

LAST AND FIRST MEN

NEON
DANCE



SWINDON
DANCE



Supported using public funding by
ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND



SADL
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A FUTURE RACE OF HUMANS FINDS ITSELF ON THE VERGE OF EXTINCTION. ALMOST ALL THAT'S LEFT IN THE WORLD ARE LONE AND SURREAL MONUMENTS, BEAMING THEIR MESSAGE INTO THE WILDERNESS.

Based on the ground-breaking 1930 sci-fi novel by **Olaf Stapledon**, Last and First Men (2020) concluded the beautiful career of the Icelandic composer **Jóhann Jóhannsson**. **Neon Dance** presents a contemporary dance work set to the backdrop of Jóhann Jóhannsson's 16mm black and white film, with narration from **Tilda Swinton** and original score composed by Jóhannsson and Yair Elazar Gotman. Neon Dance previewed Last and First Men at the **Science Museum** in London as part of their Science Fiction exhibition on 4th May 2023 and premiered the work at the Volksbühne in Berlin as part of **CTM Festival** on 2nd February 2024. The work has gone on to be presented at **Festival of Tomorrow** (Swindon, UK) and a live music premiere took place at **Rewire Festival** (The Hague, NL) on 2nd April 2024.

“

*I was transported to
this otherworldly place.
Brava.*



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DURATION

65-minutes

NUMBER OF PERFORMERS

3 dance artists (with the addition of 7 musicians if presenting the live music iteration)

Touch tour and audio description available on request.

CREATIVE TEAM

CREATED BY

Neon Dance

CONCEPT & DIRECTION

Adrienne Hart

FILM

Last and First Men by Jóhann Jóhannsson, ft. Tilda Swinton

COMPOSITION

Jóhann Jóhannsson & Yair Elazar Glotman

CHOREOGRAPHY

Adrienne Hart in collaboration with Fukiko Takase, Kelvin Kilonzo, Aoi Nakamura, Makiko Aoyama

DANCE PERFORMANCE

Fukiko Takase, Kelvin Kilonzo, Aoi Nakamura

MUSIC PERFORMANCE

Yair Elazar Glotman, Viktor Orri Amason, Else Torp / Theatre of Voices & Echo Collective String Quartet (Margaret Hermant, violin | Neil Leiter, viola | Charlotte Danhier, cello | Jaroslaw Mroz, Bass)

ARTEFACTS & COSTUME DESIGN

Ana Rajcevic & Mikio Sakabe

LIGHTING DESIGN

Nico de Rooij

“

An incredible performance

“

It was very very good.

5*****



“

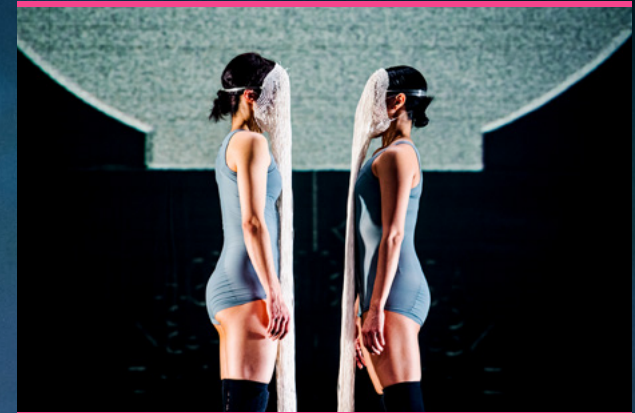
*An amazingly visceral
performance*

“

*...took me to cosmic,
emotional depths*

“

*A wonderful experience to be
embraced by your gentle dream
and to see all the people like
children listening to a great
story teller*



INTERNATIONAL TOUR MANAGEMENT
Disk Agency / Remco Schuurbiers

ALL INQUIRIES
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ALL UK ENQUIRIES
maeve@neondance.org



ADRIENNE HART
Choreography, Concept & Direction

Adrienne works internationally as a choreographer and as Artistic Director of Neon Dance. Adrienne has worked in Belgium, Norway, Finland, Germany, The Netherlands, Kosovo, Russia, Japan, USA, and extensively in the UK. Her work has been commissioned and supported by Arts Council England, British Council, Creative England, Sadler's Wells, The Place, Modern Art Oxford, Glastonbury Festival, Reversible Destiny Foundation, The Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation and Art Front Gallery amongst others. Commissions include working with Sadler's Wells resident over 60's performance group Company of Elders and her work invited to premiere as part of Echigo-Tsumari Art Triennial and Setouchi Art Triennial (Japan) between 2018 - 2022.



