

# Welcome to Fest en Fest - LAB

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## **Hanna Gillgren / H2DANCE:**

We would like to welcome you to the first edition of Fest en Fest Lab. Fest en Fest LAB will form another strand to our Fest en Fest project which will run alongside each other alternating years. Fest en Fest LAB emerged out of a desire to create a space that focused in further on choreographic processes and to share practise rather than products. Here academia meets creative practice, expanded choreography and experimental performance, which seeks to open up the sharing of new choreographic knowledges, strategies, structures and tools. We hope you will join us at Fest en Fest LAB as a space to flesh out your own practise, open up for new thinking and approaches to choreography and spend some time away from our current isolation.

## **Heidi Rustgaard / H2DANCE:**

We entered into the field of curation from a place of urgency. For us and many of our colleagues it had become critical to address what we found missing from the field of dance and choreography in the UK. Having noticed the artist voice absent from major decision making processes, few spaces available to artists in the expanded field, spaces to both produce and present work – it became pressing to create a different kind of festival.

In 2018, we initiated Fest en Fest, an artist run festival of expanded choreography. To date we have curated the festival twice, working in partnership with Trinity Laban, Goldsmiths University of London, London Contemporary Dance School, Cambridge Junction and Colchester Arts Centre. By bringing artists together in a festival context we have begun to question current aesthetic power structures and through the doing - a new model for presentation of choreographic works has started to emerge.

## **Natalie Richardson / Producer:**

Fest en Fest makes space for artists and audiences to come together and present live works and ideas, to discuss, provoke, influence and be a force for change. Through performances, talks, lunches and parties, H2DANCE present a programme of UK & Nordic artists working across dance & performance.

Fest en Fest LAB invites artists Björn Säfsten and Stina Nyberg SE, Ingri Fiksdal NO, Sonya Lindfors FI, SERAFINE1369, Malik Nashad Sharpe, Kate Marsh and Emilyn Claid UK. We have welcomed the artists to share their choreographic approaches and methodologies through a format of their choice such as workshops, lectures, scores and books. This sits next to a series of curated conversations where each artist is paired with another and invited to discuss a topic that concerns them. This allows them to get to know each other and for us to get to know them.

## **Martin Hargreaves / LCDS**

In previous editions of fest en fest students at the undergraduate program at London Contemporary dance school the students have performed live in the works of Ingri Fiksdal. This year the Lab is hosted by the post grade department and these discussions for part of a longer series of seminars what invites the students to think through approaches to artistic research. This year at the school we have just launched a new MA course called Expanded Dance Practise which like Fest en Fest aims to centre the artist voice as they locate resource and apply their practise we are very happy to continue this collaboration between LCDS and H2DANCE and both the students and I look forward to joining you in the discussions during these sessions

## **Hanna Gillgren / H2DANCE:**

We so had wished that we could have welcomed you into a physical space. And in many ways, this feel like a compromise - this was never intended to be online. But in the meeting with the online space something else will emerge, something we hope will have value as we step into this unknown future for our field. What it does give us is the opportunity to gather in a different way with our international colleagues and audiences. And many of us will be allowed to meet here which would not have been possible had it been a physical space. This we value.

With that in mind we decided to explore the potential of a virtual hangout space that we call the Lab Hub.

## **Heidi Rustgaard / H2DANCE:**

The Lab Hub is very much an experiment.

In this space artists and colleagues can dip in and out. This is an interactive space where you might go through different experiences, where you observe, share thoughts, play, discuss, take a position, collaborate, provoke and influence each other – a form of a social choreography that breaks down power structures and mobilizes and encourages self-organization and autonomy. Or just a space to hang out and talk about life.

Perhaps it becomes the go-to space for meeting your international colleagues?

Perhaps it becomes a space we can share work with each other?

We don't know but we are excited about its potential.

And with this we welcome you to check out the program and hope you would like to spend some time with us throughout April.

We hope to see your avatar in the LAB HUB on Friday the 30h of April.