

How does the city move you? On bodies, identity and urban design

12.30 – 19.30, Saturday 30 June
Siobhan Davies Studios
85 St George's Road London SE1

Theatrum Mundi
Room 67 New Wing
Somerset House
London WC2R 1LA
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info@theatrum-mundi.org

Registered Charity 1174149

Siobhan Davies Dance
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The event is presented in partnership between Siobhan Davies Dance and Theatrum Mundi as part of the London Festival of Architecture, responding to its 2018 theme of Identity.

Our cities are built based on generalised ideas about human bodies and how we move. What if choreography could challenge these assumptions and help urban design imagine more diverse identities? Theatrum Mundi and Siobhan Davies Dance present an afternoon bringing researchers and practitioners from urbanism and dance into dialogue. The event explores how choreographic thinking could inform urban design and planning, broadening our understanding of the relationships between bodies, movement and the city.

We start with two discussions about how architecture imagines the body, and how different cultures of movement can resist this. These sessions are followed by workshops on choreographic and architectural design, self-expression through Vogue-Chi, and Latin shaping of public spaces near Siobhan Davies Studio in Elephant & Castle. The day is closing with performance interventions by disabled and non-disabled dance artists from Candoco Dance Company over drinks.

Candoco Dance Company has been in residence at Siobhan Davies Studios June 25-29. Company dance artists have been researching their own embodied relationship to identity and urban design, in and around the Studios. This afternoon, some of them are sharing their performance practice throughout the building.

Dance artist Tanja Erhardt, formerly of Candoco Dance Company, created a specially-commissioned zine documenting her experiences of navigating the city with different physical versions of herself.

12.30 Arrival: Coffee and welcome

12.45 **Richard Sennett: The politics of gesture**
→ Roof Studio, 2nd Floor

13.15 **Imagined Bodies** → Roof Studio, 2nd Floor
What kind of urban body is assumed? What physical identities is the city designed around? And how can choreographic thinking help imagine and articulate other kinds of physicality?

14.15 – .30 Break

14.30 **Cultures of Movement** → Roof Studio, 2nd Floor
How are shapes and rhythms formed in the social life of cities? How do queer or migrant cultures of movement, for example, inhabit the city?

15.30 – .00 Break with light refreshments provided

16.00 **Adesola Akinleye**
Choreographing the City: at the city limits
→ Research Studio, 1st Floor
Exploring where choreographic and architectural problems meet, collide and inform each other. The workshop will play with seeing the moving-body as the canvas for how the city shapes and is shaped.

Joselyne Contreras and Dr Jorge Saavedra Utman
Walking Latin Elephant →Meet in the courtyard
What does it mean to inhabit a space? How do our senses embrace cities? Let's walk through Elephant and Castle to approach the relationship between bodies, representation, memory and identity.

Carlos Maria Romero AKA Atabey
Vogue-Chi → Roof Studio, 2nd Floor
No previous experience is required. Vogue-Chi is OPEN FOR ALL ages and backgrounds. Vogue-Chi is a multigenerational queer and allies safe space for self-expression and coming together.

17.45 **Siobhan Davies: closing remarks**

18.00 **Performed interventions based on results of research residency: Candoco Dance Company**
→ Throughout the building

19.30 Ends

parallel workshops
sign up for one on arrival

Sara Adhitya Urban Designer / Research Associate, UCL-squared • **Ellie Cosgrave**, Director, UCL City Leadership Lab • **Joel Brown**, Dance Artist • Chair: **John Bingham-Hall**, Director, Theatrum Mundi

Sam Causer Architect, Director, Studio Sam Causer • **Rosemary Lee**, Choreographer and filmmaker • **Akil Scafe-Smith** Public Practice Associate / RESOLVE Co-Founder • Chair: **Lauren Wright**, Programme Director, Siobhan Davies Dance

Candoco Dance Company is the company of disabled and non-disabled dancers, founded in 1991. Candoco produces excellent and profound experiences for audiences and participants that excite, challenge and broaden perceptions of art and ability, and place people and collaboration at the heart of their work.

DR. ADESOLA AKINLEYE

- Choreographer
- Middlesex University
- Adesola Akinleye DancingStrong Co.

Adesola Akinleye is a choreographer artist-scholar. She trained at The Rambert Academy. She began her career as a dancer with Dance Theatre of Harlem, later working in UK with companies such as Green Candle and Union. She now directs her own company DancingStrong which tours UK and North America. Her choreographic awards include One Dance UK Champion Trailblazer, Bonnie Bird New Choreography Award, ADAD Trailblazer Award. She was awarded Woman of the Year in Community Dance by the Town of Islip, New York. Adesola publishes and creates in the field of dance scholarship as well as cultural and social studies. She is a Fellow of the RSA. She holds a PhD from Canterbury Christ Church University and MA (Distinction) from Middlesex University. This summer DancingStrong is touring UK with two works made (with and) for young audiences – 'Found' & 'Light Steps'.

