Swan Lake / Loch na hEala

Teaċ Dársna
Written, directed, and choreographed by Michael Keegan-Dolan

BAM Harvey Theater
Oct 15—19 at 7:30pm; Oct 20 at 3pm
Running time: approx. one hour and 15 minutes, no intermission

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Swan Lake/Loch na hEala

Photos courtesy the company
ARTISTIC TEAM
Written, directed, and choreographed by
Michael Keegan-Dolan
Set design by Sabine Dargent
Costume design by Hyemi Shin
Lighting design by Adam Silverman
Music by Slow Moving Clouds

PERFORMERS
Musician, nyckellharpa Aki
Musician, cello Mary Barnecutt
Nancy O’Reilly Elizabeth Cameron Dalman
Musician, fiddle Danny Diamond
The Second Watcher/Winnie Zen Jefferson
Finola’s Sister/Swan Anna Kaszuba
The First Watcher/Lyudmilla Saku Koistinen
Jimmy O’Reilly Alexander Leonhartsberger
The Holy Man Mikel Murfi
The Third Watcher/Margaret Erik Nevin
Finola Rachel Poirier
Finola’s Sister/Swan Latisha Sparks
Finola’s Sister/Swan Carys Staton

PRODUCTION TEAM
Producer Johnny O’Reilly
Touring rehearsal director Emmanuel Obeya
Touring production manager Michael Lonergan
Company stage manager Marina Dunford
Deputy stage manager Sinéad Cormack
Sound manager Sandra O’Mahony
Lighting manager Stephen Dodd
Costume supervisor Amanda Donovan
Production manager Peter Jordan
Associate producer & administrator Áine Ní Éalaí

Co-production by Teac Dársa; Sadler’s Wells Theatre London; Colours International Dance Festival, Theaterhaus Stuttgart; Dublin Theatre Festival; and Theatre de la Ville, Luxembourg.

Presented with support from Culture Ireland
Teac Dársa is supported by First Derivatives
Additional support from Irish Arts Center

Board of Directors Madeline Boughton, Anne Connelly, Ana Dolan, Catherine Dolan, Eithne Hand, Manchán Magan, Aisling Rogerson | teacdamsa.com
DON'T BE AFRAID OF THE DARK.

Every winter, as the days grow short and the nights grow long and dark, thousands of migrating swans appear on the many lakes that surround the house where I used to live. Over time the presence of these swans and that darkness began to merge in my imagination with the love story and tragedy that is Swan Lake.

Much of Christian culture has been reduced to a simple notion that God is good, has a white beard and lives in the light, and the devil is bad and sits in the dark. This reductive view of the nature of things can be the root of much suffering and confusion.

Darkness is the absence of light. Fundamentally it is how we know what light is.

Depression, like most illness, can be a consequence of a continued state of imbalance, often connected with unresolved events from our lives. The accumulated sadness eventually immobilizes us and can make us sick. This sickness often requires a fundamental change to move it. Change, no matter how unwelcome, is an inevitable part of life; nature’s forces are constantly moving, seeking to find balance so that life can continue to endlessly unfold. When depression visits us it is asking us to change.

Depression, by its nature, forces you to be still long enough to hear what you are trying to tell yourself. In the dark we can see nothing with our actual external eyes. In silence there is nothing to hear with our external ears. When our senses have nothing on which to attach, our internal world wakes up and starts to speak to us quietly. When this happens it is important to listen carefully.

The darkness in any story is there to teach us something. Don’t be afraid of the dark, it is your friend.

—Michael Keegan-Dolan
TEAC ĐAMSÁ (pronounced Chak Dowsa) was founded by Michael Keegan-Dolan (Micheál MacAodhágáin-O'Dobhailen) in 2016 as a means to forge deeper connections with the traditions, language, and music of Ireland. Léiríonn an t-aímn Teac Đamsa aistear leanúnach Mhíchíl chun saothar rince agus drámaíochta a chruthú go bhfuil a n-áit duchais – an áit a dtagann siad – le brath go soiléir orthu. The name Teac Đamsa, “House of Dance,” reflects Michael's ongoing journey to create dance and theater work that clearly reflects the place from which it originates. Teac Đamsa’s second show, MÁM, opened to great acclaim on Sep 27, 2019 as part of Dublin Theatre Festival. MÁM will tour internationally in 2020 to London, Perth Festival and New Zealand Festival.

