

**Nomad Presents Teac Damsa's Swan Lake / Loch na hEala by Michael Keegan-Dolan.**

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(LOCH NA HEALA)

# SWAN LAKE

TEAC  
DAMSA



Photography by: Colm Hogan

Michael Keegan-Dolan



nomad  
Playing a part...

## Note of the performance

### Don't be afraid of the dark.

Every winter, as the days grow short and the nights grow long and dark, thousands of migrating swans appear on the many lakes that surround the house where I live. In recent times the presence of these swans and that darkness began to merge in my imagination with the love story and tragedy that is Swan Lake.

Much of Christian culture has been reduced to a simple notion that God is good, has a white beard and lives in the light and the devil is bad and sits in the dark. This reductive view of the nature of things can be the root of much suffering and confusion. Darkness is the absence of light.

Fundamentally, it is how we know what light is. Depression, like most illness, can be a consequence of a continued state of imbalance, often connected with unresolved events from our lives. The accumulated sadness eventually immobilises us and can make us sick. This sickness often requires a fundamental change to move it. Change, no matter how unwelcome, is an inevitable part of life; nature's forces are constantly moving, seeking to find balance so that life can continue to endlessly unfold. When depression visits us it is asking us to change. Depression, by its nature, forces you to be still long enough to hear what you are trying to tell yourself. In the dark, we can see nothing with our external eyes. In silence, there is nothing to hear with our external ears. When our senses have nothing to which to attach, our internal world wakes up and starts to speak to us quietly. When this happens it is important to listen carefully.

The darkness in any story is there to teach us something. Don't be afraid of the dark – it is your friend.

**Michael Keegan-Dolan**



**Michael Keegan-Dolan**  
Director and  
Choreographer

Michael Keegan-Dolan founded Teac Daírsa in 2016 as a means to forge a deeper connection with his cultural roots, native traditions, language and the rich musical heritage of Ireland. Teac Daírsa, 'House of the Dance' in Classical Irish, reflects Michael's ongoing creative journey, further fusing his work to the place from which it originates. This is exemplified in its first production, *Swan Lake / Loch na hEala*.

*Swan Lake / Loch na hEala* re-imagines Tchaikovsky's masterpiece as a unique fusion of dance, traditional storytelling, folk music and theatre. It premiered at the 2016 Dublin theatre festival to universal acclaim—the Irish Times called it 'a stunning piece of theatre, simultaneously compelling, disturbing and breathtakingly beautiful.' It won the Irish Times Theatre Award for Best production in 2017.

*Swan Lake / Loch na hEala* toured in 2017 to, among others, Sydney Opera House, Theaterhaus Stuttgart, Sadlers Wells London, and to Theatre of Nations, Moscow. In 2018 it will also tour extensively, including to New Zealand Festival, Grand Théâtre de la Ville de Luxembourg, LG Arts Center Seoul and the Irish National Theatre. It continues the tradition of ground-breaking productions for which Michael is reputed.

Michael rose to acclaim as the artistic director of Fabulous Beast Dance theatre (1997-2015), creating three Olivier Award-nominated productions: *Giselle* (2003), *The Bull* (2005), and *The Rite of Spring* (2009).

In 2004, *Giselle* won an Irish Times Theatre Award and *The Bull* received a Critic's Circle Dance UK Award in 2008. *Rian*, created in 2011, won a Bessie Award (a New York Dance and Performance Award) in 2013 for 'Best Production,' and toured internationally for 3 years. Fabulous Beast presented a Stravinsky Double Bill in 2013, a reinvention of their 2009 production of *The Rite of Spring* with a new production of *Petrushka*. It premiered at Sadler's Wells, London before touring to the Movimentos Festival, Germany, the Ga Festival, the Brisbane Festival and the Melbourne Festival.