→ dancingstrong.com/architecture

JOEL BROWN

- Dance artist
- Candoco Dance Company

Joel Brown is an American paraplegic dancer based in London. He has toured extensively with Brown Rice Productions and AXIS Dance Company from 2011-2014 and is currently engaged with Candoco Dance Company since 2015. He has performed works by and collaborated with choreographers such as Yasmeen Godder, Arlene Phillips, Alexander Whitley, Trisha Brown, Yvonne Rainer, Marc Brew, and others. Joel was nominated for an Isadora Duncan Award for "Outstanding Achievement in Performance" in 2013 and was recently awarded an "Emerging Artist" grant from Unlimited to create a new duet with himself and former Scottish Ballet Principal Dancer, Eve Mutso.

→ candoco.co.uk

SARA ADHITYA

- Urban Designer, Research Associate
- UCL-squared

Sara Adhitya is an urban interaction designer and Research Associate with the Accessibility Research Group at University College London. Co-founder of the Universal Composition Laboratory (UCL-squared), she focuses on the multisensorial design of the urban environment in space-time. Informed by her multidisciplinary background in music, architecture and urban design, she is particularly interested in the composition of more sustainable urban rhythms. In 2013, she was awarded a European Doctorate in the 'Quality of Design' of Architecture and Urban Planning by the University IUAV of Venice and the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Paris, for her innovative work on sonifying urban rhythms. Author of the recent interactive 'book' Musical Cities (UCL Press, 2017), she continues to explore how sound and music can improve the design of our cities. She also collaborates creatively with non-profit organisations around the world towards improving urban liveability and sustainability through participatory design and planning.

→ rhythmicities.com

→ cege.ucl.ac.uk/arg/ucl-squared

→ [@uclsquared](https://twitter.com/uclsquared)

JOHN BINGHAM-HALL

- Director
- Theatrum Mundi

John Bingham-Hall is the Director of TM, and Honorary Senior Lecturer at UCL STEaPP. He has held academic posts at LSE Cities, UCL STEaPP, and CSM, and has worked outside academia in cultural programming. John holds a BMus (Music) from Goldsmiths College, and an MSc Advanced Architectural Studies and PhD Architectural Space and Computation from UCL.

→ theatrum-mundi.org

→ [@public_culture](https://twitter.com/public_culture)

SAM CAUSER

- Director
- Studio Sam Causer

Sam Causer is director of Studio Sam Causer, an architecture practice founded in 2005 and now based in Margate since 2009. He is a part-time lecturer at the University of Kent, following previous positions at De Montfort University and the University of Cambridge. Sam is a founding partner of Margate Coastal Park Promotion Group, alongside Carlos Maria and Sophie Jeffrey, whose aim is to research and conserve a five-mile stretch of coastal public land in East Kent. Projects under this umbrella include Blushing Pavilion (2015), a research document 'Analysis of the Emergence of a Public Space and its resilience in a Digital Age' (2016), and arts festival A Clifftop Wander (2016). Current projects in the practice include the conservation of the community spaces of Maxwell Fry's Grade II* listed Modernist Kensal House in north London, and interventions into and repair of a Capability Brown landscape in Northamptonshire. Studio Sam Causer is included in the Architecture Foundation's decennial survey of significant emerging practices 'New Architects' (2016).

→ samcauser.com

JOSELYNE CONTRERAS

- PhD student in Curatorial Knowledge
- Goldsmiths
- Latin Elephant volunteer

Joselyne Contreras is curator and researcher, currently doing a PhD in Curatorial Knowledge at Goldsmiths, University of London. Currently she is curator of the Public Programme at Latin Elephant, London, and the curatorial project Sala de Carga, Chile. Her work explores issues around curatorial thinking and practices, politics, decolonial, museum and galleries studies with particular emphasis on contemporary Latin American art.

→ latinelephant.org

ELLIE COSGRAVE

- Director
- UCL City Leadership Lab

Ellie is the Director of the City Leadership Lab at University College London and leads the Choreographing the City research within the department as well as work around gender-based violence and urban form. Through her research, Ellie seeks to challenge traditional notions and practices of engineering design by incorporating new perspectives, especially those from the arts and social sciences. For the past year, Ellie has been working with a variety of artists to explore how urban infrastructure might be designed from a more inclusive perspective.

→ ucl.ac.uk/steapp/people/cosgrave

SIOBHAN DAVIES

- Artistic Director
- Siobhan Davies Dance

Siobhan Davies is Artistic Director of Siobhan Davies Dance and a renowned British choreographer who rose to prominence in the 1970s. Davies was a founding member of London Contemporary Dance Theatre and in 1982 joined forces with Richard Alston and Ian Spink to create independent dance company Second Stride. Establishing Siobhan Davies Dance in 1988, she consistently works closely with collaborating dance artists to ensure that their own artistic enquiry is part of the creative process. By 2002 Davies moved away from the traditional theatre circuit and started making work for gallery spaces and other sites. Her artistic practice involves bringing together a collective of artists and choreographers to create within an environment that supports them to share common investigative concerns alongside their own work. In 2006, the RIBA award-winning Siobhan Davies Studios opened in London, UK, realising Davies' long-standing goal of establishing a permanent base for the organisation and for independent dance artists. The Studios are now a vibrant arts space in central London, filled with dance, film and visual art through a regular programme of exhibitions, performances, classes and new commissions from contemporary artists.

