

# INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ARTS

PRESS RELEASE

EVE STANTON: IMPACT DRIVER

Performances:

Thursday 28 September & Friday 29 September, 8pm

IN SEPTEMBER 2023, ICA LONDON WILL PRESENT EVE STANTON'S NEW PERFORMANCE WORK *IMPACT DRIVER*, CO-COMMISSIONED WITH SADLER'S WELLS, TAKE ME SOMEWHERE, WYSING ARTS CENTRE AND DANSEHALLERNE.



Photography by Anne Tetzlaff, 3D Typography by Bora AKA Pauline Canavesio, collaging by Eve Stainton.

Manchester born, London-based artist and performance maker Eve Stainton releases their new choreographic commission, *Impact Driver*. Featuring live welding, movement, and sound, scored by Leisha Thomas and Mica Levi.

*Impact Driver* constructs scenes of suspense without conclusion. Working with time-based notions of eeking, looming and of being 'caught in the act', Stainton explores how suspense as a rumbling undercurrent has the potential to underscore lesbian and trans-masc identity: being haunting, time-stretching, explicit and absurdist.

Borrowing the logic from a welding workshop, Stainton foregrounds activities that require live negotiation and decision making; making visible how scenes and objects take their shape. Atmospheres, garments, feelings and materials are all suspended, hung and in tension. Large steel protruding structures act as a welding workshop and a light tower as they become atmosphere generators; to be

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dismantled, manoeuvred and rebuilt.

‘Welding is potent for me in so many ways — its strong alchemical presence, its extreme theatricality, its capacity for danger/excitement/drama/power/thrill, its sensuality, its brashness.’ - Eve Stainton

Featuring an ensemble from different creative backgrounds who don't usually work in the field of dance, this performance continues Stainton's practice of celebrating gender non-conforming experiences, and in foregrounding these identities challenges the predominant white Western Contemporary Dance canon.

*The steel is sourced from FHBrundle suppliers and will be recycled after the performance. This work acknowledges the complexity of the UK steel industry, both historical and current with the closure of steel factories in the North of England in the 1980s under Margaret Thatcher and the affect this had on marginalised groups, music subcultures, and the colonial and environmental implications.*

Credits:

Concept and Choreography: Eve Stainton

Performance: Eve Stainton, Tink Flaherty, Mica Levi, Imani Mason Jordan, Romeo Roxman Gatt & Leisha Thomas

Sound World: Leisha Thomas & Mica Levi

Producer: Michael Kitchin

Set Design and Fabrication: HS Design Studios

Production Manager: Helen Mugridge

Lighting Designer: Charlie Hope

Costume Designer: Ella Boucht

Welding Manager: Hester Moriarty Thompson

Dramaturgical Support: Liz Rosenfeld & Jamila Johnson-Small

Artist Care Person: Madinah Farhannah Thompson

Choreographic Support: Florence Peake

3D Typography: Bora AKA Pauline Canavesio

Co-commissioned by Sadler's Wells, Institute of Contemporary Arts, Take Me Somewhere, Wying Arts Centre and Dansehallerne. Supported by Bergen Kunsthall and Wainsgate. Supported using public funding by the National Lottery through Arts Council England.

— ENDS —

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## NOTES TO EDITORS

Eve Stainton

Eve Stainton is an artist interested in the politics of uncodeable queer presence and its intersections with race and class. They create multi-disciplinary performance worlds that hold movement practices, digital collage, and welded steel, and other invisible forces like waves, imagination and drama. These forms work together to create live ecologies that are discordant, multi-layered and psychedelic. Stainton is interested in the production of conflicting states and textures to unravel essentialist thinking, with intent to create more expansive understandings of the lesbian identity, non-gender/variance, and perceptions of the 'real'.

Notable presentations include: New commission 'Dykegeist' for ICA (2021), Close Encounters Copenhagen, curated by Cedric Fauq (2021), Venice Biennale performance programme with Florence Peake (2019), Block Universe (UK), The Place (UK), Nottingham Contemporary (UK), Crac Occitanie (FR), Sadler's Wells Lilian Baylis (UK), La Becque (SE), LCMF (UK), CCA Glasgow (UK), Tangente (CA). Features include AQNB, FACT Mag, Dazed Beauty, Twin Magazine, Art in America, This is Tomorrow. Work for other artists include Anthea Hamilton, Tai Shani, Last Yearz Interesting Negro, Sonia Boyce, Malik Nashad Sharpe, Holly Blakey, Goldfrapp, Compagnie ECO international tour, Vivienne Westwood, Claire Barrow, Art School, Molly Goddard, walking for London/Shanghai/Paris Fashion Weeks.

## The Institute of Contemporary Arts

The Institute of Contemporary Arts (ICA) is London's leading space for contemporary culture. We commission, produce and present new work in film, music, performance and the visual arts by today's most progressive artists. In our landmark home on The Mall in central London, we invite artists and audiences to interrogate what it means to live in our world today, with a genre-fluid programme that challenges the past, questions the present and confronts the future. The cross-disciplinary programme encourages these art forms and others to pollinate in new combinations and collaborations. We stage club nights and film festivals, gigs and exhibitions, talks and digital art—with interplay and interaction at the core of all we do. Our history of presenting and promoting visionary new art is unrivalled in London: from Kenneth Anger to Kathy Acker, Kano to Klein, Jackson Pollock to Jean-Michel Basquiat, Gay Sweatshop to Forensic Architecture, Pop Art to queer techno. Today, as ever, our inclusive programme reflects and represents who we are as a disparate and diverse collection of cultures and identities.

Exactly 75 years after a group of artists and poets founded the ICA as an alternative to the mainstream, we are committed more than ever to pave the way for the next generation and to platform creative voices. The ICA continues to celebrate risk and champion innovation, and experimentation across the arts – a playground and a home for today's most vital artists.

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The ICA is an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organization and supported by the DCMS Culture Recovery Fund.

## Access

If you have an access requirement that we can assist you with, please contact us in advance of your visit for more information at [access@ica.art](mailto:access@ica.art) and we will make our best endeavours to help you. Full venue accessibility information can be found here, and you can download an accessibility map of the venue at [www.ica.art/media/01795.pdf](http://www.ica.art/media/01795.pdf)

## Press Enquiries

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## Visitor Information

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