

# Tipperary Dance Residency Project

## 2008-2009

Project established by

**Jazmin Chiodi & Alexandre Iseli**

### The Artists

In response to the Dance Residency Project informed by South Tipperary County Council Art Service and Tipperary Excel Arts & Cultural Center.

A Dance Residency has been established by Jazmin Chiodi in collaboration with Alexandre Iseli. Both will be involved throughout the whole project.

Contact:

Jazmin Chiodi & Alexandre Iseli

Greenane, Ballinatone

Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow

Mobile : 085 16 83 611

e-mail : jazminchiodi@hotmail.com / Skype ID : jazminchiodi

### *Personal background*

*Jazmin Chiodi* has had an ongoing commitment with dance in Ireland for the last three years, through her work with :

- Rex Levitates Dance Company, Fluxus Dance Company, Dance Theatre of Ireland as a performer
- The Rachel Goode School of Dance, Rex Levitates, Dance Theatre of Ireland as a teacher

She also co-founded and developed her own tango project « CheTango », involving teaching and performing Argentinean tango in the Dublin and Cork areas.

The project will be co-directed with *Alexandre Iseli*, dance performer and biologist, whose involvement with dance in the last 15 years included numerous creations with European companies (Ireland, Switzerland, France, Belgium), extensive touring and teaching experiences.

## General structure

In order to meet the aims defined for the residency by the County Council Arts Service and Tipperary Excel Arts & Cultural Center, the project will work along three lines :

- **A. Research work**, professional training, open classes for general public
- **B. Dance in school**
- **C. Dance in the community**

## Aims of the Project

### *A. Open classes*

Our aim is to implant the presence of regular professional dance studio research into the Excel Dance Studio. The outcome will not necessarily be a dance piece, but the process will be the artistic backbone for the whole residency, feeding a professional training, school workshops and community workshops with ideas and artistic content. During the research periods, morning and evening classes will be run.

#### **Location**

Dance studio at the Tipperary Excel Arts & Cultural Center.

#### **Professional training**

A group of selected, more experienced pre-pro, or pro dancers will be included in the work, on a regular basis throughout the research period. This is envisioned as a professional experience to give these dancers the possibility to develop and explore their professional skills. They will be asked to commit throughout the process, which will eventually result in a final dance showing.

During these sessions, we will also offer open morning classes to dancers in the Tipperary area.

#### **Open dance classes**

Contemporary dance classes will be available two days a week (days to be confirmed) in the mornings and evenings during the research sessions. These classes will be opened to people with a regular interest and practice in dance, whether professionals

or not. These classes are also seen as a way to promote the Excel Dance Studio and our own work.

---

### *B. Dance in school*

Our work with Schools aims to develop a sensibility to dance, body awareness, and a potential future public for dance. Learning technical elements and dance sequences, improvising, playing.

#### **Location**

The workshops will take place at the school location, to avoid transportation issues and prioritize the teaching time. The workshops require a space such as a gym or community centre, where the children can move into space, lay down on the floor and work in bare feet.

---

### *C. Dance in the community*

Our work with the Community aims to develop an open dialog between dance and community. We will address all ages including the active retired and elderly. We propose:

- An evening dance class.
- Workshops on a specific topic (for example : « posture and habit »).
- Work in progress sessions, during which general public can follow the work of the research group.

#### **Location**

The work will be conducted in local Community Centres and/or at the Excel Dance Studio.

In addition: - it is proposed to run

- Tango classes.
- An exhibition of pictures taken during the research could take place inside the Excel Center.
- A celebration of the end of the research project will be presented to the general public.

## Conclusion

Through this project our aim is to set a proper dance research dynamic inside the Excel Arts Center, that will make dance a visible part of both Excel Arts Center and Tipperary County artistic activity.

As described, we aim to bridge this work with the community (various ages and agencies) through different means :

- professional training
- professional and amateur dance classes, tango classes
- school and adult workshops
- performing and work in progress events (as an outcome of our research)
- photography exhibition

This project will help to establish dance as an Art form in South Tipperary with close connections with the community. This residency will allow local dancers to expand their professional experience. It is aimed that this project will open new doors for dance in County Tipperary.