

Jo Bannon

The Dirty Work

Produced by Matthew Austin, MAYK

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About the work

Jo will share material from *Blind Magic*, a triptych of works exploring the performativity of visual impairment:

- *Passing*, a short film
- *Sleight of Hand*, a participatory installation for small audiences
- *The Dirty Work*, a live staged performance (in development)

Jo will screen the film work *Passing* to give an insight into the aesthetic, conceptual and choreographic languages being explored within the interconnected worlds of the work and then move on to talk about *The Dirty Work*, the final part of the triptych, currently in development.

The Dirty Work is a live staged performance that explores the showmanship, crip expertise, and everyday performativity of visual impairment (VI). Highlighting the techniques and labour employed by Blind and VI folk to navigate the world through senses other than sight, the work critiques and celebrates the skill and misdirection required to perform or 'pass' in a society organised around the primacy of vision.

About the artist

Jo is an artist working in performance, choreography and film. Her practice is concerned with how our specific bodies, identities and sensory perceptions impact how we experience the world around us, and how this sensory experience can or cannot be conveyed. Her work is informed by her identity as a disabled woman with albinism and attempts to unpick the ways we look, hear and sense our immediate environment in order to rethink or make unfamiliar these intrinsic human behaviours. Bannan's work is led by form and so manifests in various mediums including intimate encounters designed for single or small audiences, staged performance, dance, film and installation.



The ask

The Dirty Work is a live stage performance currently in development. The work is due to premiere in May 2025.

We are looking for co-commissioners and presenting partners.

We are particularly interested to partner with organisations which want to work with us to increase access to their venues for Blind and VI audiences. Alongside the development of the work we are designing VIP ACCESS, an engagement programme which aims to deliver VIP treatment for VI audiences attending the work.

Credits

Created by Jo Bannon. Produced by MAYK. Commissioned by Attenborough Centre for the Creative Arts, Cambridge Junction, The Place & Tramway. With additional support from Fabric and Horizon. Supported using public funds through Arts Council England.

Available for touring

Passing, a short film: Available for in person screenings with artist Q&A
jobannon.co.uk/passing-2

Sleight of Hand, participatory installation: Available for presentation
jobannon.co.uk/sleight-of-hand

Studio Sessions
12 October 2024
The Place, London

Tom Cassani

Side-Show

Self-produced

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Credit Henry Curtis

About the work

This new work provisionally entitled *Side-Show* explores the public/private body and hidden labour intrinsic in embodying an apparently life-threatening act. This performance endeavors to take the skill of Sword Swallowing into new choreographic modes and contexts. The performance intends to deconstruct skills Tom has learned that are often presented as momentary, fleeting or virtuosic and re-present them as acts of corporeal contemplation and choreography.

By dissecting the learned capabilities of Tom's body and an intimate relationship with the thresholds of what is possible, true and real this show asks what are the implications of embodying an almost impossible act in the 21st century?

About the artist

Tom Cassani is an award-winning performance maker working with choreography, magic, sideshow and Live Art. His practice draws on an expanded approach to magic examining the nature of perception. Cassani's illusory texts, imagery and physicality expose the body as an unreliable measure of truth, his unique approach reveals the mechanics of trickery and stunts making us aware of our role in experiencing the seemingly impossible. Tom has been recently awarded a practice-based PhD Scholarship by the University of Huddersfield to study Performance Magic focusing on Expanded Magic practice. Tom is one of the 2024 selected Aerowaves Artists and works internationally as a consultant and deception dramaturg.



Credits

Thanks to Flick Ferdinando, Ocean Hester Stefan Chillingworth, Tay Lane, Thom Shaw, Tallulah Haddon, Lancaster Arts, Florentina Holzinger, The Place and Screaming Alley.

The ask

The performance is currently intended to be a solo performance for a theatre/dance end on performance space. It would likely tour with a team of two (Tom and Technician). Tom is looking to tour this work internationally in theatre, performance, choreographic and contemporary circus contexts, festivals venues and programmes.

This work would benefit from a funded residency period to focus on technical, dramaturgical and illusion development:

- Funding to support working alongside a dramaturg/outside eye and technician/illusion designer
- Time and space in a theatre/Blackbox/space with capacity for technical exploration (lights, sound, magic element)
- Sharing opportunities

Iterations

Solo performance | 40 minutes
End on, for a theatre/dance space

Iterations centres Cassani's obsession with the skill and precision of sleight of hand magic. It invites us to consider the performance of the seemingly impossible. Through deconstructed routines and text that re-imagines the aesthetic tropes of magic, we are offered time to reflect and re-interpret. This exposé of the practicing magician explores how impossibilities emerge through repetition, actions, gestures and self-reflection. See how placing a coin into a pocket becomes a lifetime's work. Learn how hard it really is, to do something impossible so effortlessly. With *Iterations* Tom is one of the Aerowaves Artists touring across Europe 2024/25

Written, choreographed and performed by Tom Cassani.

With support and mentorship from: Florentina Holzinger as part of Cassani's research project *Expanded Magic*. *Expanded Magic* was developed within the framework of *Forecast – Skills e.V.* The initial concept of *Iterations* was developed with support from: Karen Christopher, CJ Mitchell, BOLD!, Augusto Corrieri, Tim Bromage, Ocean Hester Stefan Chillingworth and Nik Taylor.

The Perpetuation Series

Solo durational | Max. approx. 4 hours; min. approx. 1 hour
In the round / end on / site specific

Using hair suspension as a medium for physical exploration *The Perpetuation Series* expands the space and time in which illusory images can be held. A body remaining suspended above broken glass. A body attempting to vanishing in a cloud of smoke. A body endlessly falling.

