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# Swan Lake / Loch na hEala

Teac Damsa

Written, directed, and choreographed by  
Michael Keegan-Dolan

BAM Harvey Theater

Oct 15—19 at 7:30pm; Oct 20 at 3pm

Running time: approx. one hour and 15 minutes, no intermission

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AKI



ELIZABETH CAMERON  
DALMAN



DANNY DIAMOND



ZEN JEFFERSON



ANNA KASZUBA



SAKU KOISTINEN



ALEXANDER  
LEONHARTSBERGER



MIKEL MURFI



MARY BARNECUTT



ERIK NEVIN



RACHEL POIRIER



LATISHA SPARKS



CARYS STATON



MICHAEL KEEGAN-  
DOLAN

## ARTISTIC TEAM

Written, directed, and choreographed by

**Michael Keegan-Dolan**

Set design by **Sabine Dargent**

Costume design by **Hyemi Shin**

Lighting design by **Adam Silverman**

Music by **Slow Moving Clouds**

## PERFORMERS

Musician, nyckellharpa **Aki**

Musician, cello **Mary Barneccutt**

Nancy O'Reilly **Elizabeth Cameron Dalman**

Musician, fiddle **Danny Diamond**

The Second Watcher/Winnie **Zen Jefferson**

Finola's Sister/Swan **Anna Kaszuba**

The First Watcher/Lyudmilla **Saku Koistinen**

Jimmy O'Reilly **Alexander Leonhartsberger**

The Holy Man **Mikel Murfi**

The Third Watcher/Margaret **Erik Nevin**

Finola **Rachel Poirier**

Finola's Sister/Swan **Latisha Sparks**

Finola's Sister/Swan **Carys Staton**

## PRODUCTION TEAM

Producer **Johnny O'Reilly**

Touring rehearsal director **Emmanuel Obeya**

Touring production manager **Michael Lonergan**

Company stage manager **Marina Dunford**

Deputy stage manager **Sinéad Cormack**

Sound manager **Sandra O'Mahony**

Lighting manager **Stephen Dodd**

Costume supervisor **Amanda Donovan**

Production manager **Peter Jordan**

Associate producer & administrator **Áine Ní Éalaí**

Co-production by Teac Damsa; Sadler's Wells Theatre London; Colours International Dance Festival, Theaterhaus Stuttgart; Dublin Theatre Festival; and Theatre de la Ville, Luxembourg.

Presented with support from Culture Ireland

Teac Damsa is supported by First Derivatives

Additional support from Irish Arts Center

TEAC  
DAMSA

**Board of Directors** Madeline Boughton, Anne Connelly, Ana Dolan, Catherine Dolan, Eithne Hand, Manchán Magan, Aisling Rogerson | [teacdamsa.com](http://teacdamsa.com)



### DON'T BE AFRAID OF THE DARK.

Every winter, as the days grow short and the nights grow long and dark, thousands of migrating swans appear on the many lakes that surround the house where I used to live. Over time the presence of these swans and that darkness began to merge in my imagination with the love story and tragedy that is *Swan Lake*.

Much of Christian culture has been reduced to a simple notion that God is good, has a white beard and lives in the light, and the devil is bad and sits in the dark. This reductive view of the nature of things can be the root of much suffering and confusion.

Darkness is the absence of light. Fundamentally it is how we know what light is.

Depression, like most illness, can be a consequence of a continued state of imbalance, often connected with unresolved events from our lives. The accumulated sadness eventually immobilizes us and can make us sick. This sickness often requires a fundamental change to move it. Change, no

matter how unwelcome, is an inevitable part of life; nature's forces are constantly moving, seeking to find balance so that life can continue to endlessly unfold. When depression visits us it is asking us to change.

Depression, by its nature, forces you to be still long enough to hear what you are trying to tell yourself. In the dark we can see nothing with our actual external eyes. In silence there is nothing to hear with our external ears. When our senses have nothing on which to attach, our internal world wakes up and starts to speak to us quietly. When this happens it is important to listen carefully.

The darkness in any story is there to teach us something. Don't be afraid of the dark, it is your friend.

