite Company in Victoria, British Columbia. As a soloist, Elle competed in tap, jazz, lyrical and hip hop at several competitions in British Columbia, winning a number of awards. Also, as a soloist, Elle was selected by the Greater Victoria Performing Arts Festival as their representative at the British Columbia Provincial Performing Arts Festival four years in a row. As well as representing Pirouette Dance Studios in group dances and as a soloist, Elle also represented Vibestreet Hip Hop studio in the competitive group. Elle now lives in Dublin and is thrilled to be a part of the Dublin Youth Dance Company.



Abi Hasson trained at Ruth Shine School of Dance in ballet and contemporary and has been a member of Dublin Youth Dance Company since 2019. She has performed at many festivals and shows including IYDF, Winter and Spring Gala, Perform, Kaleidoscope, and St Patrick's Day Festival, and has performed her own duet as part of DYDC's emerging voices programme.





The Zoryanna Fusion Dancers

Deirdre Fitzgerald, Mary Bushe, Sarah Ledwidge

The Zoryanna Fusion Dancers draw inspiration from a rich blend of world dance traditions, shaped by both ancient and contemporary global music. Their work embraces experimentation, exploring movement as a universal language that connects cultures and emotions. Tonight, they present two contrasting pieces.

Crystallize, set to music by American violinist Lindsey Stirling, reflects the idea that our thoughts and emotions shape our inner world. Inspired by Masaru Emoto's theories on energy and intention, the piece explores how stillness, challenge, and experience can form something delicate yet powerful – like crystals emerging from ice. Through movement and music, Crystallize expresses how emotion can transform into something real and beautiful.

Their second work, Chrulei, is a lively Georgian-inspired piece by East Duo. Rooted in folk tradition, it captures a sense of celebration, rhythm, and cultural energy through dynamic and expressive movement.

Together, these works highlight both introspection and joy, reflecting the diversity and spirit of Zoryanna's fusion approach.

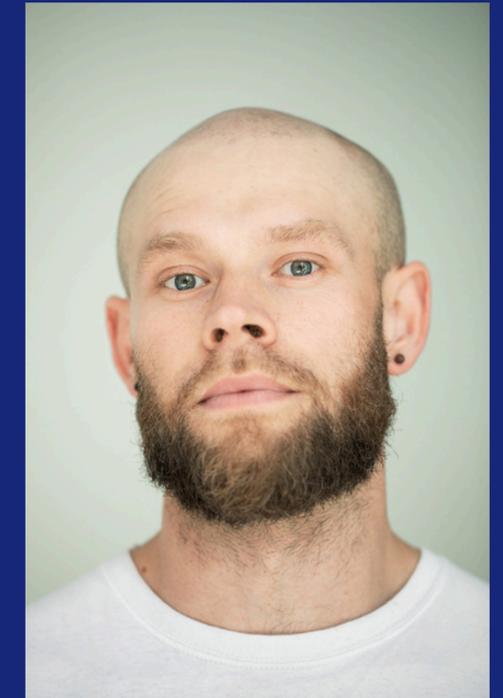
Phoebe Brown – Swing 2.0

Performed by Itzel Limón, Arianna Guasso, Alice Gavigan, Sarah Sammut

Duration: 10 mins 45 secs

Phoebe Brown is an emerging choreographer based in Belfast, working at the intersection of dance and complex mathematics. Her practice draws on chaos systems, geometry, and numerical scoring to explore the relationship between structure and human expression.

Swing 2.0 is a choreographic work rooted in this interdisciplinary approach, navigating the tension between linear systems and the unpredictability of embodied movement. Through precise yet fluid composition, the work reflects on balance – between order and instinct, calculation and intuition. Originally developed through residencies and research, Swing 2.0 premiered in Newry in 2025 and has since been presented in both live and film formats, including at Bridges Arts Festival in Canada. The work builds on earlier presentations at Garter Lane Arts Centre and The MAC, Belfast. Phoebe holds a PhD in Arts Practice and has presented and performed internationally across Europe and beyond. Her work continues to evolve through research-driven processes supported by Arts Council funding.



Human Collective

Mateusz "Matt" Szczerek is a Polish Dublin-based dance artist, choreographer, and artistic director for Human Collective, known for blending street dance, Krump, and contemporary styles. Matt is a professional member of Dance Ireland and ISACS. He is the curator and artistic director of the D2C LAB series in partnership with Dance Ireland, Luail, the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance and Promenade. He is a leader of the international circus and dance collective Kundle Cru. Recent choreographer credits include Shell (Matt Szczerek & Simone O'Toole), Birds, Blame Game (Kundle Cru), Monsters (Matt Szczerek & Alessio Motta). He also performed win CoisCéim's 2024 production Palimpsest.



