



JOAN
CLEVILLÉ
DANCE

PLAN B
FOR
UTOPIA



You have a plan, and then you don't. You have a dream, and then you wake up. You fall in love, and your heart gets broken. The question is: do you pick up the pieces and try again?

Plan B for Utopia is a full-length dance theatre work by Scotland-based company **Joan Clevillé Dance**. Tipping between humour and pathos, the piece explores the role that imagination and creativity can play as a catalyst for change in our personal and collective lives. Choreographer Joan Clevillé creates an intimate space for reflection where audience and performers can come together to re-imagine the world.

'Despite the topic, the show is hilarious – and honest. It presents no easy answers, but the conclusion is bittersweet rather than sad. This thoughtful and perceptive show will haunt you for days.'

The Skinny ****

About Joan Clevillé Dance

Joan Clevillé Dance is an independent dance company based in the city of Dundee, Scotland. Led by Artistic Director Joan Clevillé, the company's practice is rooted both in movement research and experimentation with theatre and storytelling, challenging the conventional boundaries between genres. The company aims to create intimate works that are honest, original and thought-provoking, inviting audiences to share the performers' enquiry about themselves, each other, and the world we live in.

Born in Barcelona, Joan combined his dance training with his studies on Humanities at University Pompeu Fabra. He has worked as a dancer and rehearsal director for fourteen years in companies across Europe, including Scottish Dance Theatre, the Ballet of the Graz Opera, Lost Dog (directed by Ben Duke) and the performance collective Dog Kennel Hill Project in London.



Following his interest in choreography, Joan obtained a masters degree at London Contemporary Dance School in 2012. His works have been presented in the UK, Sweden, Germany, Austria, Italy, Spain and Japan. He has created pieces for the choreographic platforms of the Graz Opera and Scottish Dance Theatre, which were toured nationally and internationally. He has also received commissions from Thomas Noone Dance (Spain), Café Fuerte (Austria-Switzerland), and Institut del Teatre (Barcelona) amongst others. Joan is Glasgow Tramway's 2017 Associate Artist.

'if debut outing Plan B for Utopia is anything to go by, Clevillé's future in dance theatre is very, very bright' The List ****

The work: *Plan B for Utopia*

Premiered during the 2015 Edinburgh Festival Fringe, *Plan B for Utopia* is the first full-length work from Joan Clevillé Dance. The piece has been received with full houses and unanimous critical acclaim across the UK by audiences, presenters and press alike. The work was selected for the programme of **British Dance Edition** and **internationale tanzmesse** 2016 and the **Made in Scotland** and **British Council** showcases at the 2017 Edinburgh Festival Fringe where it was nominated for a **Fringe Sustainability Award**. It has been performed over sixty times in venues such as **Battersea Arts Centre** and **The Place** (London) and international festivals such as **Mirabilia** (Italy) and **HartOFFanie Teatrem** (Poland) with performances at **Tanzmainz Festival, Germany** and **Festival Danze Estate in Bergamo, Italy** in 2017.

"a beguiling joy" The Guardian ****

Joan Clevillé on the creation of *Plan B for Utopia*:

'I find the mixture of hope and despair that goes together with the utopian impulse utterly compelling... As a dance-maker, I am interested in exploring the contradictory character of human nature, and how the private can become a vehicle for the discussion of the public.

The creation of *Plan B for Utopia* emerged, precisely, from the need to reconcile my artistic practice with the current socio-political context. I wanted to find a choreographic language that could render the gravity and complexity of the global challenges that we currently face to something manageable, less overwhelming, closer to human-scale.



The body, the voice, and most importantly what we can *do* to each other with them, emerged as the vehicles and the sites of our enquiry. Rather than arriving to a final 'truth', the aim was to find a sense of honesty in our attempts, (whether physical, emotional or intellectual). For me, the value of the work lies in the performers' capacity to re-enact that search for integrity in each moment, and their commitment to share their struggle with us.'

