

# bodies in flight presents model love - a lovers' manual a new performance – now booking for 2008

Supported by Arts Council England, Dance 4 and choreographic lab.

Bodies in Flight are Arnolfini Associate Artists

Directed by Sara Giddens and Simon Jones

Text and Lyrics by Simon Jones

Choreography by Sara Giddens

Devised and Performed by Catherine Dyson, Graeme Rose and Tom Wainwright

Music and Lyrics by Sam Halmarack

Photography by Edward Dimsdale

Somewhere between soundbytes, sonnets and songs, Bodies in Flight's fifteenth performance work begins with a mysterious book of photographs - a lovers' manual - claiming to record that exact moment when two strangers' eyes meet and it's love at first sight.

Raiding dating sites and surfing handy hints on how to date online, MODEL LOVE guides you through the maze of rough-and-ready, disposable self-portraiture towards the holy grail of all lonely hearts – romance.

"Bodies in Flight is one of the most interesting performance companies operating in the UK at the moment. Their productions are often collaborations between performers, musicians and visual artists set in motion to present installations, interactive video projects as well as performances that seek to break down the barriers between stage and audience. Their work is always thoughtful and genuinely pushes at the boundaries of stage conventions that have in the UK remained predominantly conservative. Essentially, what I find so challenging about their work is that it can be seen as an on-going investigation into the very nature of interdisciplinary collaboration."

Skinworks (edited highlights from British Theatre Guide)  
Review by Jackie Fletcher (2004)



For all further programming enquiries and/or to make a booking, please contact Kate Yedigaroff on [kate@bodiesinflight.co.uk](mailto:kate@bodiesinflight.co.uk) or call 07951 698012.

## About the Show

"An intelligent, skilfully performed and carefully crafted investigation of authenticity, representation and love"

Neil Mackenzie, Artistic Director, Alsager Arts Centre/Department of Contemporary Arts

MODEL LOVE continues our fascination with online environments (skinworks) and issues around identity and sexuality (Double Happiness) by weaving together into a show two different kinds of material. By raiding internet sites for profiles and a multitude of throwaway characters, this new piece explores how much we depend in today's world on these technologies of self-portraiture and self-presentation to understand who we are. The devised performance integrates choreography and writing directly inspired from these stolen fragments of actual personalities we have found online.

Secondly, three especially printed, bespoke photo-books (created with photographer Edward Dimsdale) reconstruct a mysterious narrative told in enigmatic images purporting to capture love at first sight.

The narratives told by these "lovers' manuals" are made up of sequences of photographs taken in three locations, each with their own distinct, romantic connotations and possibilities: a lake in a dark wood, an anonymous hotel room and a panelled library. In each location, three individuals meet. It is the stories of these encounters, told in still images that form the basis of the live performance.

MODEL LOVE is a love-story told from conflicting point-of-views; a hypnotic dreamscape inhabited by three solitary souls who, through movement, text, song and an interrogation of the photographs, guide the audience towards the holy grail of all lonely hearts- romance. Devised as three 'movements' MODEL LOVE is set to an original score written by composer and musician Sam Halmarack whose passionate music moves between acoustic and digital sources; as the action explores the encounter between recorded images and the pictures and stories made in the 'now' by the performers on stage. In MODEL LOVE we play with how live performance responds to the fixed image of something that happened in another space in a different time.

Combining performance and photography in this exciting and new way means that MODEL LOVE will not only attract audiences interested in experimental physical theatre and live art, but also develop new audiences for our work at venues interested in the visual arts or with a bookshop.

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## About the Company

Bodies in Flight formed as a company (led by artistic directors Sara Giddens and Simon Jones) in 1990 to make performance work that has at its heart our contemporary, everyday experience of being caught between our physical and psychological selves. The encounter between flesh and text where words move and flesh utters, where the ordinary is made central and rendered unique. We are fascinated by this in-between: between body and mind, capability and desire, between the everyday and the extraordinary, between technologies of sound and vision – the tongue and the camera, between artistry and pedagogy. We make cutting edge, radical, yet accessible work that is about uncovering the hidden, unspoken feelings and passions in everyday events, and making these experiences visible as choreography and poetry. We have a reputation for our inventive collaborations with sonic and visual artists and through eighteen years of rigorous and playful exploration with different disciplines have a distinct style that fuses high-octane physicality, poetic text, live music and technology to make exhilarating contemporary performance that moves our audiences.

