

**ECHO ECHO DANCE THEATRE COMPANY**  
**REPORT OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

I am pleased to report on another generally successful year for Echo Echo Dance Theatre Company in 2022/23.

After two incredibly challenging years for society as a whole, lockdown restrictions were eased through 2022 and Echo Echo's public programme of events began to fill up again. The first half of 2022/23 was inevitably a slightly slower period as artists began working together on new projects and audiences tentatively returned to indoors activities. However as the year progressed Echo Echo's programme has included and supported some wonderful artists and projects including local, regional and national programmes as well as international projects in Sweden and South Africa - as you can read below.

Generous thanks to outgoing director Mandy Blinco after four years of support to the company and very warm welcome to new directors Ciara Bradley, Gail Mahon, Frank Rafferty and past Echo Echo Chair Tina McCauley who we are delighted to have involved again. My gratitude to each of you for your encouragement, time and support.

To the Echo Echo staff and ensemble - Steve Batts, Ailbe Beirne, Barry Davis, Ayesha Mailey, Anna Nolan, Kelly Quigley, Zoe Ramsey and Tonya Sheina - you continue to work wholeheartedly and with great goodwill and dedication to the company during what have been extremely trying times for the arts sector. Sustained underfunding of the arts in Northern Ireland, compared to our neighbours in the south and over the water, means that many new work projects, in particular, don't get past early stages of development or require huge voluntary commitments. On behalf of the Board I would like to congratulate you for the quality of work produced and your continued commitment to the company.

Without the continued support of our principal funder Arts Council NI and local authority Derry City and Strabane District Council, it would be impossible for Echo Echo to continue in its current form as a producing company, international festival and multi-arts venue - our thanks for your continued support. Vital core and project support from the Irish government through the Department for Tourism Arts and Culture, and private foundations including the Foyle Foundation and the Garfield Weston Foundation in 2022/23 are gratefully acknowledged.

Finally, our thanks to those who participate in Echo Echo classes, courses or projects and all who attend the company's productions. The artists really appreciate your valuable support and feedback on their creative process. We look forward to your continued involvement in the coming year.

***Deirdre Gillespie***  
***Echo Echo Chair***

**Production and Performance 2022/23**

New and repertoire works created by the Echo Echo Artistic Team - Artistic Director, Steve Batts; Ensemble Artists Ayesha Mailey, Kelly Quigley, Zoe Ramsey and Tonya Sheina; and Technical Manager Barry Davis - included solo work, ensemble works and co-productions with resident artists and partner companies.

- \* Echo Echo Solo performances - Kelly Quigley Lunchtime performance (April 2022)
- \* Echo Echo Solos evening - new work by Ayesha Mailey and Kelly Quigley (June 2022)
- \* 'And We All Join In' - improvised duet performances by Tonya Sheina and Zoe Ramsey for Culture Night (September 2022)
- \* 'In the Belly of the Whale' - art installation at Foyle Maritime Festival with lighting design by Barry Davis (July 2022)
- \* 'Out There' - by Sighile Hennessy, Cindy Cummings & Steve Batts. New Work toured to Sibikwa Arts Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa (October 2022) & Watergate Theatre Kilkenny in (September 2022)
- \* 'The Experiment' - Halloween performances created by Barry Davis, Zoe Ramsey & Echo Echo Ensemble (October 2022)
- \* 'Marbleface' by Yasmin Mello - residencies and performance (November 2022)
- \* 'How to Watch Dancing' - original solo work by Steve Batts (December 2022)
- \* 'Poetics of Counterpoint' - new solo work by Ayesha Mailey and Colin Norrby at Going Solo Together Festival, Sweden (December 2022)
- \* Christmas Lights Switch On and Festive Time Parade in association with LUXe and DCSDC (December 2022)
- \* 'Painting the Canvas' - an intergenerational new work collaboration between Maria Svennson and Echo Echo Dance Theatre Company (January 2023)
- \* 'Night Lights' - Lighting Installation by Barry Davis on Waterloo Street, Derry supported by Derry City and Strabane District Council (continued throughout year)

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*"I loved this performance. It was intense, dark, vulnerable, human, and a bit supernatural..."*  
Audience feedback, *The Experiment*

*"Really enjoyed both performances. What a journey, so diverse and yet I felt I was sitting at my kitchen table. Thank you"* Audience feedback, *Ensemble Solo performances*

*"Thanks for coming here, you gave us so many magical moments during Going Solo Together Festival!"*  
Festival Feedback

**Other Performances & Events 2022/23**

Echo Echo Studios has become renowned for its high quality event production and intimate audience setting nestled on the historic Derry Walls. The venue has expanded its equipment stock in recent years thanks to support from the ACNI Small Capital programme and the Derry City and Strabane District Council Access programme. Echo Echo Studios' unique spaces and expanded technical capability have been increasingly in demand for a range of quality collaborations and cross-arts projects.

