



bgroup & China Plate present

POINT OF ECHOES

Commissioned by the Rural Touring Dance Initiative



bgroup



Supported using public funding by
ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

About the show

POINT OF ECHOES is a new dance/theatre piece from internationally renowned choreographer Ben Wright. Conceived for small spaces it's a haunting take of love, death and monsters, told through dance and original music.

Speaking about the commission Ben Wright said

"After spending the last 3 years creating dance for large-scale venues in Sweden, this prospect of being invited to village halls to share work in an intimate and tangible way is extremely beguiling. The rural touring circuit offers a unique opportunity for artists to meet and entertain people up close and on their turf. It is the nature of this invitation that I am most enamored with, this chance to present dance work at the behest of individuals who are so passionate about staging theatrical events at the heart of their communities"

Eddie Nixon, Director, The Place said

"This initiative was about bringing ambitious dance to rural touring and Point of Echoes is just that. A big idea, created by hugely experienced artists, for places where you can literally feel the dancers moving and hear every breath. We're all delighted that b-group are making this show with us."

POINT OF ECHOES is the first commission awarded by the Rural Touring Dance Initiative. Supported by an Art Council Strategic Touring grant, the RTDI seeks increase audience engagement with contemporary dance by supporting the making and touring contemporary accessible dance into rural settings.

bgroup.org.uk | [@bgroupdance](https://www.instagram.com/bgroupdance) | chinaplatetheatre.com | [@youoldchina](https://www.instagram.com/youoldchina)



Brochure copy

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The year is 1978, isolated from the mainland, Eric Valentine and Bernard Humphries have been stationed at Echo Point lighthouse, somewhere off the coast of England. The unlikely strangers have just begun to lay down foundations for this odd working relationship when the uncanny occurs.

Renowned international choreographer Ben Wright and musician and writer Stuart Warwick collaborate to bring you bgroup's most intimate and theatrical production to date.

Point of Echoes is a haunting tale of love, death and monsters, blending the tones of a Wes Anderson movie with the eerie dread of The Twilight Zone.

"Giddy, pensive, vulnerable, uncomfortable, sensual..... mysterious yet playfully alive to the moment."

The Times

Running Time: Approx. 1 hour 45 minutes, including a 15 minute interval

Age Recommendation: 14 years +

Lead image: contact saphia@chinaplatetheatre.com for high res version

Dancers

Dom Czapski

Tom Heyes

Marta Masiero

Creative team

Choreography & Direction | **Ben Wright**

Music & Story | **Stuart Warwick**

Set Design & Costumes | **Will Holt**

Sound Design | **Alan Stones**

Lighting Design | **Lucy Hansom**

Producer | **China Plate**

Technical information

Running time

120 minutes including interval

Cast & Crew

3 performers

2 production crew

Configuration

Audience sat on two sides around a custom built raised stage

Venue to supply seating for 40-60 audience capacity

Dimensions Required

Playing space 7.5m x 6.5m (exclude audience space)

Height minimum 3.5m

Capacity

40 – 60 (actual based on size of whole space)

Get in

8 hours

Get out

4 hours

Dressing rooms

3 (2 minimum)

The show tours with all speakers, lighting equipment and lighting desk.

Audience Response

“The whole audience was mesmerised throughout...[an] amazing performance”

Claire Marshall, Carn to Cove

“Body and language combine in beautifully crafted characters to tell a haunting tale of love and loss through dance and theatre. Funny, thoughtful and disturbing in equal measure”

Audience Member

“I loved the tension and physicality in the movement”

Audience Member

“It made me feel amused, inspired, peaceful, impressed and sad!”

Audience Member

“It’s just super inspiring for a dancer”

Audience Member

“Totally original – unique...adds a level to life I’ve been missing.”