YAIR ELAZAR GLOTMAN
Musical Direction & Composition

Yair Elazar Glotman is a composer and a musician based in Berlin. Glotman trained in classical music as an orchestral contrabass player and in electroacoustic composition. His current focus is mostly in film composition, where he has collaborated on two oscar-winning soundtracks (Joker and All Quiet on the Western Front). His work for film as well as his independent musical releases are informed by both classical and electroacoustic traditions, and employs a range of improvisation, extended contrabass techniques, and a special interest in textural and spatial compositions and in combining analog and digital processing. Glotman's compositions for film and media began through his

close work with the influential, late composer Jóhann Jóhannsson, most notably writing additional music for "Mandy" (2018) and co-composing "Last and First Men" (2020). He scored the A24 production "False Positive" together with cellist Lucy Railton (2021). Most recently, he scored the Netflix production "Reptile" (2023). In addition, he has worked with composers Hildur Guðnadóttir, Volker Bertelmann (Hauschka), Ben Frost, Chris Clark, Geoff Barrow & Ben Salisbury and Dustin O'halloran, and others. In addition to film and TV, he has composed for dance performances and Opera, most notably designing the Soundtrack for the Royal Opera House in London's production "Mamzer" (2018) by Na'ama Zisser. Alongside his work for film, Glotman regularly releases and performs his own music, under his own name as well as under projects such as KETEV and collaborations with composers Mats Erlandsson and Viktor Orri Árnason. His work has been released on notable labels including Deutsche Grammophon, 130701/Fatcat, Bedroom Community, Miasma and Subtext. He has played at numerous music and arts venues around the world, including MaerzMusik, KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Volksbuehne, CTM festival, Steirischer Herbst and Atonal festival.



FUKIKO TAKASE
Dance Artist

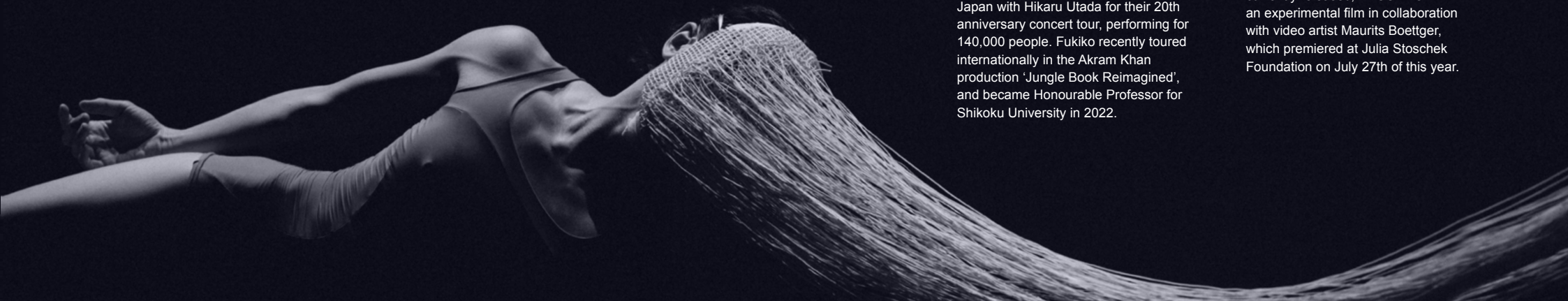
Fukiko Takase was born in New York and raised in Japan where she trained with Katsuko