Sarah McGuinness is a 19-year-old dancer currently training at Inchicore College. She began dancing at the age of seven with Keeva Lawrence and has trained extensively in lyrical, jazz, contemporary, and acro, with a particular strength in lyrical and acro performance.

Sarah has competed in a range of national dance competitions and festivals, including Dance Empire Events, CYD, WLDF, Twilight, 5678 and Perform Festival. She is passionate about developing her practice through workshops with diverse choreographers and artists, and plans to pursue further training in the UK.

Her solo work, *Shadows of War*, explores the emotional and sensory impact of conflict – drawing on the unseen tensions, background noise, and quiet resilience of those navigating difficult times. The piece blends contemporary, acro, and lyrical movement to create a layered and expressive performance.



title of piece: *The Troubles*
length of piece: 2:53
dancers performing: Lauren Ryan



Sharon Conkova (b. 2006) is a contemporary dancer of Czech heritage based in Ireland. She began dancing at the age of 10 and trained at Laois Dance Academy, where she developed her foundation in contemporary dance and discovered movement as a powerful form of expression.

Dance has played a central role in shaping her identity and connecting her with a community that continues to influence her artistic journey. Sharon is currently in her first year studying Dance Studies at Inchicore College, where she is developing her artistry.

Her dance piece reflects the complexities of identity, culture, and belonging. Growing up between two cultures, Sharon reflects on the experience of living between worlds filled with expectations, while often feeling that neither truly accepts her. Through movement, she navigates feelings of confusion, isolation, and division. Throughout the piece, she releases the weight of separation and searches for acceptance of all parts of her identity.



On behalf of East Coast Dance Arts, I wish to extend thanks to the many people that helped us to put this event on in 2026. To begin, I want to give a warm and gracious thanks to the Arts Council of Ireland, Dublin South City Partnership, Inchicore College and College of Dance for funding, artistic and moral support. A particular Merci is owed to Storm Pyper at Bray Volunteer Centre. Big thanks to our host venues Mermaid Arts Centre, with Aoife Demel at the helm and to Inchicore College principal Donnchadh Clancy for his advice, guidance and support and to Sam Lyons at College of Dance. Thank you to Louise Costello and Dance Ireland for valuable, arts-centred support, and to Mariam Ribon at Dublin Youth Dance Company.

These strategic partnerships have given us ballast and support in practical and energetic ways, often raising our spirits when most needed. Thank you also to Lynsey at Martello Group in Bray. Finally, saving the best until last, I want to thank my team: Hannah Slattery, Sarah Eva Manson, Eve Kirby, Conor McGowan, Curtis Rodney, Eoghan O'Reilly and Christian Daly. Platitudes don't do justice to the words I would like to express, so I will leave it at 'thanks, you guys!' Finally, I want to give a big thank you to all the artists, dancers, filmmakers, experts, panellists and to the increasingly interested public who stand with us and grow with us.



Thank You

Plans for Next Year

Next year will be our tenth anniversary, and we will celebrate in style with you, our beloved audience. We hope to expand on the Dance Intensive, which has grown to a point where it needs this. We will continue to make it an interface between the powerful legacy of Martha Graham and the present moment, which invites dancers to move and create from this fertile base of training, with new movement and choreography. Graham for Europe, and we have plans to solidify our European partnership with a new programme, fingers crossed, as it is a new funding proposal. Alongside this, we will seek funding opportunities that allow us to function at our optimum, to our public and artists alike.

Films will continue to be part of the artistic heartbeat of this festival. It never ceases to amaze me how enriched the world of dance is, through this, still relatively new medium of expression. Themes, effects and performances astound, and we will give a place to this strand of the art form into the future.

In partnership with Kieran O'Toole at Courthouse Arts Centre, Tinahely, we plan to host a Dance Residency that will combine film and live performance, to be ready for next year's festival.

The conversation around Dance arts will continue in our festival. During these times of geopolitical tumult, we will honour the theme 'Arts in Times of Conflict', looking at topics that are current and reflected in the arts, along with creativity, joy, beauty and human expression.



STAY CONNECTED

Follow East Coast Dance Arts and be part of our growing international community of artists, dancers and audiences.

Follow us → @eastcoastdancearts

Leave us a review → If you enjoyed the festival, your feedback really helps our journey.

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- Review us on [FilmFreeway](#)

East Coast Dance Arts 2026 Personnel

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Hannah Slattery	Operations Manager
Sarah Eva Manson	Social Media & Digital Programme
Curtis Rodney	Digital Production/Streaming
Christian Daly	Website/Content Creator
Conor McGowan	Lighting Direction
Sam Byrne	Sound Engineer
Eoghan O'Reilly	Design
Liadh Dalton	Assistant Stage Manager

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