Michael has collaborated with some of the world's most foremost companies. In 2012 he directed and choreographed a new production of Handel's *Julius Caesar* at the London Coliseum, for English National Opera. In 2015 he created an original piece, *The Big Noise*, for the Göteborg Operans DansKompani working closely with celebrated Nordic Folk Musician, Ale Moller. As Guest Artistic Director of the National Youth Dance Company at Sadler's Wells London for the 2015 - 2016 season, Michael was involved in the creation of *In-Nocentes*. In March 2017, he set a new work to Dvorak's 8th Symphony for the Dance Company at the Gärtnerplatztheater, Munich. Michael has extensive experience teaching and has led workshops for different companies around the world including the Hofesh Schechter Company, Cedar Lake Ballet and the Ballet Junior de Geneva.

Michael was an associate artist at the Barbican Centre, London and is now an associate at Sadler's Wells London.



# Swan Lake / Loch na hEala Credits (2018 Nomad Tour)

## Creatives

**Writer, Director and Choreographer:** Michael Keegan-Dolan  
**Set Design:** Sabine Dargent  
**Costume Design:** Hyemi Shin  
**Music:** Slow Moving Clouds  
**Original Lighting Design:** Adam Silverman  
**Lighting Design (An Grianán, Roscommon Arts Centre, Hawkswell Theatre, Backstage Theatre):** Sinéad Wallace  
**Lighting Design (Riverbank Arts Centre, Mullingar Arts Centre, Droichead Arts Centre, Ramor Theatre):** Stephen Dodd

## Cast

**Mikel Murfi** The Holy Man  
**Rachel Poirier** Finola  
**Alex Leonhartsberger** Jimmy O'Reilly  
**Elizabeth Cameron Dalman** Nancy O'Reilly  
**Anna Kaszuba** Finola's Sister / Swan  
**Carys Staton** Finola's Sister / Swan  
**Molly Walker** Finola's Sister / Swan  
**Saku Koistinen** The First Watcher / Lyudmilla  
**Zen Jefferson** The Second Watcher / Winnie  
**Erik Nevin** The Third Watcher / Margaret  
**Aki** Musician (Nyckelharpa)  
**Mary Barnecutt** Musician (Cello)  
**Danny Diamond** Musician (Fiddle)

**Producer:** Johnny O'Reilly  
**Production Manager:** Peter Jordan / Michael Lonergan  
**Company Administrator:** Catherine Finn  
**Company Stage Manager:** Marina Kilby  
**Deputy Stage Manager:** Sinead Cormack  
**Costume Supervisor:** Amanda Donovan  
**Sound Manager:** Sandra O'Mahony  
**Relighters:** Michael Lonergan / Stephen Dodd  
**Tour Rehearsal Director:** Emmanuel Obeya  
**Production Assistant:** Eimear Reilly  
**Photography:** Colm Hogan, Marie-Laure Briane, Robbie Jacks  
**Headshot Photography:** Luke Danniells

Teac Daírsa is funded through the Arts Council's Regularly Funded Organisations programme

## Special Thanks to:

Madeline Boughton, Catherine Dolan, Juliana Dolan, Eithne Hand, Manchán Magan, Aisling Rogerson, Iain Synnott, Keith Synnott

"Co-production by Michael Keegan-Dolan; Sadler's Wells Theatre London; ColoursInternational Dance Festival, TheaterhausStuttgart; Dublin Theatre Festival; Theatre de la Ville, Luxembourg. With support from The Civic Theatre, Tallaght, and South Dublin County Council Arts Office."



Photography by: Colm Hogan



Photography by Marie-Laure Briane



## Sabine Dargent

Set Design

Sabine is happy to work with Michael Keegan-Dolan again. She designed the set for *The Big Noise* (Goteborg Opera), *Rian* (Dublin Theatre Festival, Sadler's Wells, touring worldwide), *Helen and Hell* (Longford). Sabine also regularly works with director Mikel Murfi - *Walworth Farce*, *B for Baby*, *Arragh Na Pog* - and also with Enda Walsh, Conall Morrison, Jim Culleton, Selina Cartmell, Paul Mc Eneany and Cahoots, Kaboosh, Barabbas, designing set or set and costumes. Sabine has also designed for street theatre, large-scale events such as City Fusion for St Patrick Festival, GAA Croke Park 1916 celebration, photoshoots and exhibitions. Sabine has won two Irish times awards for best set- design and was also nominated twice more for the same award.



