

Teac Damsa | Ireland

MÁM

New Zealand Festival

OF THE ARTS

21 Feb - 15 Mar 2020
Pōneke | Wellington





MÁM

Teač Dańsa

Image: Ros Kavanagh



TODD
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MÁM

MÁM is co-produced by Teač Dańsa, Dublin Theatre Festival, Sadler's Wells London and New Zealand Festival of the Arts, with support from Nomad and NASC Touring Networks. This production is funded by an Arts Council Open Call Award. International touring is supported by Culture Ireland.

Venue	Dates	Duration	Artist Talk
TSB Arena	Thu - Sat 7 Mar, 6.30pm Sun 8 Mar, 4pm	1hr 25mins	Post-show, Sat 7 Mar TSB Arena

A message from our Creative Director

Nau mai haere mai ki Te Taurima o Aotearoa. In 2020, artists are taking over the New Zealand Festival of the Arts bringing more creative voices into the conversation. We invited internationally renowned artists Lemi Ponifasio, Laurie Anderson and Bret McKenzie to select a signature series of arts experiences for each week of the Festival. Meet our Guest Curators and the many artists who will join them, for a Festival of the Arts that celebrates honesty, bravery and splendour, and art that inspires conversation.

We are extremely proud to present Michael Keegan-Dolan's newest work, *MÁM*, which is a co-commission between the New Zealand Festival, Dublin Theatre Festival and the major dance venue in London, Sadler's Wells. This production was actually birthed right here in Wellington in the first Made in Wellington residency and I'm thrilled that three dancers who trained here in New Zealand were selected as part of the ensemble touring with the work from Dublin to London and then Perth before this season.

Marnie Karmelita
New Zealand Festival of the Arts

A message from Todd Corporation

The Todd Corporation has great pleasure in partnering with the New Zealand Festival of the Arts to bring Irish company Teač Dańsa back to Wellington for the fourth time, with their passionate and evocative new work *MÁM*.

The Todd Corporation, its companies and the Todd family have a proud history of supporting artistic endeavour in New Zealand, as we believe the arts make a significant contribution to national wellbeing. The company's involvement with the 2020 Festival continues this tradition and the long association we have had with the Festival.

Geoff Ricketts
Chair, Todd Corporation Ltd

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Please make sure your mobile phone is turned off. Latecomers will only be seated during an appropriate break. Taking photographs and using a recording device at any Festival performance are strictly forbidden. Ticket holders consent to be filmed as part of the audience. The information in this programme is correct at the time of publication. The Festival reserves the right to alter, without notice, events, programmes and artists.

Tell us what you think of the show

🐦 📷 📍 @NZFestivaloftheArts #NZFEST festival.nz

Credits

Created by

Michael Keegan-Dolan in collaboration with the company

Music

Cormac Begley
stargaze

Set Design

Sabine Dargent

Lighting Design

Adam Silverman

Costume Design

Hyemi Shin

Sound Design

Helen Atkinson

Live Sound Design

Sandra Ní Mhathúna

Performers

Imogen Alvares
Cormac Begley
Romain Bly
Lisa De Boos
Tyler Carney
Marlies van Gangelen
James O'Hara
Aki Iwamoto
Zen Jefferson
Mayah Kadish
Maaïke van der Linde
Amit Noy
Keir Patrick
Ellie Poirier-Dolan
Rachel Poirier
Connor Scott
David Six
James Southward
Latisha Sparks
Carys Staton
Aart Strootman

Producer

Johnny O'Reilly

Associate Producer and Company Administrator

Áine Ní Éalaí

Production Manager

Peter Jordan

Company Stage Manager

Marina Dunford

Stage Manager

Penelope Foxley

Deputy Stage Manager

Sinéad Cormack

Costume Manager

Amanda Donovan

Lighting Manager

Veronica Foo

Sound Manager

Sandra Ní Mhathúna

Sound Technician

Ber Quinn

stargaze Producer

Merle Scheske



Image: Ros Kavanagh



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A Wellington Residency

Over the past ten years I have been slowly falling in love with Aotearoa.

The first time I travelled to this beautiful country was in 2008 when we performed our production of *Giselle* in Shed 6 as part of the New Zealand Festival. We returned with *Rian* in 2014 and then with *Swan Lake / Loch na hEala* in 2018.

When Marnie Karmelita and Meg Williams, the new directors of the Festival visited Ireland in 2018 and shared with me their idea of potentially inviting an artist to be in residence in Wellington in 2019, I was excited. We talked about how important an appreciation and understanding of indigenous culture and language are to acquiring an understanding and appreciation of a place. Of how important the quality and depth of relationships are to a creative process and when the formal invitation came, the answer was yes and we agreed to press on together.

