



Chris Nash

# Motionhouse

**Louise Richards**, Executive Director

**Kevin Finnan**, Artistic Director

**Kevin Finnan**, Conception and Direction

**Kevin Finnan and the original *Scattered* Company**, Choreography

Performed by: **Jade Barton, Claire Benson, Martina Bussi, Giorgio de Carolis, Daniel Connor, Junior Cunningham** (Rehearsal Director), **Anthony Middleton, Alasdair Stewart, Rebecca Williams**

**Simon Dormon**, Set Design

**Oblique**, Set Construction

**Natasha Chivers**, Lighting Design

**Sophy Smith** and **Tim Dickinson**, Original Music

**Sophy Smith** and **Kevin Finnan**, Score Design

**Claire Armitage**, Costumes

**Logela Multimedia**, Film

**Peter Herbert**, Production Manager

## PROGRAM

*Scattered*

*There will be no intermission.*

70 minutes

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Thursday, February 7 at 7:30 PM

Friday, February 8 at 8 PM

Saturday, February 9 at 2 PM & 8 PM



Media support for these performances  
is provided by *Philadelphia Weekly*.

# PROGRAM NOTES

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## ***Scattered***

*A meteor shower of unlikely moments.*

*Scattered* explores the amazing in the everyday in a meteor shower of unlikely moments. The piece combines Motionhouse's trademark highly physical dance theatre and mesmerizing aerial imagery in a unique interaction between film and live performance, created in collaboration with Logela Multimedia from the Basque region of Spain.

*Scattered* explores our relationship with water and how it surrounds us in different forms throughout our lives: in birth water ties us to life and on a more elemental scale, in ice, floods and tides, it can sweep our lives away. *Scattered* delves into the majesty and savagery of water, a fundamental force in our lives as seven dancers plunge into an ocean, wrestle a raging tide and slide on an avalanche to a frozen landscape of arctic beauty.

Performed on a huge curved floor which disappears skywards, the piece uses projection technology, daring dancing plus aerial harnesses and bungees to create an extraordinary world in which the dancers move seamlessly in, on and through the image.

## **From the Artistic Director**

*Scattered* started as a series of (literally!) scattered ideas, but eventually, I ended up thinking about it with a more thematic approach linking to our experiences, similar observation of the life around us. During my thinking, an enduring image of an ice field kept reappearing in my thoughts. When discussing the visual ideas and the role and function of film in the production an idea emerged: making a film about ice, snow and water. I started thinking how the same thematic approach that was used in *Perfect* could work with *Scattered* and water, as the mother element for ice, snow etc., became the theme for the new piece.

The notions of body, body of water and body in water became really interesting to me; a kind of observation of our relationship with water and how different modes of water work in our lives and how water affects us. And we truly live in a world of water—the Earth is not called the blue planet for nothing! We cannot live without it; it is fundamental to our existence, and we are born of fluid. Yet we only notice it when we have too much or too little of it. Water sustains our bodies in terms of life and also without being made of water our bodies would be crushed by gravity.

I think that *Scattered* and its subject matter will be elemental in our future and I find it a fascinating subject to work on and look at it from different angles. In this project, we will continue to work with highly physical and visually strong expression, developing the aerial work, though there will also an element of surprise involved!

—Kevin Finnan

*Scattered* is commissioned by Warwick Arts Centre and created with support from Playbox Theatre, Warwick.

# ABOUT THE ARTISTS

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## **Motionhouse**

Consistently producing critically acclaimed, physically and visually stunning dance theatre, Motionhouse fuses images, action and dynamism to surprise, challenge and delight. When you come to see a Motionhouse performance you can expect to witness something really special; an exhilarating combination of beautifully poignant yet awesomely physical dance and powerful visual theatre. We tour dance that appeals to everyone's imagination. The company is equally at ease performing in major venues the length and breadth of the country as we are on a beach, in parks, castle gardens or in your local shopping precinct performing alongside children and community dancers.