Model Love is our fifteenth performance work.

[www.bodiesinflight.co.uk](http://www.bodiesinflight.co.uk)



# Production Details

## Theatre Show

The theatre show is designed for end-on performance spaces with a minimum playing-space of 8Mx6M and a flat floor. The lighting design is simple and flexible subject to discussion with the company. The piece is intended to be as adaptable as possible to allow us to play in a variety of different performance spaces.

Company on the road:	3 performers, 1 musician & 1 production assistant.
Set:	2 tables and 2 chairs.
Video:	projector, screen and 1 monitor.
Sound:	standard PA for sound feed from musician's set-up on stage. Our production assistant will operate the show.
Get in:	from morning of performance.
Get out:	approx 1 hour after final performance.
Show running time:	approx 1 hour 10 minutes.
Deal:	Please contact Kate Yedigaroff for further details

"It is a brilliant piece that is as rich as an old master painting and as moving as a Romantic poem whilst maintaining BIF's commitment to a sexy, contemporary aesthetic. It was one of the highlights of BAC's Opera festival!"

Richard Dufty, BAC, on Who By Fire

# Installation & durational performance

## A BAC Scratch Commission

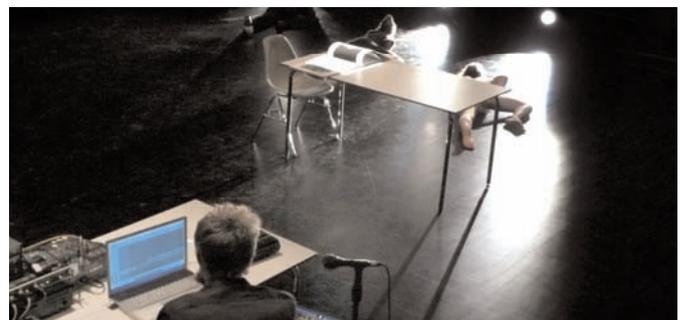
We are also able to offer installation/durational performance versions of MODEL LOVE, and are keen to develop relationships with performance spaces and gallery venues who are interested in promoting the work in this way.

The material allows us to create bespoke performances made in situ, and designed for a specific space. Using various combinations of our existing material (choreography, text, music and image) we can construct installations that permit audiences to have a hands-on, intimate experience of the photo-books and other imagery. This can also involve performed elements, of either action-text or music, as well as video projection.

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# Workshops

We also offer workshops tailor-made to suit you and your organisation. Led by two company-members, each workshop is structured around a duet of skills, mirroring our collaborative process: for instance, music—text, choreography—photography, photography—text. They can be half-day or full day. Depending on the duet, the full-day version begins with an extended physical warm-up, then a writing or photographic exercise, generating material that the participants will later combine with either musical or movement material. The afternoon session begins with a musical or movement exercise, in which the participants develop both improvisational and notation awareness and skills. The workshop concludes with a combination task producing a short piece of performance.



# Creative Team

## **Sara Giddens: Co-Director & Choreographer**

Sara is a choreographer and co-founder of Bodies in Flight. She works as a teacher, lecturer, facilitator, researcher, and project manager. Using interdisciplinary approaches, her extensive national and international work seeks to challenge both the boundaries of conventional dance and performance and how those works can be documented and disseminated. Sara is a creative agent with Creative Partnerships Nottingham and works as a consultant with Creative Partnerships Derby, facilitating and supporting action research projects with schools and RFOs. In 2005 Sara was awarded a research bursary from Articulating Dance, The Choreographic Lab at the University of Northampton and has been co-mentoring as part of the REFLECT programme run by The Sage, Gateshead.