A selection of music and theatre performances took place throughout 2022/23 includes:

- \* Rachel Kealey Showcase (June 2022)
- \* First Act Theatre Showcase (July 2022)
- \* Encore Choir Showcase (December 2022)
- \* The Fully Automatic Model & Rayon Vert, Michael McElroy, Porphyry, Vincent live for Celtronic Festival 2022 (July 2022)
- \* 'The Other Selves' by Benno Vorrham (September 2022)
- \* Ports concerts, supported by Dander (September 2022)
- \* 'Tides' Film Screening - Ryan Vail (September 2022)
- \* 'For the Love of Mary' by Mel Bradley (October 2022)
- \* Derry Sound Factory events
- \* Don Vappie - in association with the Playhouse and Moving on Music (November 2022)
- \* Rarescale - presented by Northern Lights Project (March 2023)
- \* Stefan Sing presented by In Your Space Circus (March 2023)

*"So well crafted and performed. Skilfully executed. So moving with a profound impactful message. Amazing integration of tech, lights and sounds."* Audience member *For the Love of Mary* by Mel Bradley

*"A highly emotional and evocative piece, sometimes sad, sometimes disturbing but so powerful & compelling. A masterpiece of sound, visuals, voice story & movement"* Audience member on *Marbleface* by Yasmin Mello

*"Echo Echo is such a welcoming place to work with & work in. We recently used the main studio for a cinema premiere. It was a pleasure; it had fantastic sound, lights and support from the in-house tech. Very happy with my experience there, looking forward to the next."* Ryan Vail

**Exhibitions 2022/23**

The Echo Echo Gallery Programme space is curated by Echo Echo Associate Artist, Sinéad Smyth and welcomed the work of over 50 artists during 2022/23.

- \* 'Landscape' Art Exhibition - paintings by Peadar McDaid, Josephine Kelly and Paul Murray; curated by Sinéad Smyth for the 'Tradition and Beyond' Festival (September-October 2022)
- \* Echo Winter International - open call that asked the question "what does echo mean to you?" an exhibition presenting the work of 45 artists from Ireland, UK, France Germany, India. (November 2022-January 2023)
- \* 'In Our Nature' paintings by Sash Ka Sheils & Jacinta O'Reilly; curated by Sinéad Smyth for Echo Echo Festival (January-February 2023)

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**Festivals 2022/23**

Echo Echo Festival Presents 'Tradition & Beyond' was a short festival rooted in and extending the Irish tradition held from 14th to 18th September 2022, produced in partnership with Siamsa Tíre (Kerry) & Cultúrlann Uí Chanáin (Doire).

- \* Siamsa Tíre presents 'Keep the Faith, Keep the Folk' - a new theatre performance by Joanne Barry and Anne O'Donnell.
- \* New Work Double Bill - performances created during Echo Echo Festival Residencies by: Kristyn Fontanella & Moya Sweeney and Aneta Dortová & William Troy.
- \* Áirc Damsha - Music and Traditional Dance Concert at Cultúrlann
- \* 'onetwo3' - by Sarah Fennel and Laura Lundy
- \* 'Roots, Flowers, Fruits' Round Table Discussion involving Festival guests, Echo Echo and locally based artists
- \* Workshop Programme led by Festival Artists
- \* 'Landscapes' Art Exhibition

*"Great fusion of traditional and modern dance; personal histories of dance with humour and interesting, original concepts, caught and kept me spellbound. Brilliant presentations!" Audience member on Double Bill*

*"Very quirky blend of deep celtic and interspersed with modern touches. Touched my heart and my soul - harkened back to a near forgotten age but brought it to the fore again. Loved it!" Audience member on Keep the Faith, Keep the Folk*

*"Wonderful, great fun, original, entertaining and provocative. It was great to watch. Irish dance and dancers doing everything else. I just loved them and it." Audience member on onetwo3*

Echo Echo Festival of Dance and Movement returned for its ninth edition from 27th January to 11th February 2023, curated by Echo Echo Artistic Director, Steve Batts.