Since its launch in 1988, the company has toured 18 full-scale productions, built up a formidable educational program for schools and colleges across the UK, trained dozens of dancers, pushed contemporary dance into the aerial arena by combining choreography with sling and bungee skills and developed large-scale site-specific dance spectacles with increasing ambition and shorter festival pieces for performance in a wide range of public places and spaces.

## **Kevin Finnan** (Artistic Director)

Finnan, together with Louise Richards, founded Motionhouse in 1988. As Motionhouse's artistic director Finnan has created, either alone or in collaboration with Louise, all of the company's 18 full-length touring productions. Finnan is passionate about exploring and exploding the traditional use of space in performance and has a history of creating extraordinary dance spectacles including the acclaimed *Machine Dance* for JCB Diggers and Dancers. In 2012, he created *The Voyage* for the London 2012 Festival—an enormous outdoor performance event performed on a life-size cruise-liner in the center of Birmingham and made in collaboration with Legs On The Wall from Australia.

Finnan was choreographer and director of movement for the Opening Ceremony of the London 2012 Paralympic Games. Committed to collaboration, he has worked with artists from many disciplines including writer A.L.Kennedy, installation artist Rosa Sanchez, set visionary Simon Dormon and international companies such as Legs On The Wall and Vancouver's Headlines Theatre. Finnan has an MA in Contemporary Performing Arts from University College Bretton Hall and a PhD in Theatre from Warwick University. He is a visiting Fellow at the University of Warwick and Associate Artist of Greenwich+Docklands International Festival.

## **Louise Richards** (Executive Director)

Richards is co-founding director of Motionhouse. Originally a dancer and choreographer, she has undertaken numerous commissions for other companies and maintains close links with the performing company and creative process. She continues to teach the company's devised style, offering inspirational training to dancers, students, teachers and practitioners both in the UK and throughout the world.

Richards is regularly invited to attend and speak at seminars and conferences. Committed to the development of the sector, she also acts as a mentor for young performers and smaller organizations. She is currently on the management group for Mimbire and is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts.

## **Jade Barton** (Dancer)

Barton began her training at the age of four, taking dance and gymnastics classes. She was a competitive gymnast for Wolverhampton City until she was 12. Barton then

decided to focus on her dance career and trained with Flexus Youth Dance Company for four years before embarking on the Foundation Course at the Northern School of Contemporary Dance (NSCD). She followed this with three years at NSCD, achieving a BPA Honors Degree in Contemporary Dance, during which time she performed in works by Simon Birch and Company Chameleon. Barton joined Motionhouse in March 2012.

**Claire Benson** (Dancer)

Benson graduated from the London Studio Centre with a BA in Theatre Dance in 2001. After graduating, she worked with various dance companies including, Gelede Dance and Retina Dance Company in 2002, after which she moved to Edinburgh for six months and ended up staying there for four years. During her time in Scotland, Benson worked for various companies including Freshmess and X Factor Dance Company. Benson worked with director Gerry Mulgrew in 2007 as part of the cast of *St Kilda the Opera* and has recently returned to Scotland to play Nannie the Witch in Mulgrew's adaptation of *Tam O' Shanter*. Before joining Motionhouse in April 2008, she worked with Kompany Malakhi on their latest show, *Boxin*.

**Martina Bussi** (Dancer)

Bussi began dancing at an early age, studying ballet and modern at Centro Danza Arkè under the direction of Matilde De Marchi and Annagrazia D'Antico. She moved to London in 2006, where she trained at London Contemporary Dance School and graduated with a Postgraduate Diploma in Performance in 2008. In 2010, she gained an MA in Performance. She has performed with various companies including Henri Oguike Dance Company, TomDale Company and Tavaziva Dance touring nationally and internationally. She recently graduated with a BS in Sport Science from University of Torino (Italy) and is interested in the connection between sport and dance.