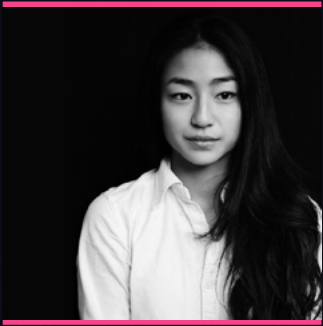
Orita. After receiving the Cultural Affairs Fellowship from the Japanese government, she moved to Europe to study at Codarts Rotterdam Dance Academy and the London Contemporary Dance School. Fukiko then worked with the Henri Oguike and Wayne McGregor dance companies before making her way as an independent solo artist. Her work includes '1001' with Dustin O'Halloran premiered in Minneapolis, USA, 'Don Juan Techno Club' with Daniel Brandt and Frieder Nagel premiered in Nuremberg, Germany as well as performing Yoko Ono's "Cut Piece" in 2019. She featured in Thom Yorke's Atoms for Peace video 'Ingenué', as well as choreographing for Daniel Brandt and Hikaru Utada. In 2018 she choreographed and toured Japan with Hikaru Utada for their 20th anniversary concert tour, performing for 140,000 people. Fukiko recently toured internationally in the Akram Khan production 'Jungle Book Reimagined', and became Honourable Professor for Shikoku University in 2022.



KELVIN KILONZO
Dance Artist

Kelvin is a multidisciplinary performance artist based in Berlin. He has been working with Anne Imhof since 2020, he is part of Sasha Waltz & Guests, Mouvoir Company and primarily collaborates with musicians and video artists around Europe. He is also an award-winning actor, making his debut with 'Toro' at the Berlinale in 2017 and winning his most recent Best Actor award with 'The Third King' at Revolution ME Festival New York. His most recent appearances in the series 'start the fck up', 'I don't work here' and 'Kroymann' are currently running on ARD and ZDF (public German TV). In 2016 he founded the performance duo SUM (prior GIW & Kilonzo) together with the experimental trumpeter and performer Pablo Giw. This connection has led to a multitude of interdisciplinary performance and video works in collaboration with institutions and artists in Europe. They currently released, 'DYSCHRONIA' an experimental film in collaboration with video artist Maurits Boettger, which premiered at Julia Stoschek Foundation on July 27th of this year.





AOI NAKAMURA
Dance Artist

Aoi is a performer that started her career dancing in state theatres in Germany and went on to dance with established companies such as Jasmin Vardimon Company and Punchdrunk. Her choreography "OTOTOXIC" was awarded first prize at the international choreography competition at Aarhus. Aoi is Co-Artistic Director of AΦE, a Medway based dance company founded with Esteban Lecoq in 2016. AΦE explore and develop unique experiences while incorporating cutting-edge technology into their performances. Their work has toured to 15 countries, over 60 venues and engaged with over 21,000 live audiences and participants worldwide. In only 6 years, they garnered the support of some of the most prestigious venues around the world including Sadler's Wells Theatre London, the Sydney Festival and Théâtre de Chaillot in Paris. AΦE are associate artists of Institute of Cultural and Creative Industries – University of Kent (iCCI) and launched A+E Lab, a cultural and technology hub located at Historic Dockyard Chatham, UK.



VIKTOR ORRI ÁRNASON
Violinist

Violinistmusic for "Mandy" (2018) and co-composing "Last and First Men" (2020). He scored the A24 production "False Positive" together with cellist Lucy Railton (2021). Most recently, he scored the Netflix production "Reptile" (2023). In addition, he has worked with composers Hildur Guðnadóttir, Volker Bertelmann (Hauschka), Ben Frost, Chris Clark, Geoff Barrow & Ben Salisbury and Dustin O'halloran, and others. In addition to film and TV, he has composed for dance performances and Opera, most notably designing the Soundtrack for the Royal Opera House in London's production "Mamzer" (2018) by Na'ama Zisser. Alongside his work for film, Glotman regularly releases and performs his own music, under his own name as well as under projects such as KETEV and collaborations with composers Mats Erlandsson and Viktor Orri Árnason. His work has been released on notable labels including Deutsche Grammophon, 130701/Fatcat, Bedroom Community, Miasma and Subtext. He has played at numerous music and arts venues around the world, including MaerzMusik, KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Volksbuehne, CTM festival, Steirischer Herbst and Atonal festival.