—Michael Keegan-Dolan

**TEAC DÁMSA** (pronounced Chak Dowsa) was founded by Michael Keegan-Dolan (Micheál MacAodhagáin-O'Dobhailen) in 2016 as a means to forge deeper connections with the traditions, language, and music of Ireland. Léiríonn an t-ainm Teac Damsa aistear leanúnach Mhíchíl chun saothair rince agus drámaíochta a chruthú go bhfuil a n-áit dúchais – an áit as a dtagann siad – le brath go soiléir orthu. The name Teac Damsa, “House of Dance,” reflects Michael’s ongoing journey to create dance and theater work that clearly reflects the place from which it originates. Teac Damsa’s second show, *MÁM*, opened to great acclaim on Sep 27, 2019 as part of Dublin Theatre Festival. *MÁM* will tour internationally in 2020 to London, Perth Festival and New Zealand Festival.

**MICHAEL KEEGAN-DOLAN** (writer, director, choreographer) was the artistic director of Fabulous Beast Dance Theatre from 1997 to 2015. He founded Teac Damsa in 2016 and now lives in the Corca Dhuibhne Gaeltacht with his partner Rachel Poirier and their two children. *Swan Lake/Loch na hEala* was the first production from Teac Damsa and has toured extensively both nationally and internationally over the past three years; *MÁM* is the second production from the company.

**ADAM SILVERMAN** (lighting design) works as a lighting designer in opera, theater, and dance. Productions with Michael Keegan-Dolan: *Swan Lake/Loch an hEala*, *The Big Noise*, *The Rite of Spring / Petrushka*, *Rian*, *Helen and Hell*, *James Son of James*, *The Bull*, *Giselle*, and the English National Opera productions of *The Rite of Spring* and *Julius Caesar*. Other recent productions include Enda Walsh and Donnacha Dennehy’s *Second Violinist* and *The Last Hotel*; Enda Walsh’s *Grief Is the Thing with Feathers*, *Arlington*, *Ballyturk*, and *Misterman*. Silverman has lit theater and opera productions on Broadway, the West End, The Abbey Theatre, The Gate Theatre, Royal National Theatre, Opera Ireland, Metropolitan Opera, Teatro alla Scala, Royal Opera, and English National Opera, among others.

**HYEMI SHIN** (costume design) was the overall winner of the 2011 Linbury Prize. Dance includes: Michael Keegan-Dolan’s *Swan Lake/Loch na hEala* (costumes), for which she won the *Irish Times* Best Costumes award, *New Work New Music* (Royal Ballet), *Unearth* (National Ballet of Canada), and *The Kreutzer Sonata* (Ballet Moscow). Theater includes: *Solaris* (Malthouse, Melbourne); *The End of Eddy* (Unicorn Theatre); *The Seagull*, *Hérons*,

*Morning*, *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* and *Secret Theatre* shows (Lyric Hammersmith); *Once in a Lifetime* (sets), *Dirty Butterfly* and *Sizwe Banzi Is Dead* (Young Vic). Opera includes: *La Damnation de Faust* (sets, Glyndebourne Opera), *The Skating Rink* (costumes, Garsington Opera), and *The Return of Ulysses* (sets, ROH/Roundhouse).

**SABINE DARGENT** (set design) has won two *Irish Times* Best Set-Design Awards in Ireland. She is a freelance scenographer, working in theater, dance, and street theater with various directors and companies. Dargent worked in France with Théâtre de Chatillon, Théâtre de l’Épée de Bois, Maurice Bachet, and in Ireland with Michael Keegan-Dolan, Mikel Murfi, Emma Martin, Junk Ensemble, Brokentalkers, Conall Morrison, Enda Walsh, Jim Culleton, Paul McEnaney, Selina Cartmell, and others. She loves theater, dance, and physical theater, but has also designed for exhibitions, films, and has designed big events and street theater. [sabinedargent.com](http://sabinedargent.com)

CAST

**AKI** is a Dublin-based singer/multi-instrumentalist/composer whose constant search for new sounds and musical ideas keeps him exploring and combining different music genres as well as developing new musical instruments. He’s a member of a collaborative post-folk band, Slow Moving Clouds, which created the original score for *Swan Lake/Loch na hEala*. The band has recently played with artists such as Jenny Lewis, The National, Boys Noize, Gordi, Rusangano, and Lisa O’Neill. Slow Moving Clouds is currently working on a new album due to be released early next year. Aki has toured and performed his music in Europe, Russia, Asia, Australia, New Zealand, and North America.