## Hyemi Shin

Costume Design

Hyemi Shin is a set and costume designer. Work includes: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Morning*, *Desire Under the Elms* (costumes only), Secret Theatre shows, *Heron*, *The Seagull* (Lyric Hammersmith); *Once in a Lifetime* (set only), *Sizwe Bansi is Dead*, *Dirty Butterfly* (Young Vic); *Playland and He Wore a Red Hat* (New Perspectives Theatre); *Made Visible* (The Yard); *The Brink* (Orange Tree); *Life's Witness* (Linbury Studio Theatre); *Unearth* (The National Ballet of Canada); *The Kreutzer Sonata* (Ballet Moscow).



## Sinéad Wallace

Lighting Design

Sinéad graduated from Trinity College in 2004 where she studied Drama and Theatre.

She received Irish Times Theatre Awards for Best Lighting in 2010 for *Happy Days* (Corn Exchange), in 2009 for *Knives in Hens* (Landmark) and in 2007 for *Saved* (Abbey Theatre) and *Don Carlos* (Rough Magic).

Sinéad's recent lighting designs include *Danse Morob* (The Emergency Room) & *The Barber of Seville* (Wide Open Opera). Previous designs include *Anna Karenina*, *Oedipus*, *By the Bog of Cats*, *Christ Deliver Us*, *La Dispute*, *The Seafarer* (Abbey Theatre), *Rigoletto* (Opera Theatre Company), *The Seagull*, *A Girl is a Half-formed Thing* (Corn Exchange), *A Tender Thing* (Siren Productions), *Body and Forgetting*, *Fast Portraits*, *12 Minute Dances* (Liz Roche Dance Co.), and *Miss Julie* (Landmark Productions).

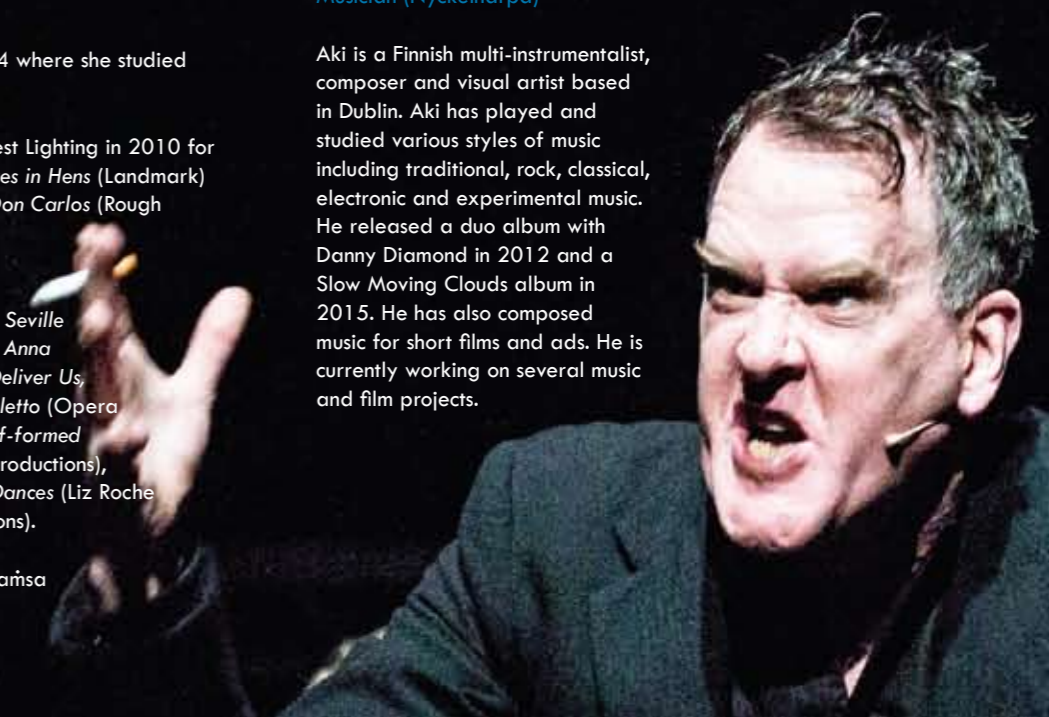
Sinéad is delighted to be working with Teacá Daírsa on *Loch na hEala* for the Irish tour.