ELSE TORP
Vocalist

Else Torp first specialized in baroque and even earlier music, but is also recognized as an exponent of many kinds of new music. She has been featured with European symphony orchestras and with instrumental ensembles such as London Sinfonietta, Smith Quartet, and the Kronos Quartet. Torp is a core member of Paul Hillier's Theatre of Voices, with whom she has performed around the world and sung in Carnegie Hall – the inauguration of Zankel Hall with Steve Reich and Steve Reich Band, later with David Lang's Little Match Girl Passion and Stockhausen's Stimmung.

Over the past 15 years she has worked with and recorded numerous

works by Arvo Pärt, including 'My Heart's in the Highlands' featured on the soundtrack of Oscar-winning 'The Great Beauty' (Sorrentino). She has performed live and recorded CD, music video and films with Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds, appearing in the Grammy-nominated 'One More Time with Feeling', and her recordings are streamed more than 30,000 times per month on Spotify alone. Else Torp collaborated closely with the Icelandic composer Jóhann Jóhannsson on several music and film projects such as 'Drone Mass' and 'Arrival' (Villeneuve). Performing Kaia Saariaho's 'Only the Sound Remains' at Paris Opera – Palais Garnier, Madrid's Teatro Real and Lincoln Center in 2018, she returned to new opera in Theatre of Voices' May 2023 release 'enTmenschT' on Dacapo Records. A dramatic flash-back to love/war/art scenes from the time of Mahler, Alma Mahler!

In June last year, Else Torp was featured as the soloist in the staged world premiere production of Julia Wolfe's latest modern oratorio 'unEarth' with the NY Philharmonic and their chief conductor Jaap van Zweden. Else Torp thrives on (re)building projects in her 1850 farmhouse, wood chopping, organic gardening and monitoring her new solar cell app.



NICO DE ROOIJ
Lighting Design

Studio SIDF is a multi-disciplinary and award-winning design studio specializing in Scenography, Lightdesign, Photography, Architecture, Film, Performance directing and concept development. Creating Scenic Spaces, Installations, Performances, using Set, Light, Sound and Image. Enabling participants in Scenic Productions to share ideas and techniques and/or collaborate and execute with colleagues around the world, cultural exchange and artistic partnerships. SIDF examines the nature of a script, idea, piece as a series of fundamental concerns including performance structures, performance, space and audience. The performance and visual orchestration of these elements through the development of compositional skills and the investigation of pre-production systems for performance planning, forms the basis of our preparations to the realization of productions.





ECHO COLLECTIVE

String Quartet (with: Margaret Hermant - violin; Neil Leiter - viola; Charlotte Danhier- cello; Jaroslaw Mroz - bass

Founded by Neil Leiter and Margaret Hermant, Echo Collective is a diverse group of classically trained musicians based in Brussels, Belgium. In addition to its own compositions and projects, the group collaborates with modern composers and bands on concerts, tours, film scores, recording sessions, and original compositions. Past and ongoing collaborations include A Winged Victory for the Sullen, Johann Johannsson, Joep Beving, Stars of the Lid, Erasure, Daniel O'Sullivan, Adam Wiltzie, Dustin O'Halloran, Christina Vantzou, MAPS, Michel Bisceglia, and James Heather. 2020 saw Echo Collective release their own original music on 7K!. 'The See Within' connects their past with the present, absorbing

the experience of collaboration to feed their own inventive beauty and confirming them as genuine creators. For 'The See Within', Echo has been nominated twice for "Composer of the Year" and "Classic Without Borders" at the Opus Klassik 2021 Awards. Echo Collective's upcoming album, 'Mirror Image' slated for release March 22, 2024 on Naive Records, delves into contemporary and experimental classical music, merging with captivating soundscapes. Recorded in diverse acoustic spaces, including historic locations in Italy and Belgium, the album explores acoustic research in immersive environments like 4DSound in Berlin and DNB Soundscape in Belgium. Inspired by new technological tools, the collection serves as a reflection of the musical connection and artistic identity shared between Margaret and Neil, blending traditional and innovative elements.