MICHAEL KEEGAN-DOLAN (writer, director, choreographer) was the artistic director of Fabulous Beast Dance Theatre from 1997 to 2015. He founded Teac Đamsa in 2016 and now lives in the Corca Dhuibhne Gaeltacht with his partner Rachel Poirier and their two children. Swan Lake/Loch na hEala was the first production from Teac Đamsa and has toured extensively both nationally and internationally over the past three years; MÁM is the second production from the company.

ADAM SILVERMAN (lighting design) works as a lighting designer in opera, theater, and dance. Productions with Michael Keegan-Dolan: Swan Lake/Loch an hEala, The Big Noise, The Rite of Spring / Petrushka, Rian, Helen and Hell, James Son of James, The Bull, Giselle, and the English National Opera productions of The Rite of Spring and Julius Caesar. Other recent productions include Enda Walsh and Donnacha Dennehy’s Second Violinist and The Last Hotel; Enda Walsh’s Grief Is the Thing with Feathers, Arlington, Ballyturk, and Misterman. Silverman has lit theater and opera productions on Broadway, the West End, The Abbey Theatre, The Gate Theatre, Royal National Theatre, Opera Ireland, Metropolitan Opera, Teatro alla Scala, Royal Opera, and English National Opera, among others.

HYEMI SHIN (costume design) was the overall winner of the 2011 Linbury Prize. Dance includes: Michael Keegan-Dolan’s Swan Lake/Loch na hEala (costumes), for which she won the Irish Times Best Costumes award, New Work New Music (Royal Ballet), Unearth (National Ballet of Canada), and The Kreutzer Sonata (Ballet Moscow). Theater includes: Solaris (Malthouse, Melbourne); The End of Eddy (Unicorn Theatre); The Seagull, Herons, Morning, A Midsummer Night’s Dream and Secret Theatre shows (Lyric Hammersmith); Once in a Lifetime (sets), Dirty Butterfly and Sizwe Banzi Is Dead (Young Vic). Opera includes: La Damnation de Faust (sets, Glyndebourne Opera), The Skating Rink (costumes, Garsington Opera), and The Return of Ulysses (sets, ROH/Roundhouse).

SABINE DARGENT (set design) has won two Irish Times Best Set-Design Awards in Ireland. She is a freelance scenographer, working in theater, dance, and street theater with various directors and companies. Dargent worked in France with Théâtre de Chatillon, Théâtre de l'Épée de Bois, Maurice Bachet, and in Ireland with Michael Keegan-Dolan, Mikel Murfi, Emma Martin, Junk Ensemble, Brokentalkers, Conall Morrison, Enda Walsh, Jim Culleton, Paul McEnaney, Selina Cartmell, and others. She loves theater, dance, and physical theater, but has also designed for exhibitions, films, and has designed big events and street theater. sabinedargent.com

CAST

AKI is a Dublin-based singer/multi-instrumentalist/composer whose constant search for new sounds and musical ideas keeps him exploring and combining different music genres as well as developing new musical instruments. He’s a member of a collaborative post-folk band, Slow Moving Clouds, which created the original score for Swan Lake/Loch na hEala. The band has recently played with artists such as Jenny Lewis, The National, Boys Noize, Gordi, Rusangano, and Lisa O’Neill. Slow Moving Clouds is currently working on a new album due to be released early next year. Aki has toured and performed his music in Europe, Russia, Asia, Australia, New Zealand, and North America.

MARY BARNECUTT is a Dublin-based musician who works with a variety of bands, orchestras, and educational projects. She has written music for short films, theater, dance productions, and has worked with artists such as Julie Feeney, Vyvienne Long, Adrian Crowley, Seti the 1st, Ray Harman, and Ruth O’Mahony Brady. She is currently cellist and vocalist with Teac Đamhsa in the touring production of Swan Lake/Loch Na hEala. She manages two string projects in Dublin primary schools and in 2019 created the improvised music show, Stringplay, for children with her sister Kathrine for the Ark, in association with IMC. She is curator of the weekly Sundays@Noon Concert Series in the
Hugh Lane Gallery and co-director of Spike, Dublin’s annual alternative cello festival. She also produces and records her own music under the name Mary & the Pigeons. marypigeons.com

DR. ELIZABETH CAMERON DALMAN (OAM), a director, choreographer, performer, and teacher, is a pioneer of contemporary dance in Australia. She founded Australian Dance Theatre and was its artistic director for 10 years. She is currently director of Mirramu Creative Arts Centre and artistic director of Mirramu Dance Company. From 2004—06 she was head of the Dance Department at the University of Western Sydney. She teaches at the Taipei National University of the Arts and appears in the Tsai Jui-yueh International Dance Festival in Taiwan. She is a recipient of many dance awards, including an International Dance Festival in Taiwan. She is a pioneer of contemporary dance in Australia.