- \* 'In Our Nature' - Echo Echo Spring Exhibition - Arts works by Sash Ka Sheils and Jacinta O'Reilly
- \* 'Painting the Canvas' - Echo Echo Dance Theatre Company and Maria Svensson
- \* 'Double Bill' - Festival Commissions: 'Figments' by Kelly Quigley and the Body Wisdom Group & 'Compose Yourself' by Zoe Ramsey's Dance Group.
- \* 'Equilibrium' by Emily Welther and Daniel Brandl
- \* 'Ultan O'Brien & Nic Gareiss'
- \* 'Ways of Listening' - Festival Workshops - Emily Welther & Daniel Brandl
- \* 'Dance the Tune' - Festival Workshops - Nic Gareiss & Ultan O'Brien

*"We really enjoyed the performance. It was full of fun and loved the idea of dancing as energy left behind/ memory. Loved the intergenerational aspect too - really beautiful! Well done to all involved!" Audience feedback on Painting the Canvas*

*"What a powerful embodiment of our journey as women. Such different elements, kind of shamanic and tribal. Loved it" Audience feedback on Figments by Kelly Quigley*

*"A wonderful exploration of the interface between sound music & movement. Amazing live music improvisation around composed sound with real time technological manipulation which stretched the auditory experience to allow the audience to enter an almost meditative state" Audience feedback on Equilibrium by Emily Welther & Daniel Brandt*

*"Beautiful Performance. Loved the musicality, the formal informality of the interactions, the dynamic between Ultan and Nic. Lovely intimate space also for the performance." Audience feedback on Ultan O'Brien & Nic Gareiss*

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**Participation and Partnerships 2022/23**

Echo Echo offers a diverse programme of workshops and courses to suit all abilities and levels of engagement including regular classes for thousands of children and adults of all ages annually. We support a range of different schools and community programmes with dance and movement teaching, choreography and performance projects - sometimes these are company led and other times we respond to demand and need from clients and partners. Additionally, Echo Echo Studios also hosts a range of participation programmes facilitated by a broad range of artists and organisations.

- \* Minding Mum creative Movement class with Ayesha Mailey (April, May 2022)
- \* Pushkin Pathways - St Josephs, Omagh High, Ardstraw & McClintock PS (May/June 2022)
- \* Praxis Care - Arts and Older People Sessions (June to September 2022)
- \* 'Creepy Creatures' - Dance Workshop at Stendhal Festival, Limavady (July 2022)
- \* Echo Echo Kids Summer Scheme (July 2022)
- \* St Cecilia's College - EA Creative Schools Project with Ayesha Mailey (September 2022)
- \* Good Relations workshops at Donemana primary schools (Autumn 2022)
- \* William Street Care Home & Deanfield Care Home - Arts and Older People Programme with Echo Echo Ensemble (September 2022 to March 2023)
- \* Meditation to Movement with Kelly Quigley (Autumn 2022)
- \* Atlantic Technological University Sligo Business and Sport dance workshop (November 2022)
- \* Going Solo Together Festival Workshops with Ayesha Mailey (December 2022)
- \* Cumber Claudy Afterschools Club programme with Ayesha (January-March 2023)
- \* Body Wisdom programme for over 50s with Kelly Quigley (Ongoing)
- \* Echo Echo Kids Classes with Ayesha Mailey & Tonya Sheina (Ongoing)
- \* Echo Echo Youth Dance with Ayesha Mailey
- \* Adult Dance Class with Zoe Ramsey (Ongoing)
- \* Model PS sessions with Steve Batts and Tonya Sheina

Other artists and partners delivering public and private participation events at Echo Echo Studios during 2022/23 included:

- \* First Act Youth Theatre weekly classes and performance projects with Mary Fitzpatrick
- \* In Your Space Circus Aerial Class Programmes
- \* Yoga with Chloe Humm
- \* Jean Parker Circle Dance courses
- \* Encore Choir rehearsals
- \* Wing Tsjun Kung Fu - Adult Classes and Kids Classes with Karen Cassidy
- \* Baby Yoga in partnership with the Women's Centre, Derry
- \* Baby Reflexology in partnership with the Women's Centre, Derry
- \* RTE Dancing with the Stars dance rehearsals
- \* Singing Mamas music workshops
- \* Kiri Cullen Dance Sessions
- \* Rachel Kealey Dance Summer Scheme
- \* Emma Logue Crystal Healing workshops

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**Residencies and Collaborations 2022/23**

Echo Echo is committed to supporting artists at different stages of their careers including emerging artists, artists with dependents, lifelong learners, local citizens and international guests. The company has an extensive history of supporting new work creation and performance, research and development projects, national and international residencies, local work placements, international exchange students, exhibitions and installations, music video production, and cross-arts collaborations among others, including in 2022/23:

- \* My Johansson (April 2022)
- \* Maggie Hannon and Sean Donegan residency development (May 2022)
- \* Mhairi Sutherland residency (August 2022)
- \* Benno Voorham residency (September 2022)
- \* Molly Kelly placement and residency (Autumn 2022)
- \* University of Edinburgh School of Architecture Residency (October 2022)
- \* Yasmin Mello residency developing new performance work 'Marbleface' with mentoring from Steve Batts (November 2022)
- \* Peter O'Doherty ACES Residency (December 2022)
- \* Conor Mason recording (February 2023)
- \* ARC Fitness film recording (February 2023)
- \* Laurie Keegan residency development (February 2023)

**THANKS**

Thanks to all of the people and organisations involved in Echo Echo Dance Theatre Company's programmes in 2022/23 - all of the artists, staff, audiences, participants, volunteers, partner organisations, clients, suppliers, supporters and funders.