The Perpetuation Series is a modular performance. Its duration and sequence of events are not fixed and can adapt to different spaces, settings and contexts. The performance is intended to be a durational improvisation in a fixed structure. Using hair suspension Tom interacts with different materials (Broken Glass, Smoke, Sound, Light) through improvised movement.

This work is a continuation of Tom's research into durational acts of illusion and maps a new territory of time-based magic and time-based sideshow. Versions of *The Perpetuation Series* have been presented at The Centre for Live Art Yorkshire, The University of Huddersfield, Buzzcut Festival and Radialsystem Berlin.

Please email tomcassani@hotmail.co.uk for more information, tour dates, documentation and Show Packs

Studio Sessions
12 October 2024
The Place, London

SAY

HOT in HeRe

Produced by Alison Thomas & Emilie Labourey for The Place

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Credit Daniel Phung

About the work

HOT in HeRe is a bold, slick, seductive new show where female and non-binary performers embrace their unique interpretation of what it means to embody 'hotness' through a blend of physicality and confidence, usually attributed to masculinity. Inspired by badass characters from *Orange is the New Black* and the steaminess of *Magic Mike*; there are thrilling dance sequences and infectious music pulsing through its core. This gig/cabaret-like show with an original soundtrack will fulfil all your '90s dreams and boyband fantasies and leave you feeling hot in your seat.



About the company

SAY was founded by Sarah Golding and Yukiko Masui in 2019. As a duo they have created a dance film SAY: AF with Dance Umbrella, have recently been featured dancers in The Marvels and were dance captains and performers in the Commonwealth Opening Ceremony 2022. SAY was commissioned to create a piece for NDCWales, *SAY Something*, which toured nationally and internationally. SAY have recently worked on *The Effect* at the National Theatre and The Shed, NY and *Romeo & Juliet* starring Tom Holland directed by Jamie Lloyd at Duke of York's Theatre as Movement Directors.



Credits

Choreographers: SAY (Sarah Golding & Yukiko Masui)

Dancers: Emma Houston, Aurora Casatori, Jessey Stol, Sophie Quay, Skiye Edmond, Priscilla Osegie

MC & Performer: Genesis Lynea

Rapper: Bobbie Johnson

Composer: Michael 'Mikey J' Asante

Costume Designer: Yasmin Estanislao

R&D Lighting Designer: Stephanie Greenwood

Lyrics for 'Body': Koko Brown

Project Manager: Alison Thomas

Production Photographer: Daniel Phung

For The Place

Senior Producer: Emilie Labourey

Production Manager: Chris Burr

Assistant Producer: Jasmine Andrews

With: Anna Cassidy (Director of Development), Axel Satgé (International Partnership Building (Producing & Touring)), Clare Connor (Chief Executive), Courtney Beadle (Rural Touring Dance Initiative Producer), Christina Elliot (Head of Programming & Producing), Eddie Nixon (Artistic Director), Elin Williams (Executive Producer), Eliza Trevino (Marketing Manager), Grace Nicol (Digital Content Manager), Hayley Miranda (Projects Producer), Holly Conneely (Director of Communications), Polly Cuthbert (Artist Development Producer), Polly Dey (Assistant Producer), Youcef Hadjazi (Projects Producer)

Hot in HeRe is co-produced by The Place and SAY. Co-commissioned by The Place and Certain Blacks. Supported using public funding from Arts Council England.

The ask

We are looking for commissioning, co-producing and presenting partners to support the full creation phase next year. The aim is to premiere in August 2025 and tour in 2026. We are open to things happening sooner if there is offer and interest.

Available for touring

[the album : live](#)

[the album : skool edition](#)

Studio Sessions

12 October 2024

Barbican Pit Theatre, London

Hetai Patel

Mathroo Basha

Self-produced with support from Dance Umbrella

✉ Hetai Patel: info@hetaipatel.co.uk

🔗 <https://hetaipatel.com/>

📷 @patelhetai



Credit Camilla Greenwell

About the work

Hetai Patel returns to the stage with a preview performance of his latest solo *Mathroo Basha* (Mother Tongue in Gujarati). Following the passing of a number of first-generation immigrants in his family, British-born Hetai reflects on what is lost and what is transformed, revisiting rituals rooted in his family's working-class Brit-Gujarati experience.

Responding physically to audio interviews of women from his family speaking in Gujarati about inheritance, loss and the future, Hetai delves into the emotional realities of generational change through personal movement explorations where his body becomes the conduit.



About the company

Hetaim Patel is a London-based artist and filmmaker known for his work in various mediums including films, performances, and photography. His art has been showcased worldwide in venues such as Tate Modern, Venice Biennale, and Ullens Centre for Contemporary Art. His work, exploring identity and freedom, has been viewed over 50 million times online, including his [2023 TED talk](#) Who Am I? Think Again.

Hetaim has received several awards such as the Film London Jarman Award and the Best International Film award at Kino Der Kunst Festival. He is a patron of QUAD, Derby, and serves on various committees. Patel is represented by Chatterjee & Lal in Mumbai.



Credits

Creation and Performance: Hetaim Patel

Rehearsal Director: Vidya Patel

Costume: Holly Waddington

Interviewees: Leela Patel, Nina Chaagan, Lola Perry, Mital Patel

Production Manager: Andy Downie

Creative Programmer: Clancy Flynn

Stage Manager: Ella Corcoran

BSL Interpreter: Stacey Green

Presented by Dance Umbrella and Barbican.

The presentation of *Mathroo Basha* at Dance Umbrella is made possible with the support of the Cockayne Foundation and Fabric International.

The ask

Hetaim is looking for commissioning, co-producing and presenting partners to support future presentations of *Mathroo Basha*.