



INFORMATION PACK

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State of Flux dancefilm company

Directed by **Heather Eddington**, **State of Flux** is a vibrant dancefilm company dedicated to the creation of fresh, exciting and original work by fusing dance, film, animation and design.

Heather Eddington directs and leads the company of international artists of dancers, animators and sculptors in exploring the possibilities of dancefilm. Together the team creates highly innovative dancefilm installation work where movement, images and environment blend and the performance begins.

“Eddington's sensitive, quirky and adventurous style, has led her to find a language within dancefilm which is refreshing and very much her own.”

– David Hinton, Film Director

State of Flux presents a range of work for theatre and gallery settings as well as installation work suitable for foyers and other non-performance settings allowing presenters and promoters to engage in dancefilm in a range of new and exciting ways.

Heather Eddington - Artistic Director

Director Heather Eddington is based in Norwich and is currently Associate Artist at DanceEast, Ipswich. She was also recently invited to join the Escalator Artist scheme, which invests in artists based in the Eastern region, supporting their development and enabling artists to produce work of the highest quality.



Heather received a BA (hons) first class degree in Dance and Theatre Arts from the University of Birmingham and subsequently studied under the renowned Director David Hinton at London Contemporary Dance School on their Dance for Screen course.

Heather has collaborated with, directed and been commissioned by a range of artists and companies including New Art Club (Tom Roden and Pete Shenton), DanceEast, Delphine Gaborit, Anna Bjerre Larsen and Sarita Piotrowski.

In 2003, Heather founded State of Flux dancefilm company in order to draw all her work under one umbrella. The company's mission is to develop fresh and adventurous dancefilm work, bringing together the moving body with the moving image. Heather draws on her background in art and dance/choreography to explore the fusion of art forms such as film, animation, sculpture and design.

Heather's adventurous style generates an accessible dancefilm experience which has been well received by artists and audiences alike. Her work has been shown in a range of venues/spaces such as museums, colleges, cinemas and theatres. Recent examples include; The Place, London; The Junction, Cambridge; The Wolsey Studio, Ipswich; Cinema City, Norwich; Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts, Norwich; Essex College, Southend; DanceDigital, Chelmsford; and Norfolk Dance, Norwich.

What her work is like

Heather primarily uses contemporary dance and film to sensitively explore and reflect upon her personal outlook and daily experiences. Heather collaborates with a range of artists including sculptors, animators and designers to produce multi-media, unconventional work. This collaborative approach enables each piece to develop its own unique style and significance, but the quality of the work always remains of the highest calibre.

In her latest work, *A Blank Canvas*, Heather seamlessly blends the media of dance, film and animation. Entering the studio with a blank canvas, Heather set herself the challenge of capturing every detail of her dancers' imagination through movement, film and hand-drawn animation techniques. The result is a sensitive, beautiful, touching and humorous dancefilm in which two characters move through an animated world. Throughout the work, the characters narrate their individual stories; interact with their surroundings and each other.



Audiences become drawn into the 'world' of hand drawn images and personal story-telling. The work focuses upon the individuals and explores both physical characteristics and emotional drive.

Heather strives to operate at the forefront of dancefilm installation and production, creating work which is not only receiving highly positive responses from directors, exhibition coordinators and audience members, but seeks to move the genre forward through the development of new editing and choreographic techniques. Heather uses methods not commonly seen in dance performance, and is forging a style which is unique to her.

What people say about the work

"Heather Eddington and her sculptor collaborator Nyanda Yekwai have come together to create a unique dance-film installation that challenges our perceptions and opens our eyes to a new way of looking at dance film and sculpture in a work that is very beautiful and engaging."

- Assis Carreiro, Director, DanceEast

"Terrific! Keep doing more!"

- David Hinton, Film Director

"Surprisingly wonderfully, imaginative and beautiful"

- Audience member, Metronome

"Really beautiful – I saw it three times!"

Audience Member, Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts

Currently on offer:

Forgetting Natasha

Forgetting Natasha is the first full-length show from State of Flux, incorporating live dance with digital film and the latest live animation techniques. A true collaboration between Artistic Director Heather Eddington, poet Anna Mae Selby and internationally acclaimed media artists KMA the work challenges its audiences senses through dance, spoken word and the moving image.

After building a reputation for creating exciting dancefilm installation work through previous short films **Metronome**, **Curious** and **A Blank Canvas** (which recently toured the UK as part of the National Dance Network's pilot *Dance3* project), Heather has expanded her repertoire with this new 45-minute piece.

This new work builds on the digital techniques employed in Heather's previous work and has enriched her skills in animation, film and live performance. By bringing together these various elements, **Forgetting Natasha** offers audiences a unique cross art form experience which both excite and challenge the perceptions of what live dance performance can be.

Forgetting Natasha is available to venues in three formats:

- as a stand-alone piece
- alongside animated film **A Blank Canvas**, which can be shown as an installation in the foyer before **Forgetting Natasha** either on the day of the performance or for a period of time in the run up to the performance. This enables promoters to build an audience for the live work and generate an interest in State of Flux.
- Alternatively **A Blank Canvas** can be shown in the theatre space as a dance film so that promoters can present the work as a double bill.