Audience Member

Recent press

bgroup

"bgroup's commitment to a life-enhancing creative experience is second to none. For me, the company is one of the most important performance groups working in the UK." **Michael Grandage CBE**

"Wright is always an entertainer at heart, his work ranging from the comic through to the mysterious." **The Guardian**

"Giddy, pensive, vulnerable, uncomfortable, sensual..... mysterious yet playfully alive to the moment." **The Times**

"Probing, bonkers, but ultimately life affirming...leaves you effervescent with compassion and aching for a hug." **The Stage**

Skanes Dansteater

To see the world while the light lasts (2016)

"sincere honesty and deeply moving." **Sydsvenskan**

"A beautiful journey that explores loss and grief... a lavish show full of details, and shows once again that he is a master at creating dreamy worlds." **Svenska Dagbladet**

"Dazzling and beautiful" **Kristianstadsbladet**

"A magnificent dance performance, with an emphasis on communal experience. A multifaceted performance that portrays the spirit, the complex and the grandiose." **Danstidningen**

The Feeling of Going (2015)

"At a time when contemporary dance is getting ever smaller, Skåne's Dance Theatre has delivered a fervent story with forward motion, which also encompasses the tone of postmodern experimentation. It is magnificent – and impossible not to love." **Sydsvenskan**

"A totally ingenious idea, a performance so stunning that it is almost hard to believe." **kulturbloggen.com**

"It is surreal, splendid and dreamlike. At the first curtain call the whole audience stood up and applauded. I do not think I have ever experienced such a warm reception by a theatrical work of art before. It was so deserved." **Landets Fria**

Rural Touring Dance Initiative

Background

In 2016 the National Rural Touring Forum joined forces with The Place, Take Art and China Plate to launch a brand new three-year initiative designed to assist in the making and touring of contemporary accessible dance to rural areas. The project has been made possible by a grant from Arts Council England's lottery funded Strategic Touring Programme.

"The aim of the Rural Touring Dance Initiative, running between 2015 and 2018, is to enable more touring and making of dance to and for rural areas. Currently only a very small amount of dance tours to rural areas; this initiative will address issues and challenges on both the supply and demand side of the equation. More companies will be encouraged and supported to take their work out of a regular 'black box' setting into village halls, with all the delights and issues that brings with it. In addition it will create opportunities for many more rural touring staff and volunteer promoters to see exciting and engaging dance on a broad spectrum and to then programme and promote these shows to their local village audience. By providing a critical brokering, mediating and supportive role, the NRTF and its partners are making a formative intervention which will have lasting impact on both sectors." **Ralph Lister – Development Director NRTF**

So Far...

The first Menu was distributed to rural programmers in January 2016 (covering autumn 16 and spring 17). We had expressions of interest from 99% of schemes resulting in 64 shows being programmed from the eight companies offered. The initial response from schemes, promoters audiences and companies has been extremely positive. The initiative also includes commissioning funds for a new, exceptional piece of contemporary dance to be created and tour across the network. THE KEEPERS is the first commission to be awarded under this programme.

"We have now completed our rural tour and we are all in a state of bliss. I've never experienced dancers and crew being so satisfied and wanting to do more... this experience was a real joy for us all" **Luca Silvestrini, Protein Dance**

Wrap-around activities

Venues can request post show discussions with the cast – these will be programmed where possible depending on get out requirements.

Ben Wright can be booked to lead single workshops or intensives. Fostering a sense of connection, encouragement and investigation, his workshops provide spaces to play, make, discuss ideas and consider the threads that lead to choreographic composition and address creative development. As a dance artist with over 20 years experience, Ben leads movement-based workshops for both professional and non-professional participants, actors, singers and young people. Please note workshops are not available on the day of performance.

For more information please contact: saphia@chinaplatetheatre.com

Creative team

BEN WRIGHT | CHOREOGRAPHY & DIRECTION

Ben is the associate choreographer for Skanes Dansteater, for whom work includes *Spectrum*, *To see the world while the light lasts* and *The Feeling of Going* and the founder and Artistic Director of bgroup, for whom recent work includes, *Just As We Are* and *About Around*. Opera choreography includes *La bohème* (Washington National Opera), *The Perfect American* (ENO), *Boris Godanov* (ROH) *Le nozze di Figaro* (Glyndebourne), *Don Giovanni* (Metropolitan Opera). Theatre work includes *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Privates on Parade* (Michael Grandage Company) and *Twelfth Night* (Donmar Warehouse). He directed Dove's *The Walk from the Garden* (Salisbury Festival). He was a 2015 Clore Fellow.

