

MADE IN SEATTLE **EZRA**
DICKINSON

Mother for you I made this



Tim Summers

“Dickinson's mother is mentally ill, was homeless for a time, and is now housed at some unknown state hospital. She does not permit visits, not even from her son. Through ‘Mother’, Dickinson explores that lost connection, but he does so without self-pity or any sort of whine. Above all, this is a piece about a love so big and forgiving and pure that the art through which the story is told cannot help but be genuine. Through dance, film, poetry, monologue, improvisation, and puppetry, Dickinson communicates without being the least bit saccharine, a feat I attribute to a pristine, natural technical ability to move his body, as well as equally matched qualities of spirit and intellect.” – Melody Datz, The Stranger

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Part site-specific performance and part social justice project, *Mother for you I made this* is aimed at activating conversations about America’s failed mental health care system through memories of Dickinson’s childhood living with his schizophrenic single mother, who became homeless. During the performance audiences are guided through forgotten public spaces via a personal audio tour weaving conversations between Dickinson and his mother with original music and sounds from the urban landscape. Dickinson’s quietly effective hour-long solo is built from a series of dances, films and art objects he made as gifts for his mother over a seven-year period. It takes place nightly before dusk, and draws audiences into an art experience powerfully merging with passersby, including under-resourced and homeless individuals.

In conjunction with the performance, this project includes extensive, free, community engagement including: an interactive Open Rehearsal where Dickinson shares excerpts from the performance followed by a facilitated discussion about the work; a resource-sheet sharing information about local mental health care organizations that support the mentally ill and their families; and a daily Community Conversation ***LIFE+ART: Living with the mentally ill***, where Dickinson shares his personal experience and invites others to share their stories about mental illness and how it impacts our families and society.

SET-UP

The performance involves one performer, headphones with receivers for 20-30 audience members, a transmitter, and one video image projected from a high lumens projector onto a found surface. In Seattle, the performance also required two ushers to guide the audience, a house manager to process ticket holders and strike simple performance props, a stage manager to run the projector and help coordinate two costume changes, and a sound technician to transport the transmitter alongside the audience.

General Info:

Performers	1
Technicians of company	1
Time for set-up + rehearsal	4 hours
Duration of performance	50 minutes
1 video projector of about 4000 ANSI-lumen	

Touring

In each city, this site-specific work will respond to, and actively engage with, the unique characteristics of the host-community and site. Dickinson is also available to work with partner organizations to reach-out to local arts organizations, mental health not-for-profits, and media outlets to build partnerships and public awareness.

Phase 1

- Initial location scouting guided by the following criteria:
- Greyhound Station
- Courthouse
- Or/ a site where both under-resourced and privileged individuals live and/or work in close proximity.
- Or/ sites that include Federal Buildings or Public Transportation

Open Rehearsal for local media and mental health care organizations

Phase 2

Obtaining necessary permissions

Phase 3

Setting piece in chosen location

Open Community Conversation *Life+Art: Living with the Mentally Ill*

Phase 4

Performances and continuing community dialogue



Nate Watters/CityArts

CREDITS

Choreography/Performance	Ezra Dickinson
Sound Design	Paurl Walsh
Video Creation	Douglas Arney / Correspondents
Performance Props	Ezra Dickinson
Text	Ezra Dickinson
Read by	Ezra Dickinson + Maureen Whiting
Dramaturg/Mentor	Tonya Lockyer
Sound Manager	Paurl Walsh
Stage Manager	tbd
House Manger	tbd
Ushers	tbd

With the support of ***Mother for you I made this was commissioned and produced through Velocity's Made in Seattle dance development program with support from 4Culture, ArtsFund, and the Seattle Office of Arts & Culture; and others tbd***

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RESOURCES

National Alliance on Mental Illness Washington

>> namiwa.org

Stand Up for Mental Health

>> standupformentalhealth.com

Psychosis Sucks

>> psychosissucks.ca

ABOUT EZRA DICKINSON

Recognized as one of the most promising dance artists in the Pacific Northwest, Dickinson trained with Pacific Northwest Ballet on full scholarship for twelve years before graduating with a B.F.A. in choreography from Cornish College of the Arts where he was awarded The Merce Cunningham Scholarship, The Kreielshimer Scholarship, and The President's Scholarship in Dance. Dickinson's work in choreography and movement installation has been commissioned and presented in Seattle by On the Boards, ACT Theater, Velocity Dance Center, The Moore Theater, Henry Art Gallery, 911 media arts center, Spectrum Dance Theater, and The Northwest Film Forum; and presented by Zocalo / Mexico City and Heathrow Airport. Along with being co-artistic director of The Offshore Project and Actually Really, Dickinson is also a member of The Maureen Whiting Company. Recently, Dickinson has been collaborating with composers to create micro-compositions for a collection of short stop-motion animations. ezradickinson.com

Artist Statement

As a generative artist (choreographer, performer, painter, street artist, ceramicist, animator, photographer and film-maker) I take a look at the world around me. Each of its movements, be they small or large, informs and inspires me. I draw from my strong training in dance and ceramics, and from my appetite for learning, to create new ideas and ask questions. Each medium of artistic expression enlivens and informs the other forms of art in my life. Each allows me to learn in a new way.