DANNY DIAMOND is a musician from Ireland, currently based in Minneapolis. He comes from a renowned family of traditional musicians with a deep cultural heritage in the north of Ireland. In his work Diamond plays fiddle, sings, writes, arranges, and records music. He has released two solo recordings: Fiddle Music (2014) and Elbow Room (2017). Other collaborations include the fiddle duo NORTH with Conor Caldwell and What to Bring When We Leave, a two-man show with poet Tom French. Previously he played with the bands Slow Moving Clouds and Mórga, and worked as an audio archivist and researcher with the Irish Traditional Music Archive in Dublin.

ZEN JEFFERSON is a Swiss-American dancer, performer, and DJ/sound collage artist based in Berlin. He graduated from The Juilliard School in 2006 and has since worked in Europe, Africa, and Asia with choreographers and creatives of various imaginative constellations. His mountain is Mt. Rainier and waters Lake Washington, which both form the backdrop of Seattle where he spent his youth. He has collaborated on five productions with Teac Damsa and he is so blessed and grateful to share this work with his inspired colleagues and audiences.

ANNA KASZUBA was born in Wolverhampton, UK. She graduated from London Contemporary Dance School with a first class degree in 2009, and later completed an MA focusing on ritual and performance. She completed an apprenticeship with Scottish Dance Theatre and toured with the company. Since then Kaszuba has been working as an independent artist and has performed with Scottish Dance Theatre, Grange Park Opera, Opera National de Lorraine, Emma Martin/United Fall (IE), Laura Murphy (IE), Catherine Young (IE), Dan Canham/Still House (UK), and Van Hulle Dance Theatre. She has worked with Michael Keegan-Dolan since 2011 on Rian, The Rite of Spring, and Petrushka and toured worldwide with the company. Kaszuba also holds a qualification in Holistic Massage therapy.

SAKU KOISTINEN earned his Master of Arts (dance) at Theatre Academy in Helsinki in 2009. Since 2006 he has been working with several choreographers and companies, including Tero Saarinen Company, Eeva Muilu, Yuval Pick, Jorma Uotinen, and contemporary theater group Und er libet. Koistinen has been dancing in Michael Keegan-Dolan’s works since 2009; The Rite of Spring at English National Opera was his first performance. Since 2010 Koistinen has been creating his own works, which have been performed in Finland and also toured in France, Czech Republic, Russia, and India. Since August 2017 he has also been the artistic director of Routa Company, an open company for contemporary dance based in Kajaani, Northern Finland.

ALEX LEONHARTSBERGER was born in Vienna, Austria, and trained at and graduated from the Austrian Ballet School of the State Opera in Vienna. He then freelanced for many different choreographers and companies around the globe including Volksoper Wien, Tanztheater Wien, Landestheater Linz, Fabulous Beast Dance Theatre, Royal New Zealand Ballet, Michael Parmenter, Australian Dance Theater, Raewyn Hill, Alyx Duncan, Daniel Belton, The Playground, Maria Dabrowska, Mia Mason, Jo Randerson, Malia Johnson, New Zealand Dance Company, Muscle Mouth, and Douglas Wright. Leonhartsberger toured with Keegan-Dolan performing the Stravinsky Double-Bill in Great Britain, and also The Rite of Spring and Petruschka. He is based in Tamaki Makaurau, New Zealand and lives there with his partner and three children. He loves to laugh, working with his hands, riding bikes, and digging in the garden, mostly for edibles.