ANA RAJCEVIC

Artefacts & Costume Design

Ana Rajcevic (DE) is an artist working at the intersection of sculpture and body-art, focusing on different ways of altering the body through pieces called 'prosthetic body-sculptures'. Her artistic practice confronts the question of how the ever-shifting material forms and substances in which human subjects are embodied configure understandings of 'humanity' itself. How is the corporeality of the body addressed when coupled with emerging technologies such as AI and gene-editing? And what is the future of the body as we transform into Chimeras? By merging human and non-human parts: bodies, technologies, prosthetics and materials, Rajcevic explores hybrid identities that challenge both bodily and disciplinary boundaries. Her work spans across multiple platforms

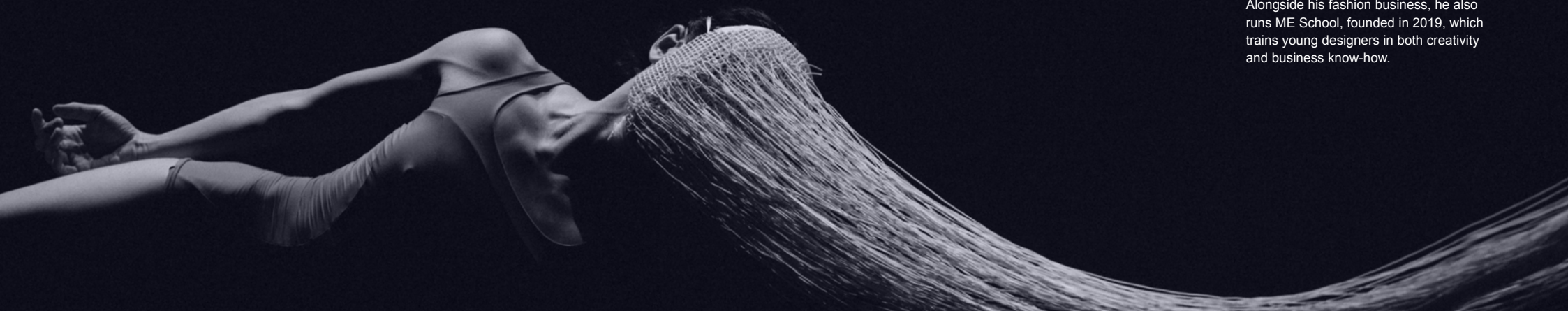
that include installations, sculptures, performances and photo/video works. With a multi-disciplinary inquiry that combines experimental art and design with research in biomedicine, history, materials science, and psychology, Rajcevic creates 'hybrid sculptures' using most notably natural and synthetic polymers and medical biomaterials, as well as novel technologies, such as AI and biotechnologies. Ana completed her studies at the London University of the Arts (Master of Arts, 2012), and is at the moment doing PhD (Artistic Research) at the University of Applied Arts in Vienna. Her works have been exhibited internationally, in museums and galleries such as the Louvre (FR), Smithsonian Museum (USA), Boijmans Museum (NL), and Venice Biennale (IT), and are in the permanent collection of Design Museum den Bosch (NL). Furthermore, Rajcevic work has been published in print and digital media such as the "Independent", the "Guardian", the "Wired", the "CNN", among others. She has received multiple awards for her work, and since 2015 she has been elected member of the RSA - Royal Society of Arts in London. She regularly works and collaborates within the performing arts field, and her performance collaborations were shown in venues such as Sadler's Wells (UK), Haus der Kulturen der Welt (DE), Volkstheater (AU) and Münchner Kammerspiele (DE).



MIKIO SAKABE

Artefacts & Costume Design

Mikio Sakabe originally studied mathematics at Seikei University. It was in London, where he'd gone to do an art foundation course at Central Saint Martins, that a tutor suggested he'd do well in fashion. He took his tutor's advice, spending two years at The École supérieure des arts et techniques de la mode (ESMOD) in Paris, then attending the Hogeschool in Antwerp. In 2006, and alongside his wife, the Taiwanese designer Shueh Jen-Fang he started his own brand. Mikio Sakabe is a cerebral designer who thinks deeply about fashion as a product as much as he considers its emotional and societal value. His futuristic footwear brand, Grounds (which he runs alongside his main brand, to commercial success) are instantly clockable bubble soles - a common sight on Harajuku cool kids. The 47-year-old is not only a designer but also a teacher and mentor who spends much of his time nurturing Tokyo's budding fashion talents. Alongside his fashion business, he also runs ME School, founded in 2019, which trains young designers in both creativity and business know-how.





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