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**FINANCIAL REVIEW**

The Statement of Financial Activities on page 13 details the results for the year. Overall, the Company had a net movement into funds of £26,599. This is made up of net movement in of unrestricted funds of £1,548 and a net movement in of restricted funds of £25,051. The net movements in of unrestricted funds for the year of £1,548 has been added to the unrestricted balances brought forward from 1 April 2022 of £49,121 giving a net unrestricted balance carried forward at 31 March 2023 of £50,669. The net movements in of restricted funds for the year of £25,051 has been added to the funds balance brought forward at 1 April 2022 of £NIL, giving a net restricted fund balances carried forward at 31 March 2023 of £25,051.

**GOING CONCERN**

The company has developed a new five year Strategic Plan for 2023-28. This provides a plan as to how the company will adapt and survive over the next few years. Due to the nature and funding of the company, costs can quickly be reduced if income is reduced. Due to the reserves and forecast budgets the management committee believe that this provides sufficient confidence that the company is a going concern and the accounts have been prepared on that basis.

**RISK MANAGEMENT**

The committee has assessed the major risks to which the Company is exposed, in particular those related to the operations and finances of the Company, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate the exposure to major risks.

Echo Echo has a business plan in place for 2023-28 and will build on the outstanding successes of the previous corporate planning period which saw the realisation of most key strategic objectives. The company aims to remain artist led and to retain core staff while establishing the centre in increasingly challenging economic circumstances.

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**STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

**Governing Document**

The organisation is a company Limited by Guarantee not having a share capital, incorporated on 23 April 1998 and is registered with the NI Charity Commission.

**Appointment of Management Committee**

There are currently 4 directors on the Management Committee.

**Management Committee Induction and Training**

New directors undergo an orientation day to brief them on : their legal obligations under charity and company law, the charity commission guidance on public benefit, and inform them of the content of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the committee and the decision-making process, the business plan and recent financial performance of the charity. During the induction day they meet key employees and other members. Members are encouraged to attend appropriate external events where these will facilitate the undertaking of the role.

**Organisation**

The Management Committee administers the Charity. To facilitate effective operations, Stephen Batts as Artistic Director and Ailbe Beirne as Company Manager jointly have delegated authority from the Management Committee for operational matters including finance and management and general day to day operations of the organisation.

**Related parties and co-operation with other organisations**

None of the Directors receives remuneration or other benefits from their work with the Charity. Any connection between a director or senior member of the charity with a contracted supplier must be disclosed to the full Management Committee in the same way as any other contractual relationship with a related party. In the current year no such related party transactions were reported.

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATION DETAILS**

The name of the Charity is Echo Echo Dance Theatre Company. It is a company Limited by Guarantee not having a share capital. The Company was incorporated on 23 April 1998 and has charitable status.

**DIRECTORS**

The company is limited by guarantee and therefore there were no directors' interest in share capital.

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**MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

**CHAIRPERSON**

Deirdre Gillespie

**SECRETARY**

Ailbe Beirne

**TREASURER**

Catherine Mc Bride

**OTHER DIRECTORS**

Esther Alleyne  
Mandy Blinco (Resigned 21/02/2023)  
Deirdre Gillespie  
Gail Mahon (Appointed 21/02/2023)  
Concettina McCauley (Appointed 21/02/2023)

**ARTISTIC DIRECTOR**

Steve Batts

**REGISTERED OFFICE**

Waterloo House  
Magazine Street  
Derry, BT48 6HH

**BANKERS**

Bank of Ireland  
Strand Road  
Derry BT48 7BT

**AUDITORS**

E F McCambridge & Co  
6 Bayview Terrace  
Derry BT48 7EE

**COMPANY NUMBER**

NI 34042

**LEGAL STATUS**

Company Limited By Guarantee

**CHARITY NUMBER**

XR 23797

**CHARITY COMMISSION NI NUMBER**

NIC 100069

**ECHO ECHO DANCE THEATRE COMPANY**

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**BOARD OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT**

The Management Committee (who are also directors of Echo Echo Dance Theatre Company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Management Committees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Management Committee to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Management Committee are required to:

- \* select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- \* observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- \* make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- \* state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- \* prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation

The Management Committee are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the Management Committee are aware:

- \* there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- \* the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

**AUDITORS**

A resolution proposing that E F McCambridge & Co. be re-appointed as Auditors of the Company will be put to the Annual General Meeting.

**SMALL COMPANY PROVISIONS**

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption.

Approved by the Management Committee on 21 December 2023 and signed on their behalf by :

**DIRECTOR:**



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**CATHERINE McBRIDE**