About the work

Forgetting Natasha was created at the brand new Jerwood DanceHouse in Ipswich in April/May 2010, and toured the east region throughout Autumn 2010 (including a preview performance in London).

Forgetting Natasha tells the intimate and touching story of one woman's struggle to cope with dementia. Both poetic and poignant, the dancers enact her memories and fears through text and movement. The projected images and animation compliment the live elements of the piece by reflecting Natasha's quest to remember her past. The subject matter of **Forgetting Natasha** aims to appeal to wide audiences, both existing dance attenders and those new to dance.

For a taster of the work visit: <http://vimeo.com/14125953>

"Eddington's sensitive, quirky and adventurous style, has led her to find a language within dancefilm which is refreshing and very much her own." - David Hinton, Film Director



Previous tour dates

7 th October 2010	Rich Mix, London (Preview)	020 7613 7498 / www.richmix.org.uk
8 th /9 th October 2010	Jerwood DanceHouse, Ipswich	01473 295230 / www.danceeast.co.uk
11 th October 2010	Norwich Playhouse	01603 598598 / www.norwichplayhouse.co.uk
13 th October 2010	University of Bedfordshire	0800 3285334 / www.beds.ac.uk/theatre
28 th October 2010	Lakeside Theatre, Colchester	01206 873288 / www.essex.ac.uk/artson5/
29 th October 2010	The Hat Factory, Luton	01582 878100 / www.thehatfactory.org
30 th October 2010	Trestle Arts Centre, St Albans	01727 850950 / www.trestle.org.uk

A Blank Canvas (presented alongside *Forgetting Natasha*)

There are two options for presenting *A Blank Canvas*:

- Option 1: As a film presented in a live theatre setting
- Option 2: As an installation for a foyer or gallery space

To view a short video clip of the work please visit:

<http://www.stateofflux.info/A-Blank-Canvas-VideoClips.html>

Option 1: Theatre setting

A Blank Canvas is a dancefilm approximately 14 minutes in length. The film will be shown on a custom made 8 meter long, rear projection screen, which will be hung from the theatre rig by 5 cables/cords and tensioned from the bottom by 5 weighted cords.

The height the screen is hung from the floor is dependent upon the height of the audience seat tiers, but needs to be at a height that will give comfortable viewing for everyone. This will probably be between 1m and 2m from the floor.

(See Technical Requirements for further information)

Option 2: Installation

A Blank Canvas can also be shown in its entirety as a smaller installation. The film is shown across a series of 6 flat screen monitors arranged on a custom built stand. The laptops and electrical equipment required to run the films is all built into the stand. The only things required for the setup is an appropriate amount of space and power supply. The film must be restarted at the beginning of each day by a member of staff at the venue.

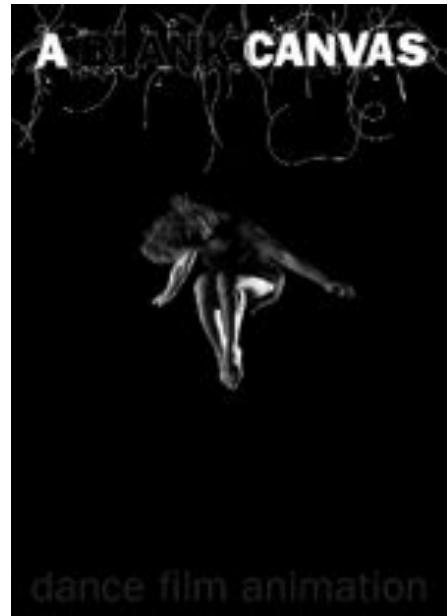
(See Technical Requirements for further information)

Previous tour dates:

Dance East, Ipswich	October 2008
Lakeside Theatre, University of Essex	November 2008
The Junction, Cambridge	November 2008
Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts, Norwich	January 2009
Norfolk Dance	February 2009
Cinema City	May 2009
Jerwood DanceHouse, Ipswich	October 2009

Fees:

For information about fees and how to book the work please email admin@stateofflux.info or contact Joe Bates @ Morton Bates Arts Services on +44 (0) 20 7724 1616



Past work

Curious

Through the unique blending of sculpture and dancefilm a visually absorbing three-dimensional environment is created. Two curious characters tentatively move over and through the curvaceous shapes, spaces and intricacies of this new world they inhabit with a rising sense of confidence, surprise and inventiveness.

Curious is an enthralling collaboration between Director and Choreographer, Heather Eddington and Sculptor, Nyanda Yekwai. These two talented young artists have come together to create a distinctive performance style where art forms fuse seamlessly together.



Performed by Delphine Gaborit, dancer for Hofesh Shechter and Bonachela Dance Company and Catriona Johnston, dancer for Sakoba Dance Theatre and Fusion Dance Company.