## **Simon Jones: Co-Director & Writer**

Simon is a writer and scholar. He has written plays and texts for a number of companies since the 1980s and founded Bodies in Flight in 1990. He has taught theatre studies at Lancaster University, and is currently a reader in performance at the University of Bristol. He has been a visiting scholar at Amsterdam University (2001), The School of the Art Institute of Chicago (2002), and worked with Spell#7 Performance (Singapore) in a revival of his performance text Beautiful Losers (1994/2003). He has published in Contemporary Theatre Review, Entropy Magazine, Liveartmagazine, Performance Research, Shattered Anatomies (ed. Heathfield & Quick), and most recently in The Cambridge History of British Theatre.

## **Graeme Rose: Performer**

Graeme is a Bodies in Flight associate artist (previous work with the company includes Rough, Skinworks and Who By Fire) and founder member of glory what glory (1987-91), Stan's Cafe (1991- present) and The Resurrectionists (1995 – present). Has also worked and toured with Insomniac Prods, Talking Birds and Red Shift Theatre Co. (Board Member since 2002). Other recent work includes education and community projects for artSites, Talking Birds and Stan's Cafe (as education co-ordinator), also directing devised work at the Universities of Birmingham and Wolverhampton. Recent performance includes Talking Birds's 25/7, HamFisted!'s Paradise Dreaming and Stan's Cafe's, Of All The People In All the World (aka. the rice show) and The Cleansing of Constance Brown, which continue to tour internationally.

## **Catherine Dyson: Performer**

Catherine Dyson is a performer and deviser. Recent theatre work includes: 'Half Life' (National Theatre of Scotland and NVA); 'Speed Death of The Radiant Child' (Drum Theatre Plymouth); 'The Night Shift' (Traverse Theatre, Esplanade Singapore and national tour), for which she was nominated Best Actress in the Stage Awards 2005; 'It Is Like It Ought To Be' Uninvited Guests - Arnolfini, BAC). She co-wrote and

performed 'Dead Man's Biggest Fan' with Melanie Wilson and has also collaborated with Norwegian based theatre artist a smith, co-writing and performing 'found' and 'The King and I'.

## **Tom Wainwright: Performer**

Tom is a performer and writer. He is co-founder of Paper Aeroplane theatre company, for whom he has written and performed in The Grill Chef, Love in Idleness and Jesus Christ It's Christmas (Bristol Old Vic). Solo work includes, One and Everything is Mailer Daemon both developed in association with Bristol Old Vic. Other theatre credits include One in a Million, The Crowstarver (Theatre Alibi); Jump (Myrtle Theatre) and Aesop's Fables (Bristol Old Vic) and national/international tour.

## **Edward Dimsdale: Photographer**

Ed is a photographic artist represented by Hackelbury Fine Art in London and Gallery 339 in the USA. Recent exhibitions include Stilled, with Bohncchang Koo, at Gallery 339 in Philadelphia, Unfinished Business at the Ruskin Gallery in Cambridge and Picturing Eden, a five-year touring museum show curated by Deborah Klochko for the George Eastman House, Rochester, NY. Recent publications include Picturing Eden (Steidl, 2006) and Of All The People In All The World (2005), the documentation of a performance installation by Stan's Cafe. He lectures in photography at the Cambridge School of Art and London College of Communication; his research interests include the interface between analogue and digital technologies and the photographic documentation of live performance.

## **Sam Halmarack: Composer & Musician**

Sam is a composer, singer/songwriter and founding member of Bristol band The Master Chaynjis ([www.masterchaynjis.com](http://www.masterchaynjis.com)) who have performed in numerous music venues and festivals around the country including Venn, Green Man, Shambala and the Secret Garden Party. Previous musical director credits include Everything is Mailer Daemon at Bristol Old Vic and The Last Man on Earth (Film Score).

**MODEL LOVE** is Bodies In Flight's fifteenth performance work. The company have performed at Arnolfini, Chapter Arts Centre, BAC, Traverse, Bonnington Gallery, Nuffield Lancaster, Alsager Arts Centre, Manchester's Green room and the Wickham theatre, Bristol amongst other venues, as well as internationally in Brisbane, Chicago, Victoria and Singapore.

**For more information on previous shows please visit the company website at [www.bodiesinflight.co.uk](http://www.bodiesinflight.co.uk)**

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