

Media release

Motionhouse to animate Randers Harbour with spectacular large-scale performance for 'Aarhus 2017' European Capital of Culture Celebrations in Denmark



Watermusic 'Experiment' Sept '16. Image: Søren Pagter

On 2nd and 3rd September 2017, UK dance-circus company Motionhouse will transform Randers Harbour in Denmark into the stage for a spectacular large-scale outdoor show as part of the 'Aarhus 2017' European Capital of Culture celebrations.

Created and directed by Kevin Finnan, Artistic Director of Motionhouse, *Watermusic* will see Motionhouse performers joined by a cast of local people including singers, musicians, choirs and community groups. Incredible projections created by Motionhouse's long-term collaborator Logela will help tell stories of the relationship

between land and water and the history of the area. Prominent Danish singer-songwriter Oh Land will play the role of Queen of the Sea and has also written the music for the production.

Watermusic will take Motionhouse's extensive experience of creating and performing work in unusual non-theatre spaces to even greater heights, seeing the company's performers abseil off the top of 60 metre-high industrial buildings to perform an aerial choreography and dancing on a flying boat. The sides of the harbour buildings will be used as giant screens for the film projections from long-time Motionhouse collaborators Logela Multimedia, creating the backdrop for the performance. Local choirs and dancers will bring to life the quayside, while parachutists and fly boarders complete the spectacle.

Watermusic is one of 12 chosen full moon projects in the official programme for the European Capital of Culture, Aarhus 2017, and will be Randers' single biggest outdoor cultural event to date.

Kevin Finnan said: "I am absolutely delighted to have been invited by Randers EgnsTeater to create *Watermusic*. When I visited this extraordinary place for the first time last year, I was struck by its beauty, its people, and its deep sense of history. And this is what inspired me for *Watermusic*. I wanted to reflect these qualities in the show and to make a story that captures the history of Randers as a working port, as a place where the land meets the sea, and where people have settled and made their lives. I wanted to celebrate the 'everyday heroism' and courage of people coming together, striving to make a home and to raise a family: to convey the human struggle that is reflected in the town's history."

Watermusic will be an exhilarating, edge-of-your-seat production, using the skill and daring that is synonymous with Finnan and Motionhouse, but it will also be a poignant interpretation of the town's history.

"I hope that *Watermusic* will touch and move the people who see it. By its nature it will be spectacular, but I want it to be engaging and meaningful too," said Finnan.

-ENDS-

For media enquiries, images, interviews and other enquiries please contact: Jane Bailey on 01926 887052/07854872566 / Jane@motionhouse.co.uk

For more information see <http://www.motionhouse.co.uk/production/Watermusic> or <https://Watermusic.randers.dk>

Watermusic credits

Conceived and Directed By Kevin Finnan

Produced by Randers Egnsteater

Original Music by Oh Land

Film by Logela Multimedia

Set Design Sus Haugland

Lighting Design Phil Supple

Production Manager Austin Lawler at CUE

Watermusic is a Local Collaboration Between Randers Egnsteater, Randers Kommune, Randers Eventsekretariat, Randers Havn, Verdo, Korby Randers, Randers Musikskole, Museum Østjylland and many more sports associations

Images by Søren Pagter

About Motionhouse - Pushing movement to its limits since 1988

Founded in 1988 by Louise Richards and Kevin Finnan MBE, we create world class dance-circus productions that tour extensively to rave reviews across the globe. From full-length productions for theatre touring to flexible work for the outdoors and large-scale performance events, our sell-out productions integrate athletic physicality, powerful narrative, incredible digital imagery and emotive sound scores.

Our work takes its inspiration from common human concerns and our connection to the world in which we live, with recent works exploring flooding, the pressure of time, fear and captivity, and our relationship with water, the Earth and energy. Our dancers perform on stunning sets, alongside JCB diggers, with aerialists and singers, in incredible settings and to breath-taking effect.

Theatre productions: Our full-length productions tour to theatres across the UK and internationally. We seamlessly integrate digital imagery with live performance, creating a 'living film' that draws audiences into the magical world on stage. Powerful and emotive, these productions inspire and move, generating repeat tours, large audiences and reinforcing our reputation as an outstanding touring company. Recent years have seen two highly acclaimed US tours, as well as tours of mainland China, Hong Kong, Macau, Japan, and regular appearances throughout Europe.

Outdoor productions: Pioneers of outdoor dance, our range of flexible productions tours to festivals and non-theatre spaces. These short, sharp injections of dance and circus are designed to be performed outdoors and up-close rather than in a conventional theatre. Immensely popular on the international festival circuit, inspiring audiences who are not necessarily familiar with dance. These works are also increasingly popular for corporate and other events. We are currently touring a series of outdoor productions that range in scale and duration from an intimate 9-minute duet to a 45-minute dance-circus collaboration with NoFit State Circus on giant Jenga blocks, and a series of larger-scale spectacles incorporating dancers and JCB diggers.

Large-scale events: With a three-decade track record of creating work in unusual settings, we have secured a reputation as the 'go to' company to create visionary large-scale outdoor events. From beaches to stately homes and from animating a working harbour to bringing an inner city wasteland to life, as well as being commissioned to celebrate the London 2012 Olympic Games from bid success through launch to opening, we are renowned for our spectacular large-scale outdoor events. Our Artistic Director Kevin Finnan MBE was Choreographer and Movement Director for the Opening Ceremony of the London 2012 Paralympic Games.

Inspiring the next generation: We deliver a wide range of learning and training projects, in schools and in the community, for students and for young professionals, focusing on skills-development and creativity. Our teaching is accessible and inspiring and emphasises a sense of achievement for all. We offer a range of activities for all ages and abilities and frequently offer the opportunity to develop creative work for performance.

Motionhouse is supported using public funding by the National Lottery through Arts Council England.

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