**Giorgio de Carolis** (Dancer)

Carolis began his study of dance at the age of 17, with a background training in athletics and swimming. After studying ballet and contemporary dance at the Fondazione Regionale Arte nella Danza, he moved to London, to further his training at London Contemporary Dance School, where he graduated with a Postgraduate diploma in Performance in 2008. He performed with Henri Oguike Dance Company as part of the LCDS apprenticeship program and then attended a professional development course at Aberystwyth Arts Centre, led by Sean Feldman and Diversions. Since then, he has worked freelance for different theatres (Bonnie Bird Theatre and White Lodge in London with Combination Dance Company) and site specific works (*The Shunt*, *Lakes Alive*, with Axial Dance and SE8soundandmotion). He is currently training to be a Pilates instructor with the Pilates Institute in London.

**Daniel Connor** (Dancer)

Connor started dancing at age 14 with Cheshire Youth Dance Company. He went to Middlesex University before transferring to The Northern School of Contemporary Dance to undertake his professional training. Connor graduated from NSCD in 2010 and was awarded their Annual Performance Prize. He joined Verve11, the post-graduate performance company of NSCD for a European tour. He worked with a variety of choreographers, including Ben Wright, Debbie Johnson, Charles Linnehan, Thomas Nonne and Peter Mika. He graduated with a distinction in July 2011. In September 2011, Connor joined Earthfall Dance to tour with the company's award winning show *At Swim Two Boys*. Following this, in May 2012, he joined Simon Birch Dance Company for the creation and tour of *Terrarium-Dance in a Bubble*. He also performed Willi Dorner's *Bodies in Urban Spaces* as part of the London 2012 Cultural Olympiad.

**Junior Cunningham** (Rehearsal Director/Dancer)

Cunningham was encouraged to study contemporary dance by his sister, Chantele Harvey, when he was 17 years old. His early teachers in the Midlands were Marion Thraves and Bernard Pierre-Louis. He joined the Northern School of Contemporary Dance (Leeds) in 1999 and graduated in 2002 with a BPA (Hons) Degree in Contemporary Dance. During this time, he performed on tour with NSCD and at the Gross Brittanien Festival in Dortmund, Germany. He also worked commercially in Switzerland and Paris. In 2002, Cunningham apprenticed with Motionhouse. He joined the company full-time in January 2003. He is the Rehearsal Director for the current company.

**Anthony Middleton** (Dancer)

Middleton was born and raised in West Yorkshire and before coming to dance, was a member of the Great Britain Gymnastic Squad, where he won Bronze at the 2003 World Championships. He began his professional dance training at the Northern School of Contemporary Dance, graduating in 2010. Since graduation, Middleton had been a member of Balletboyz, working with choreographers Russell Maliphant, Freddie Opoku-Addaie, Jareck Cemerek and Liam Scarlett. In addition to dancing, Middleton also regularly teaches and creates his own work under the company name of the Middleton Corpus. He joined Motionhouse in 2012.

**Alasdair Stewart** (Dancer)

Stewart trained as a gymnast and competed in national championships from the age of nine. He began his dance training at Barton Peveril College and then joined Hampshire Youth Dance Company and worked as an apprentice with Full Force Dance Company, under the direction of Helen Parlor. He began advanced pre-vocational training at The Place's Centre for Advanced Training and graduated with First Class BA (Hons) from London Contemporary Dance School. During his training at LCDS he undertook a four-month exchange program to California Institute of the Arts where he specialized in dance theatre. Since graduating, Stewart has been performing with Hofesh Shechter Company and Dance United through postgraduate study with the LCDS apprenticeship program. He joined Motionhouse in 2009.

**Rebecca Williams** (Dancer)

Williams completed her vocational training at the Northern School of Contemporary Dance in 2010 qualifying with a BPA (Hons) degree. Williams has danced with Harnisch Lacey Dance Theatre, creating and touring their double bill show, Spin. During this time, she had the opportunity to make choreography for Hedfan Youth Company. She then went on to work for Watkins Dance, Wayne Sables Project, Company Decalage and Joon Dance. Williams also organizes international break dance events and has her own professional dance company, Dirty Feet. Dirty Feet DC premiered its piece *Out of Nowhere* as part of Resolutions! 2012 with a sold-out show.