STUART WARWICK | MUSIC & STORY

Stuart Warwick is a writer/musician/performer based in Brighton. Since graduating Brighton University with a degree in Theatre and Visual Art in he has released four albums, toured the UK and Europe extensively, and also established Brighton's only alternative avant guard club night, Club Silencio. In addition to composing an original soundtrack to accompany the piece, Stuart has also developed the dialogue and story for *Point of Echoes*.

WILL HOLT | SET DESIGN & COSTUME

Will studied fine art at Glasgow School of Art and theatre design on the Motley Theatre Design Course in London. He was a Linbury Prize finalist (2007). Notable credits include: *Spectrum*, *To See The World While The Light Lasts*, *This Moment Is Your Life*, *The Feeling of Going* (Skånes Dansteater/Malmö Opera); *Hansel & Gretel* (Vilnius City Opera); *(i)Land* (Marc Brew); *Landscapes, Container, Postcards, Interlude* (ENO); *Just As We Are* (bgroup), *The Owl and the Pussycat* (ROH); *The Walk from the Garden* (Salisbury International Festival); *Marsha, The Future for Beginners*, *Rhinegold*, (Liveartshow); *Endgame* (Cork Everyman); *Falstaff*, *Don Giovanni* (Festival de Berbiguières); *Rupture*, *Snuff*, *Home:Stornoway* (National Theatre of Scotland). Forthcoming: *Manga Sister* (Liveartshow); *Point of Echoes* (bgroup). www.willholt.co.uk

ALAN STONE | SOUND DESIGN

Alan Stones is a London-based sound designer and composer. He currently teaches composition, music production and creative technologies at Kingston University.

He has previously worked with Ben Wright on a number of projects including *Spectrum*, *This Moment is Your Life* and *The Feeling of Going* for Skånes Dansteater (Malmö 2017-13). Other work includes *Ordinary Courage* for Theo Clinkard (UK and international tour 2012-14) and an ongoing series of collaborative works with American choreographer Allyson Green and artist Peter Terezakis which include *Sacred Sky*, *Sacred Earth* (Florence 2016) , *Finding Our Way Home* (New York, 2014) and *Sur les Traces des noces* (San Diego, 2012). Further details of Alan's work are available at www.alanstones.net

CHINA PLATE | PRODUCER

China Plate works with artists, venues, festivals and funders to make, present and tour engaging, adventurous and accessible new work. Underpinning this activity is a desire to make inventive theatre that connects with people and matters to them. *All of Me* is the fourth collaboration between Caroline Horton and China Plate (previous award-winning work includes *Islands*, *Mess* and *You're Not Like The Other Girls Chrissy*). China Plate believes innovative theatre can have a popular appeal with audiences of all backgrounds across the country, and abroad. China Plate are Ed Collier, Paul Warwick, Saphia Bishop, Rosie Kelly, Andrea Pierides, Tamara Moore and SJ Watkinson. For more information on China Plate, visit www.chinaplatetheatre.com

Dancers

MARTA MASIERO

Marta was born in Verona, Italy, where she combined her dance training with classical studies in Literature and Philosophy.

Graduated from London Contemporary Dance School, she began her professional career as an apprentice with Scottish Dance Theatre under the direction of Janet Smith, to which followed an extensive experience as a freelance dancer, performing nationally and internationally in a wide diversity of projects. Choreographers with whom she works and collaborates with include Dam Van Huynh, Caroline Bowditch, Marc Brew, Darren Ellis and Ben Wright, amongst others. Over the years Marta has been developing her interest in physical theatre, exploring a multidisciplinary approach to performance opening up to theatre practices as a way to broaden her movement background.

DOM CZAPSKI

Dom Czapski lives and works in London. Previous contributions include *Ben Duke*, *English National Opera*, *Phelim McDermott/Improbable*, *Handspring*, *Dam Van Huynh*, *Jonathan Watkins*, *Joe Moran*.

TOM HEYES

Thomas was born in Chorley, Lancashire where he started performing in productions from the age of 9. Thomas graduated from Edge Hill University in 2017 with a first class degree in Dance and Drama. His previous credits include *Tree* (2016) with Sally Marie and *Sweetshop Revolution* as well as working with choreographers Theo Clinkard, Jamaal Burkmar and Gary Clarke. Thomas has also worked closely with Joseph Reay-Reid. In addition to performing he is also developing his own work, a series of interdisciplinary productions named *Abattoir*.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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