For a short clip of *Curious* visit <http://www.vimeo.com/4525645>

Metronome



An uplifting and experimental interaction of dance, three dimensional design and film. *Metronome* centres upon one bright, pensive and playful woman. Tables and chairs penetrate the space creating her three dimensional room onto which the film is projected. Colourful and quirky, her personality draws us into her life as she negotiates the room with energy, pace and astonishing agility.

This piece is a collaboration between director and choreographer Heather Eddington and choreographer and performer Lia Prentaki.

Both *Curious* and *Metronome* are still available for touring in theatre/studio and installation settings.

Please contact us for further details.

Collaborators

Over the past 6 years Heather has collaborated with a range of artists from varying art-forms. Her network of collaborators continues to grow but here are some of her more recent collaborations:

New Art Club

New Art Club was formed in 2001 by Tom Roden and Pete Shenton and is fuelled by their shared spirit of adventure. Commissioned by DanceEast and in conjunction with the local Suffolk community; Heather, Tom and Pete created a hilarious dancefilm to help promote The Red Shoe DanceHouse Appeal.

Delphine Gaborit

Delphine Gaborit trained as a dancer at the Conservatoire National de Region de Nantes where she was given the EAT award in contemporary dance. She was given a grant to train at the Laban, London and she graduated in 2002 with a BA(hons) in Dance Theatre. Delphine has since performed around the world as a freelance dancer, she has performed works from leading choreographers for the stage and the camera such as; Rafael Bonachela, Hofesh Shechter and Jasmin Vardimon.

Anna Bjerre Larsen

Anna Bjerre Larsen graduated from Northern School of Contemporary Dance in 2003 and subsequently joined Scottish Dance Theatre as an apprentice. As a freelance dancer she has worked with choreographers and companies including Ben Wright's bgroup, Malmoe Opera, Arts Alliance, Aletta Collins, Gary Clarke's Pit Fleur Company, Heather Eddington's State of Flux dancefilm company, Tom Roden, Jan De Schynkel, Cher Geurtze. She is currently working as assistant choreographer and dancer for Malmoe Opera on a production of "La Vie Parisienne" choreographed by Ben Wright.

Martin Banks

Martin Banks works as a visual artist, his training lies within camera work, video editing, animation, special effects and post-production. He also has a keen interest, and is always developing new skills, in the fabrication of physical artworks, with a particular interest in customising and or restoring salvaged goods and materials.

Martin runs his own collective of digital artists, Triggerset, which has produced a number of music videos and created and performed live visuals extensively over the country for bands, DJs, festivals and corporate events. Martin has worked with the acclaimed audio visual digital artists The Light Surgeons, with work being exhibited in the Oxo Tower, South Bank, and the V&A, London as part of The Light Surgeons exhibitions and screenings.

Nayanda Yekwai

Nayanda Yekwai is a Fine Art graduate and is primarily a self-taught artist by methods of observation, research, error and just simply doing what feels right. On her creative expeditions, she has used many forms of media, such as drawing, photography and CAD, each one laying way for and providing insight into the next. With an ingrained passion for the creative process, she went to Jamaica and met Lancelot Bryan, the internationally renowned artist who taught her how to carve Lignum Vitae - 'Wood of Life'. He said, "Whatever you want is in the wood, all you have to do is take away what you don't want and release it." It is this 'releasing' that is at the heart of Nyanda's practice. She handcrafts each piece, working directly on it without any preliminary sketches or ideas. Later, she developed the same approach to carving stone.

Creative Learning: Get involved!

Heather Eddington is an experienced dance tutor and has been teaching in various contexts since 2003. She has QTLS status and has frequently been observed as an outstanding teacher.

Since 2005, company Education Dance Artist Emma Brady and Heather have been working extensively in school and further educational settings and have in depth knowledge in GCSE, A-LEVEL, BTEC and C&M syllabi. Heather and Emma also have a wealth of community and inclusion experience such as; Spin Off, a dance company for people with learning and physical difficulties; Montgomery Out Reach Programme for children at risk; Sea Change Arts, raising aspirations, increasing the take up of young people to further and higher education; Passion Productions community dance group and NELM summer project aimed at improving the quality of life for people who live in the area.



The company's year round activities consist of:

- **Creative Workshops/Projects:** developing creative dancefilm skills.
- **Dancefilm Performance Residency:** Working intensively with a group to create a new dancefilm work.
- **Dancefilm Practitioner Master Classes:** To explore the skills and understanding required to become dancefilm artists.
- **Curriculum driven classes and workshops:** supporting participants learning and providing assessment opportunities.
- **Technique Class:** Build physical skills and knowledge in Contemporary, Jazz, Ballet, Partner work, Tap or Street.

Each option explores the company's unique dancefilm working methods, current productions or specific group aims. The company is also interested to hear from you if you have ideas for special projects in your school or organisation.



Prices vary from £100 to £2000 depending on the size and scale of the workshop or project.

Please contact us for a full education pack, breakdown of fees or to discuss your requirements.