My practice of other art forms has amplified the limitations of audiences' expectations of dance within the space and time of the traditional proscenium theater, 8PM, two-hour performance. My idea of performance is to present a departure from the known and show by example that our world is constantly changing our ideas of performance and how it can happen should be changing as well.

My main focus has been dance, but the art world around me has shown me that for some reason dance is not held with the same amount of regard as other forms of art. Why is this? Is it because in many instances dance is perceived to be difficult for new audiences to understand? How can I as a choreographer create dance that is understood and welcomes new audiences to watch dance and support the creation of new works?

I am inspired and propelled by the unique quality of discipline and obsession that my schizophrenic mother instilled in me from a young age. I understand the strength that is held in honesty, I know the love that is vulnerability, and I crave the chance to give these truths to the audience each time I perform my work.

EZRA DICKINSON Choreography/Projects

2013

Mother for you I made this

(Solo, 50 min, dance/performance/film/multi-media)

Commissioned by Velocity's Made In Seattle Dance Development Program

Velocity Dance Center, Seattle WA

May 2013

The Buffoon

(5 dancers, 5 musicians, 25 min, dance-theater)

Produced by The Offshore Project

Fire House Performing Arts Center, Bellingham WA

January 2013

Selected for THE A.W.A.R.D. SHOW!

On The Boards Seattle WA

January 2011

Commissioned by Northwest New Works Festival

On the Boards, Seattle WA

June 2010

Fallen Chair

(Solo, 2 musicians, 5 min, dance/performance)

Produced by The Offshore Project

Fire House Performing Arts Center, Bellingham WA

January 2013

2012

Strands

(Solo, 5 min., dance/performance)

Commissioned by Ten Tiny Dances

Jazz Bones, Tacoma WA

June 2012

Rock, Paper, Scissors

(2 dancers, 1 cello, 7 min., dance/performance)

Directors Ezra Dickinson, Rainbow Fletcher (The Offshore Project)

Commissioned by Coriolis Dance Company

Co-Lab 4, Erickson Theatre, Seattle

May 2012

Too Many To Recount

(8 dancers, 7 musicians, 20 min., dance/performance)

Directors Ezra Dickinson, Rainbow Fletcher (The Offshore Project)

Commissioned by Coriolis Dance Company

Co-Lab 4, Erickson Theatre, Seattle

May 2012

Untitled

(Solo improvisation, 8 min)
HERE/NOW: Installment 12
Open Flight Studio, Seattle

March 2012

Sun Rain Hail / Slow Walk

(2 performers, 3 hours)
Produced by Ezra Dickinson
Zocalo, Mexico City DF

September 2012

FILM: Sun Rain Hail (2012)

(2 performers, 8 min)
Directed by Ezra Dickinson

Commissioned by Fall Free For All
Theatre on The Square, Tacoma WA

September 2012

Finish Start / Slow Walk

(2 performers, 3 hours)
Commissioned by Fall City Arts
Fall City Days, Fall City WA

June 2012

FILM: Finish Start (2012)

(2 performers, 5 min)
Directed by Ezra Dickinson

Children / Slow Walk

(3 performers, 3 hours)
Commissioned by Fall City Arts
Fall City Days, Fall City WA

June 2011

FILM: Children (2011)

(3 performers, 5 min)
Directed by Ezra Dickinson

Each / Slow Walk

(Solo 3 hours, performance/film)
Commissioned by Moore Inside Out
The Moore Theater Seattle WA

June 2010

10 Feet / Slow Walk

(2 performers, 2 hours)

Produced by Ezra Dickinson

Heathrow Airport London England UK

November 2007

Westlake Slow Walk

(3 performers, 3 hours)

Produced by Ezra Dickinson

Westlake Center, Seattle

June 2006

Slow Walk

(4 performers, 3 hours)

Commissioned by Crossing Paths: A Rediscovery

Gallery 154, Seattle WA

April 2006

2011**Chin Mayo**

(Gallery installation, mural)