**MARY BARNECUTT** is a Dublin-based musician who works with a variety of bands, orchestras, and educational projects. She has written music for short films, theater, dance productions, and has worked with artists such as Julie Feeney, Vyvienne Long, Adrian Crowley, Seti the 1st, Ray Harman, and Ruth O’Mahony Brady. She is currently cellist and vocalist with Teac Damsa in the touring production of *Swan Lake/Loch Na hEala*. She manages two string projects in Dublin primary schools and in 2019 created the improvised music show, *Stringplay*, for children with her sister Kathrine for the Ark, in association with IMC. She is curator of the weekly Sundays@Noon Concert Series in the





Hugh Lane Gallery and co-director of Spike, Dublin's annual alternative cello festival. She also produces and records her own music under the name Mary & the Pigeons. [marypigeons.com](http://marypigeons.com)

**DR. ELIZABETH CAMERON DALMAN** (OAM), a director, choreographer, performer, and teacher, is a pioneer of contemporary dance in Australia. She founded Australian Dance Theatre and was its artistic director for 10 years. She is currently director of Mirramu Creative Arts Centre and artistic director of Mirramu Dance Company. From 2004—06 she was head of the Dance Department at the University of Western Sydney. She teaches at the Taipei National University of the Arts and appears in the Tsai Jui-yueh International Dance Festival in Taiwan. She is a recipient of many dance awards, including an Australian Artists Creative Fellowship and several Canberra Critics Circle Awards. In 2015 she was inducted into the Hall of Fame at the Australian Dance Awards and was Canberra Artist of the Year. Always advocating the power of dance-theater to communicate, Dalman is excited to perform with Teac Damsa in this production of *Swan Lake/Loch na hEala*.

**DANNY DIAMOND** is a musician from Ireland, currently based in Minneapolis. He comes from a renowned family of traditional musicians with a deep cultural heritage in the north of Ireland. In his work Diamond plays fiddle, sings, writes, arranges, and records music. He has released two solo recordings: *Fiddle Music* (2014) and *Elbow Room* (2017). Other collaborations include the fiddle duo *NORTH* with Conor Caldwell and *What to Bring When We Leave*, a two-man show with poet Tom French. Previously he played with the bands Slow Moving Clouds and Mórğa, and worked as an audio archivist and researcher with the Irish Traditional Music Archive in Dublin.

**ZEN JEFFERSON** is a Swiss-American dancer, performer, and DJ/sound collage artist based in Berlin. He graduated from The Juilliard School in 2006 and has since worked in Europe, Africa, and Asia with choreographers and creatives of various imaginative constellations. His mountain is Mt. Rainier and waters Lake Washington, which both form the backdrop of Seattle where he spent his youth. He has collaborated on five productions with Teac Damsa and he is so blessed and grateful to share this work with his inspired colleagues and audiences.

**ANNA KASZUBA** was born in Wolverhampton, UK. She graduated from London Contemporary Dance School with a first class degree in

2009, and later completed an MA focusing on ritual and performance. She completed an apprenticeship with Scottish Dance Theatre and toured with the company. Since then Kaszuba has been working as an independent artist and has performed with Scottish Dance Theatre, Grange Park Opera, Opera National de Lorraine, Emma Martin/United Fall (IE), Laura Murphy (IE), Catherine Young (IE), Dan Canham/ Still House (UK), and Van Hulle Dance Theatre. She has worked with Michael Keegan-Dolan since 2011 on *Rian*, *The Rite of Spring*, and *Petrushka* and toured worldwide with the company. Kaszuba also holds a qualification in Holistic Massage therapy.

**SAKU KOISTINEN** earned his Master of Arts (dance) at Theatre Academy in Helsinki in 2009. Since 2006 he has been working with several choreographers and companies, including Tero Saarinen Company, Eeva Muiilu, Yuval Pick, Jorma Uotinen, and contemporary theater group Und er libet. Koistinen has been dancing in Michael Keegan-Dolan's works since 2009; *The Rite of Spring* at English National Opera was his first performance. Since 2010 Koistinen has been creating his own works, which have been performed in Finland and also toured in France, Czech Republic, Russia, and India. Since August 2017 he has also been the artistic director of Routa Company, an open company for contemporary dance based in Kajaani, Northern Finland.

**ALEX LEONHARTSBERGER** was born in Vienna, Austria, and trained at and graduated from the Austrian Ballet School of the State Opera in Vienna. He then freelanced for many different choreographers and companies around the globe including Volksoper Wien, Tanztheater Wien, Landestheater Linz, Fabulous Beast Dance Theatre, Royal New Zealand Ballet, Michael Parmenter, Australian Dance Theater, Raewyn Hill, Alyx Duncan, Daniel Belton, The Playground, Maria Dabrowska, Mia Mason, Jo Randerson, Malia Johnson, New Zealand Dance Company, Muscle Mouth, and Douglas Wright. Leonhartsberger toured with Keegan-Dolan performing the Stravinsky Double-Bill in Great Britain, and also *The Rite of Spring* and *Petruschka*. He is based in Tamaki Makaurau, New Zealand and lives there with his partner and three children. He loves to laugh, working with his hands, riding bikes, and digging in the garden, mostly for edibles.