## Aki

Musician (Nyckelharpa)

Aki is a Finnish multi-instrumentalist, composer and visual artist based in Dublin. Aki has played and studied various styles of music including traditional, rock, classical, electronic and experimental music. He released a duo album with Danny Diamond in 2012 and a *Slow Moving Clouds* album in 2015. He has also composed music for short films and ads. He is currently working on several music and film projects.





### Mary Barnecutt

Musician (Cello)

Mary Barnecutt is based in Dublin and plays cello with a variety of bands, orchestras and educational projects. She has written music for short films, theatre, dance productions, many educational projects and has worked with artists such as Chequerboard, Ray Harman, Liz Roche, Julie Feeney, Vyvienne Long, Adrian Crowley, Seti the 1st and Slow MovingClouds.

Mary manages two string projects in Dublin primary schools. She is also the concert co-ordinator for the Hugh Lane Gallery in their *Sundays at Noon Concert Series*.

She is founding co-director of *Spike*, Dublin's annual alternative cello festival and writes, produces and records her own music under the name *Mary & the Pigeons*. Her debut album, was described by The Irish Times as a 'lush collection that sounds organic and occasionally magical ...'



### Dr. Elizabeth Cameron Dalman

Nancy O'Reilly

Dr. Elizabeth Cameron Dalman (OAM), director, choreographer, performer and eacher, is a pioneer of contemporary dance in Australia. She founded Australian Dance Theatre and was its Artistic Director for 10 years. She is currently Director of Mirramu Creative Arts Centre and Artistic Director of Mirramu Dance Company.

From 2004 – 2006 she was Head of the Dance Department at the University of Western Sydney. She teaches at the Taipei National University of the Arts and appears in the Tsai Jui Yueh international Dance Festivals in Taiwan. She is a recipient of many dance awards, including an Australian Artists Creative Fellowship and several Canberra Critics Circle Awards. In 2015 she was inducted into the Hall of Fame at the Australian Dance Awards and was Canberra Artist of the Year. Always advocating the power of dance-theatre to communicate, Elizabeth is excited to perform with Teac Dańsa in this production of *Swan Lake/Loch na hEala*.



### Danny Diamond

Musician (Fiddle)

Danny Diamond is a fiddle player based in Dublin, Ireland. In his music Danny creates a unique sound-world, rooted in the heritage of Irish traditional music, while also incorporating influences from Nordic and American folk to baroque and electronic music.

Danny plays with the Nordic/Irish band *Slow Moving Clouds*, with whom he has released an album, *Os* (2015), and created the score for Teac Dańsa's acclaimed dance theatre work *Swan Lake / Loch na hEala* (Best Production, Irish Theatre Awards, 2017).

His debut recording *Fiddle Music* (2014) and the follow-up *NORTH* (2016, with Conor Caldwell) have been acclaimed as contemporary classics, with *NORTH* being nominated for The Irish Times Traditional Album of the Year 2016. Danny's second solo album *Elbow Room* was released in October 2017.

Other collaborative projects include *What To Bring When We Leave*, with poet Tom French, and *Imedall Tire* with visual artist Susan Hughes.