MIKEL MURFI is from Sligo, Ireland and trained at Ecole Jaques Lecoq, Paris. His recent theater performances include his two solo shows, The
Man in the Woman’s Shoes and I Hear You and Rejoice, Dolores (Junk Ensemble), The Last Hotel and Ballyturk (GIAF/Landmark); The New Electric Ballroom (Druid); Morning After Optimism, Playboy of the Western World (Peacock Theatre); The Comedy of Errors, The Tempest (Abbey Theatre); Giselle, The Rite of Spring, and Petrushka (Fabulous Beast); Desire Under the Elms (Lyric, Hammersmills). Recent directing work includes Waiting for Godot (Theatre du Pif, Hong Kong); The Far Off Hills (Nomad Theatre Network); Tóróisicht (Fibin). Other directing work includes Falling Out of Love (Yew Tree), Focal Point (TEAM), B for Baby (Abbey), The Second Coming (Fidget Feet/Hawk’s Well Theatre), and The Walworth Farce, Penelope (Druid). Film includes: The Ballad of Kid Kanturk, Sweety Barrett, The Butler Boy, Love and Rage, Guiltrip, and Jimmy’s Hall. He directed Druma and John Duffy’s Brother.

ERIK NEVIN, born in Ireland but raised in Sweden, began dancing in his late teens. With a background in martial arts and sports he then shifted to contemporary dance. After studies in Sweden, he moved to the UK where he graduated with a first class degree from Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance in 2011. Nevin has worked across Europe with companies but also presenting his own work. He is currently based in Brussels. Some of the artists he has worked with are Michael Keegan-Dolan, Rosemary Butler, Dog Kennel Hill Project, Pablo Bronstein, Robbie Syngé, Joe Moran, Miet Warlop, Vera Tussing, Hussein Chalayan, and Damien Jalet. Besides his performance practice Nevin is also studying climate change and sustainable development.

RACHEL POIRIER trained in France at the conservatoire of Rennes, l’École Nationale de la Rochelle, furthered her training at the Rudra conservatoire of Rennes, l’École Nationale de Sustainable Development. Nevin is also studying climate change and others by lighting matches or smoking in prohibited areas during the performances and intermissions. This violates a New York City ordinance and is punishable by law. —Fire Commissioner.

Warning The photographing, videotaping, or sound recording of any performance without written permission of the management, is prohibited by law. Violators may be punished by ejection and may be liable for money damages.

кт Notice The exit indicated by a red light and sign nearest to the seat you occupy is the shortest route to the street. In the event of fire or other emergency, please WALK TO THAT EXIT, FOLLOWING THE DIRECTIVES OF THE HOUSE STAFF. Thoughtless persons annoy patrons and endanger the safety of others by lighting matches or smoking in prohibited areas during the performances and intermissions. This violates a New York City ordinance and is punishable by law. —Fire Commissioner.

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Who’s Who

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LATISHA SPARKS is a freelance contemporary dance performer. Born in Perth, Western Australia, she began her dance training at Gail Meade Performing Arts Centre. She decided to follow her passion and undertake formal training at the Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School and the New Zealand School of Dance. Throughout her training, Sparks has worked with Tim Harbour (Carmen and Jose, 2011), Ursula Robb, Mahlia Johnston (World of Wearable Art awards show, 2013), Douglas Wright (Rapt excerpts, 2014), Ross McCormack (Preface-Tempo Festival, 2015), Thomas Bradley (Conditions of Entry, 2015), Iratxe Ansa (Metamorphosis, 2015) and others. Sparks began her career performing Mana Wahine with Okareka Dance Company before joining Sydney Dance Company where she performed works by Rafaela Bonachela, Alexander Ekman, Cheng Tsung-Lung, Melanie Lane, and others. She recently toured Germany with Cooperativa Maura Morales performing Phobos and now joins Teac Daírsa to perform Swan Lake/Loch na hEala.

CARYS STATON works from London as an independent dance artist. She began working with Teac Daírsa in 2016 for the creation and international tour of Swan Lake/Loch na hEala and is thrilled to continue working with Keegan-Dolan. After training at the Rambert School, Staton danced for Russell Maliphant Company from 2011—16, both performing and assisting choreographically on creations with English National Ballet and Bayerisches Staatsballet. Other recent projects include work with National Youth Dance Company, RobertaJean/ MysterySkin, as well as performing and devising movement for music, film, and print. Fascinated by the relationship between mind and body, her ongoing personal practice and study centers around somatic movement therapy.

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