The working space I walked into on my first day of what was to be a six-week residency had been transformed from an empty warehouse unit into a dance studio. The newly installed floor was made entirely from recycled timber. We were supported like this from start to finish.

We had a continuous flow of guests coming into our working space over the six weeks. Dancers from New Zealand, Australia and Europe joined the core ensemble who had travelled with me to Wellington and on occasion the working group expanded to 20 people.

We always had live music in the space. Danny Diamond the Irish fiddle player, Romain Bly, Mayah Kadish and Marlies Van Gangelen from the Berlin based music collective, s t a r g a z e and Cormac Begley the traditional Irish concertina player from Corca Dhuibhne (West Kerry). We spent three nights at the Tapu Te Ranga





Marae, where we learned more about the history of Māori culture and language from Tānemahuta Gray and Rangimoana Taylor.

During the residency I wanted to find a different way of working, to see if I could discover a process entirely based on agreement and therefore remove any need for coercion in the realisation of a piece of theatre. In the process I learned that it does not necessarily matter what I want, that my gift will dictate what I should do and if my collaborators don't want what I want, then I need to accept this truth and not push but gently change what needs to be changed.

Work gets made that demands to be made, that absolutely needs to be made.

All great art seeks to find a deeper understanding of what it means to be alive. In order to explore this truthfully, one must operate out of a sense of respect and love and seek empathy with the other. To give support where needed. To listen where needed. To share a story where needed.

Michael Keegan-Dolan

Biographies



Michael Keegan-Dolan

DIRECTOR

Michael Keegan-Dolan was the artistic director of Fabulous Beast Dance Theatre from 1997 to 2015. He founded Teac Damsa in 2016 and now lives in the Corca Dhuibhne Gaeltacht with his partner Rachel Poirier and their two children. *Swan Lake / Loch na hEala*, the first production created for Teac Damsa, has toured extensively both nationally and internationally over the past three years. *MÁM*, the second production created for Teac Damsa, premiered in the Dublin Theatre Festival 2019 and is touring internationally in 2020 and 2021.

TEAC
DAMSA

About the Company

Teac Damsa was founded by Michael Keegan-Dolan (Mícheál MacAodhagáin-Ó Dobhailen) in 2016 as a means to forge deeper connections with the traditions, language and the music of Ireland.

Léiríonn an t-ainm Teac Damsa aistear leanúnach Mhíchil chun saothair rince agus drámaíochta a chruthú go bhfuil a n-áit dúchais-an áit as a dtagann siad - le brath go soiléir orthu.

The name Teac Damsa, 'House of Dance', reflects Michael's ongoing journey to create dance and theatre work that clearly reflects the place from which they originate.

Swan Lake / Loch na hEala was the first production made by Teac Damsa. It won the *Irish Times* Irish Theatre Award 2017 for Best New Production and the UK Critics' Circle National Dance Award for Best Production 2018. *MÁM* is the second production from Teac Damsa.



Cormac Begley

MUSIC

Cormac Begley is a solo bass, baritone, treble and piccolo concertina player from a West Kerry musical family. He also plays in a range of collaborations with Liam O'Connor (fiddle), Rushad Eggleston (cello goblin) and Lisa O'Neill (singer-songwriter). He is the founder of the 'Airt' Residential School and the award-winning Tunes in the Church live concert series.

In 2018, he was shortlisted for the inaugural RTÉ Radio 1 'Folk Instrumentalist of the Year' award. His debut solo album received 11 five-star reviews and was shortlisted for the *Irish Times* Album of the Year 2018, described by the newspaper as "an earthy delight".



stargaze

MUSIC

st a r g a z e is an orchestral collective, an ever-evolving project marrying modern composition with alternative attitudes and sounds. Following two st a r g a z e presents festivals at Volksbühne Berlin, it was praised for its "ausnahmestellung" ("exceptional position") in today's musical landscape, with far-reaching and genre defying performances in prestigious concert halls and pop festivals. Devising programmes with music by Berio and The Beach Boys for Paris' Philharmonie, st a r g a z e strive to bring musicians and audiences together that would not otherwise have met. Driven by the contemporary pop scene, the collective has worked with Terry Riley, Lisa Hannigan and Deerhoof, and has performed material by Mica Levi, Qasim Naqvi and Boards Of Canada.

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Dancer / Sara Garbowski
Photography / Ross Brown



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12 - 15 March TSB Arena

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Dimanche

Written and directed by

Julie Tenret

Sicaire Durieux

Sandrine Heyraud

"A jewel of creativity and humour"

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