### Zen Jefferson

The Second Watcher / Winnie

Zen Jefferson is a Swiss-American performer, DJ and sound collage artist based in Berlin. In 2006, he graduated with a BFA in dance from The Juilliard School in New York. He has danced with choreographers and companies throughout Europe, Africa and Asia for the past 10 years, exploring themes of race, gender, ritual and futurism through the performative body.

His interest in healing and the transformative poetics of sound has led to a monthly radio meditation entitled 'Hour of Power with Zen' that is "an ancestral experiment, through energetic celestial migrations".

He is excited to perform this passionate and poetic work and share the stage with these inspired artists.

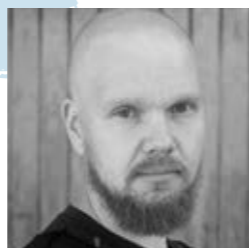




### Anna Kaszuba

Finola's Sister / Swan

Anna Kaszuba was born in Wolverhampton, UK. She graduated from London Contemporary Dance School with a first class degree in 2009, and later completed an MA focusing on ritual and performance. She completed an apprenticeship with Scottish Dance Theatre and toured with the company. Since then Anna has been working as an independent artist and has performed with Scottish Dance Theatre, Grange Park Opera, Opera National de Lorraine, Emma Martin/ United Fall (IE), Laura Murphy (IE), Catherine Young (IE), Dan Canham/ Still House (UK) and Van Hulle Dance Theatre. She has worked with Michael Keegan-Dolan since 2011 for *Rian*, *The Rite of Spring* and *Petrushka* and toured worldwide with the company. Anna also holds a qualification in Holistic Massage therapy.



### Saku Koistinen

The First Watcher / Lyudmilla

Saku Koistinen took his Master of Arts (Dance) at Theatre Academy in Helsinki in 2009. From 2006 onwards he has been working with several choreographers and companies, including Tero Saarinen Company, Eeva Muilu, Yuval Pick, Jorma Uotinen and contemporary theatre group Und er libet.

Koistinen has been dancing in Michael Keegan-Dolan's works since 2009; *The Rite of Spring* at English National Opera being his first performance. Since 2010 Koistinen has been creating his own works, which have been performed in Finland and also toured in France, Czech, Russia and India. From August 2017 on he has also been the Artistic Director of Routa Company. Routa is an open company for contemporary dance based in Kajaani, Northern Finland.



### Alex Leonhartsberger

Jimmy O'Reilly

Alex Leonhartsberger was born in Vienna, Austria, trained and graduated from the Austrian Ballet School of the State Opera in Vienna. He then went freelancing for many different choreographers and companies around the globe including: Volksoper Wien, Tanztheater Wien, Landestheater Linz, Fabulous Beast Dance Theatre, Royal New Zealand Ballet, Michael Parmenter, Australian Dance Theater, Raewyn Hill, Alyx Duncan, Daniel Belton, The Playground, Maria Dabrowska, Mia Mason, Jo Randerson, Malia Johnson, New Zealand Dance Company, Muscle Mouth and Douglas Wright. The last time Alex worked with Michael was touring the Stravinski Double Bill in Great Britain, performing *The Rite of Spring* and *Petrushka*.

Alex is based in Tamaki Makaurau, New Zealand and lives there with his partner and 3 children. He loves to laugh, working with his hands, riding bikes and digging in the garden, mostly for edibles.



### Mikel Murfi

The Holy Man

Mikel Murfi is from Sligo and trained at Ecole Jaques Lecoq, Paris. His performances in theatre include *The Man in The Woman's Shoes* and *I Hear You and Rejoice* (Loco and Reckless Productions), *The Last Hotel* and *Ballyturk* (Galway Arts Festival/Landmark/Wide Open Opera); *The New Electric Ballroom* (Druid); *The Chairs* (Blue Raincoat Theatre); *Morning After Optimism*, *Playboy of the Western World* (Peacock Theatre); *The Comedy of Errors*, *The Tempest* (Abbey Theatre) *Giselle*, *Rite of Spring* and *Petrushka* (Fabulous Beast) *Desire Under The Elms* (Lyric, Hammersmith).

