



Peterborough New Dance presents

MEAGAN O'SHEA
something blue

December 6, 2006
Market Hall Performing Arts Centre
Peterborough, Ontario

Photo by: Andrea Spaziani

MEAGAN O'SHEA: *something blue*

Creator and Performer	Meagan O'Shea
Dress Creator	Martha Cockshutt
Technical Director and Assistant Lighting Designer	Gabriel Cropley
Rehearsal Director	Susanna Hood
Structural Assistant	Yvonne Coutts
Collaborators during process	Aviva Chernick and Viv Moore
Music Creator	Lori Clarke
<i>En la Mar</i> Singer	Aviva Chernick
Interactive Technology Design	Dave Pijuan-Nomura
Lighting Designer	Rebecca Picherack
Project Assistant	Sarah Lochhead
Additional Support	Megan Hamilton and Jennifer Winchester

The sensual, tactile nature of memory fascinates me. I began creating the work in February 2005, with the idea of reclaiming wedding dresses to create something new out of something old. Some material from that period remains and some was added last week. Which reminds me of the next piece I am going to make...

The performance comes from my own explorations and experiences. I invite you, the audience, to participate. By touching the wedding dress, which is made of wedding dresses and photos from women who are no longer married, you trigger a telling of their stories. The same way they might run their hand over their dress and remember, you can too.

~ Meagan O'Shea

The creation and production of *something blue* has been supported by Canada Council for the Arts, the Ontario Arts Council, the City of Toronto through the Toronto Arts Council, as well as in residencies at Lynda Raino Dance Centre in Victoria, Sunshine Coast Dance Society in Gibson's BC, Earthdance in Massachusetts, the Banff Centre, Le Groupe Dance Lab and the School of Dance in Ottawa, fabrik Potsdam in Germany, Peterborough New Dance, and at HUB 14 in Toronto.

The Wedding Dress

In modern tradition, the colour of western-culture wedding dresses is white. Used in this sense, 'white' or 'wedding white' includes creamy shades such as eggshell, ecru and ivory. The popularity of this colour can be traced back to 1840 and the marriage of Queen Victoria to Albert of Saxe-Coburg. The Queen chose to wear a white gown for the event. The official wedding portrait photograph was widely published and many brides opted for a similar dress in honor of that choice. Prior to the Victorian era a bride was married in any colour except black (the colour of mourning) or red (which was connected with prostitutes). The white dress came to symbolize purity of heart and the innocence of childhood. The color blue was connected to purity.

From 2004 to 2006 Meagan collected stories and dresses or photos from women (and men) who are no longer married. The dress includes seventeen patches gathered from people from Newfoundland to British Columbia, Massachusetts, and New Zealand via Germany.

Interested in what became of the dress once imbued with hopes and dreams when the marriage ends, Meagan wanted to make something new out of something old.

Often arriving in a community for a different project, she posted notices and spread the word through workshops she taught or post-performance talks. People love to tell their stories. Especially if promised that only their voices, and not their face will be used!

She collected stories from women who'd asked their husbands to leave the week before and from someone whose husband left her in 1965!

The dress was designed and constructed by Peterborough costume designer Martha Cockshutt.

To make it work, Dave Pijuan-Normura designed the interactive technology that triggers the audio recording of the corresponding story when the patch is touched. It has been designed so that only one story can play at a time.



"Life shrinks and expands in proportion to one's courage"

Anais Nin

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UPCOMING SHOWS

All performances at the Market Hall Performing Arts Centre



February 1 & 2, 8 pm
hum: *She's Gone Away*

In the opinion of many the best independent dance presented in Toronto last season, winner of the Dora Award for Susanna Hood's stunning portrayal of a human trying to tame the beast within.



February 26 - March 2
Moving Cultures

Designed for youth and aimed at schools, Moving Cultures is an hour-long program featuring four dance artists from different cultural and artistic backgrounds.



March 9 & 10, 8 pm
**battery opera:
[storm]**

Using archetypes drawn from man's relationship with the sea, Vancouver-based battery opera's [storm] delineates a history of humankind that is at once sacred and profane, cruel and tender.

**emergency
#15**

**Deadline for
Proposals:
Dec. 13**

March 22 to 24
Emergency #15

Our annual festival of brave new works of dance and performance by some of our finest talent, ranging from veteran local dance artists to adventurous newcomers. Visit our website for guidelines on how to submit your proposal. www.publicenergy.ca

Workshop with Meagan O'Shea:

Movement-Based Interdisciplinary Performance Creation



Drawing on participants' own ideas, this workshop will guide you through different ways to imagine, conceptualize, and begin creating an interdisciplinary performance work incorporating movement or dance.

The workshop will explore movement creation and choreography techniques. It applies to solo creation as well as group work, however, within the workshop participants will explore ideas on themselves, creating solo sketches. Each session will begin with a physical warm-up in the space.

This workshop lets participants take a dry run at making a piece. By beginning with an idea that is personally relevant we will discuss all the elements of making a piece, ask questions about the kind of work you want to make, and explore the different processes you can follow.

This two-day workshop is suitable for a broad cross-section of performers interested in creating their own interdisciplinary performance work.

Bring ideas you may wish to explore or use as a basis for creation.

Wear appropriate clothing and footwear for moving.

In 2 parts: Dec. 8m, 4pm-7pm. Dec. 9, 1pm-5pm
at Sadleir House. \$20. Call 745-1788 to reserve.

Listen to Trent Radio



image by Bruce Tudor

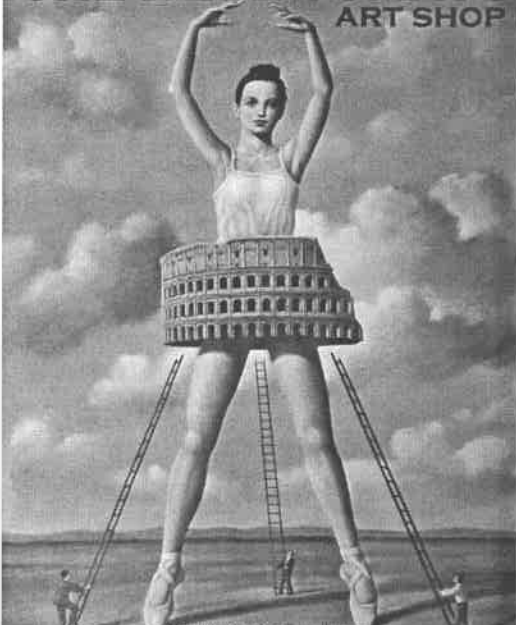
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MOVING CULTURES

Designed for youth and aimed at schools, Moving Cultures is an hour-long program featuring four dance artists from different cultural and artistic backgrounds.

Taking part this year are:

Richa Khandelwal -
Kathak, Classical Dance from India

Mayelin Lovet Semmler -
African Contemporary

Christine Friday O'Leary -
First Nations Contemporary

Wes Ryan and Kate Story -
Dance Theatre

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PETERBOROUGH NEW DANCE is an animator of contemporary dance and, under the banner PUBLIC ENERGY, related forms encompassing theatre, new music and interdisciplinary work. Since 1994 we have presented a mainstage series of dance companies and independent choreographers drawn from across Canada, commissioned new work in concert with other Canadian presenters on the CanDance Network, and supported the development of the local dance, theatre and performance community by presenting area artists and arranging specialized classes and workshops. Tax deductible donations can be made on line at www.canadahelps.org.

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