→ siobhandavies.com

ROSEMARY LEE

– Choreographer & filmmaker

Known for working in a variety of contexts and media, Rosemary creates large-scale site-specific works with cross-generational casts, solos for herself and other performers, video installations and short films. Her work is characterised by an interest in creating a moving portraiture of the performing communities she brings together, whilst also exploring and highlighting our relationship with our environment, be it urban or rural. Her recent work includes Square Dances involving 150 performers in four London squares, Without, a seven-screen video installation capturing a panoramic view of the city of Derry/Londonderry as hundreds of participants move through the streets, Calling Tree (co directed with Simon Whitehead) which takes place in and around urban trees, and Passage for Par a durational work for 30 women crossing tidal sands. She is an Artsadmin Artist, a Work Place artist, Senior Research Fellow at C-DaRE Coventry University, ResCen Research Associate Artist (Middlesex University).

→ artsadmin.co.uk/artists/rosemary-lee

CARLOS MARIA ROMERO

AKA ATABEY

– Dance Artist

Carlos Maria Romero a.k.a. Atabay Mamasita, is a London based Colombian multidisciplinary artist and performer with a background in dance and live art working in the fields of performing and visual arts, heritage and architectural activism, pedagogy and curating. Maria Romero is the third member of SPIT! (Sodomites, Inverts, Perverts Together!) with whom they wrote and keep presenting a series of queer manifestos responding to contemporary pressing issues of sexual and gender oppression, and a founding member of Vividero Colectivo, a group of multidisciplinary artists and architects revealing narratives in which historically marginalised social practices and architectural sides are (re-)claimed as cultural heritage.

→ carlosmariaromero.com

JORGE SAAVEDRA

– Dr in Media and Communication

– Goldsmiths

– Latin Elephant volunteer

Dr Jorge Saavedra is Postdoctoral Fellow in the Centre for the Study of Global Media and Democracy, Goldsmiths, University of London. His work as a researcher and activist explores issues around politics, social movements, media, communications, art and cultural organizations.

→ latinelephant.org

AKIL SCAFE-SMITH

– Associate / Co-Founder

– Public Practice / RESOLVE

RESOLVE is an interdisciplinary design collective that aims to address social challenges by combining architecture, art, technology and engineering. Run by Akil with his colleagues Gameli Ladzekpo and Seth Scafe-Smith, RESOLVE's inaugural project was the Rebel Space Pavilion, a temporary event space in the heart of Brixton, for London Design Festival 2016. They have since gone on to deliver a series of projects, workshops and talks, also working with UCL Engineering Outreach to pilot projects that introduce young people from under-represented backgrounds to STEM subjects and concepts in interdisciplinary design. In 2018 he became part of the first cohort of Public Practice, an initiative supported by the Mayor of London that places a new generation of planners within local government to shape places for the public good. Under this initiative he is currently working as a Project Officer for Placemaking in the London Borough of Croydon's Spatial Planning Team.

→ [Resolvecollective.com](https://resolvecollective.com)

→ [@akilscafesmith](https://twitter.com/akilscafesmith)

RICHARD SENNETT

– Professor of Sociology

– LSE

Over the course of the last five decades, Richard Sennett has written about social life in cities, changes in labour, and social theory. His books include Families Against the City, The Hidden Injuries of Class, The Fall of Public Man, Authority, The Corrosion of Character, Respect, The Culture of the New Capitalism, Together, The Craftsman, and Building and Dwelling. He has had a public career, first as founder of the New York Institute for the Humanities, then as President of the American Council on Work. For the last three decades, he has served as a consultant to various bodies within the United Nations; most recently, he wrote the mission statement for Habitat III, the United Nation's environmental congress. Five years ago, he created Theatrum Mundi, a research foundation for urban culture, whose board of trustees he now chairs.

→ <https://www.richardsennett.com>

LAUREN WRIGHT

– Programme Curator

– Siobhan Davies Dance

With over 10 years' experience as a visual arts curator, writer and researcher, Wright was formerly Director of Programme at the Hepworth Wakefield. In 2015 she was Artistic Director and Curator of the 2015 Biennial of the Americas in Denver, Colorado, where her projects included major exhibitions, public artworks, residencies, performances and talks involving over 50 international artists and dancers including Marcela Armas, Mariana Castillo Deball, Karl Haendel, Erick Meyenberg, Robert Longo, Bernardo Ortiz, Tania Perez Cordova, Adam Pendleton and Eduardo Terrazas. Between 2010 and 2014, Wright was Curator at Turner Contemporary where her many projects included new commissions, group exhibitions, and performance and participation programmes involving artists such as Rosa Barba, Tracey Emin, Ellen Harvey and Maria Nepomuceno. Among her independent curatorial projects are Sleep: Warhol/Cage/Satie, a major 2007 performance at Tate Modern.

→ siobhandavies.com

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