Commissioned by FRED Wildlife Refuge Gallery

FRED Wildlife Refuge, Seattle WA

May 2011

Two

(Solo 7 min, dance/performance)

Velocity's Fall Kick-off+Big Bang! Remix Party

Velocity Founders Theater, Seattle WA

September 2011

Seattle International Dance Festival, Curated by Donald Byrd

Raisbeck Performance Hall, Seattle WA

June 2010

Move! #9

Tacoma School of the Arts, Tacoma WA

November 2008

Hands Up

(2 performers, 5 min, dance/performance)

Commissioned by Spectrum Dance Theater for The Variety Show

Spectrum Dance Theater, ACT Theater Seattle WA

April 2011

And Now

(Solo 7 min, Dance/performance)

Spectrum Dance Theater for The Variety Show
Spectrum Dance Theater, ACT Theater Seattle WA

April 2011

Presented at New Moves Concert
Velocity, Seattle WA

December 2006

Actually Really

(Solo 55 min, dance/performance/film/motion censor)

Commissioned by Live At The Film Forum

Northwest Film Forum, Seattle WA

March 2011

2010

How Long

(Solo 5 min, dance/performance)

Commissioned by Ten Tiny Dances

Jazz Bones, Tacoma WA

May 2010

Moore Balding

(Theater installation, mural)

Commissioned by Moore Inside Out

The Moore Theatre, Seattle WA

June 2010

Untitled

(Festival installation, mural)

Commissioned by Bumbershoot (Seattle Street Biennale)

Rainier Room, Seattle WA

September 2010

2009

Bridging Wounds

(2 performers 60 min, dance/performance/film)

Director Paris Hurly Choreography Ezra Dickinson

Commissioned by Live at the Film Forum

Northwest Film Forum, Seattle WA

September 2009

(Work in progress showing) Open Floor Series

Henry Art Gallery, Seattle WA

April 2009

(Work in progress showing) Sounds Outside

Cal Anderson Park, Seattle WA

July 2009

(Work in progress showing) 911 Media Arts
911 Media Arts Center, Seattle WA

August 2009

Mother

(Solo 6 min, dance/performance)
Commissioned by Ten Tiny Dances
Annie Wright School, Tacoma WA

May 2009

Sand

(Solo 8 min, dance/performance)
Commissioned by Move! #15
Tacoma School of the Arts, Tacoma WA

November 2009

Untitled

(Solo improvisation, 8 min)
HERE/NOW: Installment 3
Open Flight Studio Seattle WA

December 2009

2008

Bald Man Show

(Solo gallery showing 50 paintings)
Presented by The Anne Bonny Gallery Seattle WA,
The Anne Bonny, Seattle WA

December 2008

2007

An Ode To Europe

(2 performers improvisation, 30 min, dance/performance)
Commissioned by Apostrophe
Gallery 1412, Seattle WA

January 2007

Are Existence in 12

(6 dancers 12 min, dance/performance/film)
Cornish BFA Dance Concerts
Broadway Performance Hall, Seattle WA

March 2007

Film: Spot (2007)

(Stop-motion animation)
Directed by Ezra Dickinson

Cornish BFA dance concert
Broadway Performance Hall, Seattle WA

Velocity's Fall Kick-Off+Big Bang! Remix Party
Velocity Dance Center Seattle WA

September 2012

Fall Free For All
Theatre on the Square Tacoma WA

September 2012

Next Fest NW Next Dance Cinema
Velocity Dance Center Seattle WA

November 2007

Black Space Gallery
Blank Space Gallery, Seattle WA

March 2007

2006

Breathe In Breathe In

(4 performers 15 min, dance/music/performance)
Director Paris Hurly Choreography Ezra Dickinson
Cornish BFA Music Concerts
Poncho Concert Hall Seattle

March 2006

Eating the lemon

(Solo 10 min, dance/performance)
Commissioned by DJ Tamara
Chop Suey, Seattle WA

March 2006

Karyotype 46/XY

(5 dancers 3 artists, 20 min, dance/performance)
The Offshore Project
Commissioned by Northwest New Works Festival
On the Board, Seattle WA

June 2006

2005

My

(Solo performance 5 min, dance/performance)
Commissioned by 12 Minutes Max
On the Boards, Seattle WA

February 2005

CONTACT

Ezra Dickinson
206.427.6466
baldieoner@hotmail.com

Tonya Lockyer
Executive/Artistic Director, Velocity
206.351.3238
tonya@velocitydancecenter.org

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1621 12th Ave / Seattle, WA 98122
206.325.8773 / velocitydancecenter.org