

Claire Cunningham

Guide Gods

As someone who doesn't follow any faith I realised I didn't know, or understand, how various faiths view disability, and what effect these beliefs might have on how disabled people are treated, or how they view themselves.

I decided to make Guide Gods to learn more through the creation of a performance that might share the experiences of various individuals - those with and without faith - and to use this research as a means of connecting with and meeting people that I would otherwise not come into contact with, having spent a lot of my life avoiding religion, and people I viewed as 'religious'.

This was an immense subject to take on and I can only hope to scratch the surface. I had really hoped that this piece would work mainly as a catalyst for conversations we therefore want to invite you stay after the performance for a cup of tea, and to have a chat with your fellow audience members and myself.

I hope you enjoy the work and thank you for coming

Claire Cunningham

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Glasgow-based performer, Claire Cunningham, is one of the UK's most renowned disabled artists. Her work is often rooted in the study and use/misuse of her crutches, and the exploration of the potential of her own specific physicality. She consciously rejects traditional dance techniques developed for non-disabled bodies, as well as any attempt to move with the pretence of a body or aesthetic other than her own. Cunningham's work combines multiple art forms and ranges from intimate solo shows to large ensemble works. She is a former artist-in-residence at the Women of the World Festival at Southbank Centre, London, and the Belfast International Arts Festival at Queens University, and will be this year's Perth International Arts Festival, Australia resident artist and associate artist at Tramway, Glasgow.

Derek Nisbet

Derek Nisbet is a composer, musician & film-maker who specialises in creating music for unusual situations. Work includes music for cathedral organ to preface a tightrope walk by Ramon Kelvink on millennium eve (Tightrope Prelude), for a theatre show in an underground car-park (Wanderlust), for a choir in a livestock mart in Ireland (The Last Lot) and for a show to mark the decommissioning of a

hospital (Three Doctors). Nisbet is Co-Artistic Director of theatre company Talking Birds – he has created scores and sound designs for over 30 theatre productions – and his most recent work includes Troy Story, an opera commissioned by Orchestra of the Swan, performed at Town Hall, Birmingham by a cast and orchestra nearly 200 strong, including 164 young people from Primary & Special Educational Needs schools. His work with companies including Ockham’s Razor, Untied Artists and Blue Eyed Soul Dance has been performed at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, National Theatre, Royal Opera House, Lillian Bayliss Theatre at Sadler’s Wells and at venues in Moscow, Vancouver and Sweden. His music has been heard on BBC Radio 3 (Late Junction) and BBC Radio 4 (The Balloonists, Dr Pfeffer’s Lonely Hearts Club and Messages to a Submariner). www.dereknisbet.info

THANKS

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Credits

Performed and conceived by Claire Cunningham

Composer /Musician Derek Nisbet

Designer: Karen Tennent

Production Manager and Lighting Designer: Brian Gorman

Stage Manager: Marisa Ferguson

Mentor: Tom Roden

Executive Producer: Nadja Dias

Assistant Producer: Sheena Khanna

Marketing Manager: Vicky Wilson

Production Assistant: Freya Gosnold

Capitioner: Louisa McDaid

Audio Describer: Christopher McKiddie

Accessibility Consultants Mairi Taylor and Robert Gale from Flip

Co-commissioned by the Ulster Bank Belfast Festival at Queens and Southbank Centre

www.clairecunningham.co.uk



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