Directing work includes *The Walworth Farce*, *Penelope* (Druid); *Trad*, *The Great Goat Bubble* (Galway Arts Festival); *The Country Girls* (Red Kettle); *Diamonds in the Soil* (Macnas); *Waiting for Godot* (Theatre Du Pif, Hong Kong); *The Far Off Hills* (Nomad Theatre Network). *Film includes: The Ballad of Kid Kanturk*, *Intermission*, *Sweetie Barrett*, *The Butcher Boy*, *Love and Rage*, *Guiltrip* and most recently *Jimmy's Hall*. As a director: *Druma* and *John Duffy's Brother*.





### Erik Nevin

[The Third Watcher](#) / [Margaret](#)

Born in Ireland but raised in Sweden, Erik began dancing in his late teenage years. With a background in martial arts and sports he then moved on towards contemporary dance. After studies in Sweden he then moved to the UK where he graduated with a first class degree from Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance in 2011. Erik has worked across Europe both with companies but also presenting his own work. He is currently based in Brussels. Some of the artists he has worked with are Michael Keegan-Dolan, Rosemary Butcher, Dog Kennel Hill Project, Pablo Bronstein, Robbie Synge, Joe Moran, Miet Warlop, Vera Tussing, Hussein Chalayan and Damien Jalet.

Besides his performance practice Erik is also studying climate change and sustainable development.



### Rachel Poirier

[Finola](#)

Rachel was born in Brittany, France. She studied in the conservatoire of Rennes and La Rochelle and carried on her training at the Rudra Béjart School in Lausanne, before joining Rambert Dance Company in London. She went on to become an apprentice with the Merce Cunningham Dance Company. She is now freelancing, having worked with Les Ballets de la Parenthese in Marseilles, choreographer Christophe Garcia, John Jasperse Company in New York and Rafael Bonachela. She has previously performed with Michael Keegan-Dolan in *The Bull*, *The Flowerbed*, *James Son of James*, *Giselle*, *Helen and Hell*, *Julius Caesar*, *The Rite of Spring* and *Petrushka*.



### Carys Staton

[Finola's Sister](#) / [Swan](#)

Carys Staton works from London as an independent dance artist. She was born in the UK and began training at Swindon Dance before continuing her studies at the Rambert School. Upon graduation, Carys joined the Russell Maliphant Company 2011-2016. During her time with the company she worked as Choreographic Assistant for creations with English National Ballet and Bayerisches Staatsballet, and was merited an 'Outstanding Female Performance' nomination in the Critics Circle Awards. Carys has worked extensively in the commercial world as both a performer and a choreographer, devising movement for music promotions, film and print work. Other current projects include work with choreographers Adrienne Hart and Roberta Jean as well as research for her own work in collaboration with art collective Tomato. Carys joined Michael Keegan-Dolan for the creation of *Swan Lake* in 2016 and is honoured to be able to continue touring it this year.



### Molly Walker

[Finola's Sister](#) / [Swan](#)

Molly Walker grew up in the English countryside of Lewes and has been dancing since she was 5 years old. In 2016/17 she completed her first year on the BA(Hons) Contemporary Dance course at Artesis, The Royal Conservatoire of Antwerp. From 2014-2016 she was a member of the National Youth Dance Company of England (NYDC) where she toured the UK with Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui in her first year and Michael Keegan-Dolan in her second year. She also trained in Contemporary, Ballet and Creative on the weekly Centre for Advanced Training (CAT) scheme at Trinity Laban from 2012-2016. She has now taken time away from her studies to continue touring with *Swan Lake/Loch na hEala* and is delighted to be dancing with Michael Keegan-Dolan and such a wonderful, magical cast.





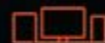
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