'Original and uplifting, Plan B for Utopia is one of the stand-out dance theatre pieces on show at this year's Fringe... Weinachter and Kendall are masters of movement, able to transform deep despair into joy and merriment in the blink of an eye.' Ed Fringe Review ****

Promo Videos

Trailer

<https://vimeo.com/132943878>

Full-length video

<https://vimeo.com/132532173> (password: Utopia15)

Interview with Joan Clevillé

<https://vimeo.com/132938449>

Trailer with comments by Christian Watty, Associate Director Internationale Tanzmesse

<https://vimeo.com/223439734>

Trailer with comments by Joan Clevillé for the British Council Edinburgh Showcase

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qN-Y68uWl3A>

Creative Team

Written and Directed by Joan Clevillé

Choreography devised by Joan Clevillé in collaboration with the dancers

Performed by Solène Weinachter and John Kendall (Joan Clevillé in selected venues)

Costume and Set Design: Matthias Strahm

Lighting Design: Emma Jones

Dramaturgy Advisor: Ella Hickson

Photography: Nicole Guarino, Maria Falconer

Music: Louis Armstrong, Cliff Edwards, Judy Garland, Gordon Lorenz Orchestra, Willy Mason, and MyMy

Wrap-around activities

Choreographer Joan Clevillé has an extensive experience as a teacher, working internationally with professional companies and vocational schools across Europe, including: Göteborg Opera, Skånes Dansteater (Sweden), Scottish Dance Theatre, Norrdans (Sweden), The Place (London), Codarts (Rotterdam), Northern School of Contemporary Dance (Leeds), Rambert School of Ballet and Contemporary Dance (London) and the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland amongst others.

In addition to the performances, the company can offer an extensive programme of professional development and creative learning opportunities, including **creative sessions** for all ages and abilities, **masterclasses** for dancers and physical theatre actors, and **post-show discussions**.



Practicalities

The work was created to be technically flexible and easy to tour and it can be presented in a variety of venues, from mid-scale theatres to unconventional spaces without losing any of its artistic quality and integrity. It is therefore a perfect piece for touring to venues with limited technical expertise, and those new to presenting and experiencing contemporary dance and theatre.

If required, a script of the spoken dialogue in English can be sent in advance to venues (written translations of the script are also available in several languages), but the emotional emphasis of the piece lies on the physicality of the performers and the use of their voice.

Duration

The performance is 60 minutes long – no interval.

People On The Road

4 people on the road:

2 Dancers (1 male, 1 female)

1 Production Manager

1 Artistic Director/Choreographer, (performing at selected venues)

Get In/Set Up

Preferably the day before the performance, although it may be possible to get in from 9am on the day of the performance with exclusive use of the stage and pre-rig in place. The get-out will take place immediately after the last performance.

Space & Setting

Joan Clevillé Dance requires an indoor stage with an 8m x 8m white dance floor (not provided by the company for international tour). This is the optimum size of the performance space but spaces can be larger or smaller if agreed in advance. An ideal height on stage of 6m is required but less can be agreed in advance. 2 freestanding 2.5m tri lite truss sections are required on bases as down stage booms (not provided by the company for international tour).

There are many small props toured by the company including coat hangers, wooden blocks, paper crown, plastic dinosaur, towels, tape recorder, keyboard – this will be provided by the company and brought as excess baggage in 3 suitcases. A cardboard wardrobe box will be required for each show and will be sent by courier.



A smoke machine, 2 white fold-up chairs, a birthday balloon filled with helium and a birthday cake will be required for the performance (not provided by the company on international tour).

Lighting

Lighting plan can be sent in advance. Joan Clevillé Dance tours all flood lights, colour, 2x 5m length of dimmable festoons and a disco ball (freestanding not DMX). A hand held smoking machine will be required (not provided for international touring). The show has been plotted on ETC – toured NOMAD for certain shows. 13amp extension cables toured.

Sound

The company requires a PA and, where possible, monitors in 4 or 2 corners of the stage. We also require a microphone stand. The company will provide playback via laptop so will require 2 DI'd channels on the FOH sound desk. The company will tour 1 SM58 microphone, and XLR cable, which will require one more channel on the desk. A small tape player is also used onstage but will require no amplification.

Logistics

The company can do up to five performances per week and up to two performances a day (provided there is enough interval between them).

The company will require:

Travel and accommodation up to 4 company members:

- Return travel and all transfer to/from airports to location. Air travel with a reputable airline with one hold luggage for each company member.
- Transfers between hotel/venue.
- Accommodation in single rooms in a hotel with a rating of at least 3 stars or equivalent.
- Per diems, visa costs and travel contribution of £10 pp.
- Freight: excess baggage (3 extra suitcases).

Please note all schedules need to be agreed and discussed.

To discuss further logistics and fees please contact:

Executive Producer

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Photographers: Cover by Nicole Guarino, all other pictures by Maria Falconer.