**MIKEL MURFI** is from Sligo, Ireland and trained at École Jaques Lecoq, Paris. His recent theater performances include his two solo shows, *The*



*Man in the Woman's Shoes* and *I Hear You and Rejoice*, Dolores (Junk Ensemble), *The Last Hotel and Ballyturk* (GIAF/Landmark); *The New Electric Ballroom* (Druid); *Morning After Optimism*, *Playboy of the Western World* (Peacock Theatre); *The Comedy of Errors*, *The Tempest* (Abbey Theatre); *Giselle*, *The Rite of Spring*, and *Petrushka* (Fabulous Beast); *Desire Under the Elms* (Lyric, Hammersmith). Recent directing work includes *Waiting for Godot* (Theatre du Pif, Hong Kong); *The Far Off Hills* (Nomad Theatre Network); *Tóraíocht* (Fíabín). Other directing work includes *Falling Out of Love* (Yew Tree), *Focal Point* (TEAM), *B for Baby* (Abbey), *The Second Coming* (Fidget Feet/Hawk's Well Theatre), and *The Walworth Farce*, *Penelope* (Druid). Film includes: *The Ballad of Kid Kanturk*, *Sweetie Barrett*, *The Butcher Boy*, *Love and Rage*, *Guiltip*, and *Jimmy's Hall*. He directed *Druma* and *John Duffy's Brother*.

**ERIK NEVIN**, born in Ireland but raised in Sweden, began dancing in his late teens. With a background in martial arts and sports he then shifted to contemporary dance. After studies in Sweden, he moved to the UK where he graduated with a first class degree from Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance in 2011. Nevin has worked across Europe with companies but also presenting his own work. He is currently based in Brussels. Some of the artists he has worked with are Michael Keegan-Dolan, Rosemary Butcher, Dog Kennel Hill Project, Pablo Bronstein, Robbie Synge, Joe Moran, Miet Warlop, Vera Tussing, Hussein Chalayan, and Damien Jalet. Besides his performance practice Nevin is also studying climate change and sustainable development.

**RACHEL POIRIER** trained in France at the conservatoire of Rennes, l'École Nationale de la Rochelle, furthered her training at the Rudra Béjart school, and then joined Rambert Dance Company. She also worked with the Merce Cunningham Dance Company, Rafael Bonachela,

John Jasperse, and Christophe Garcia. She has worked with Michael-Keegan Dolan, Fabulous Beast, and Teac Dańsa for the last 14 years.

**LATISHA SPARKS** is a freelance contemporary dance performer. Born in Perth, Western Australia, she began her dance training at Gail Meade Performing Arts Centre. She decided to follow her passion and undertake formal training at the Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School and the New Zealand School of Dance. Throughout her training, Sparks has worked with Tim Harbour (*Carmen* and *Jose*, 2011), Ursula Robb, Mahlia Johnston (World of Wearable Art awards show, 2013), Douglas Wright (*Rapt* excerpts, 2014), Ross McCormack (Preface-Tempo Festival, 2015), Thomas Bradley (*Conditions of Entry*, 2015), Iratxe Ansa (*Metamorphosis*, 2015) and others. Sparks began her career performing *Mana Wahine* with Okareka Dance Company before joining Sydney Dance Company where she performed works by Rafaela Bonachela, Alexander Ekman, Cheng Tsung-Lung, Melanie Lane, and others. She recently toured Germany with Cooperativa Maura Morales performing *Phobos* and now joins Teac Dańsa to perform *Swan Lake/Loch na hEala*.

**CARYS STATION** works from London as an independent dance artist. She began working with Teac Dańsa in 2016 for the creation and international tour of *Swan Lake/Loch na hEala* and is thrilled to continue working with Keegan-Dolan. After training at the Rambert School, Station danced for Russell Maliphant Company from 2011–16, both performing and assisting choreographically on creations with English National Ballet and Bayerisches Staatsballet. Other recent projects include work with National Youth Dance Company, RobertaJean/MysterySkin, as well as performing and devising movement for music, film, and print. Fascinated by the relationship between mind and body, her ongoing personal practice and study centers around somatic movement therapy.

## Please Note

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