

## **Bike on a wall** (working title) by **Bicycle Ballet** **Commissioning partners or bookings sought for 2013/3**

A new, outdoor aerial dance performance on and around one or more bicycles either fixed or suspended from a building.



The underlying concept of the work will explore Ghost Bikes. Ghost Bikes are small and sombre memorials to cyclists who have been killed on the street. A bicycle is painted all white and locked to a street sign near the crash site, accompanied by a small plaque. They serve as reminders of the tragedy that took place on an otherwise anonymous street corner, as quiet statements in support of cyclists' right to safe travel, and of the main fear that discourages people from cycling. From <http://ghostbikes.org/>.

This concept will be heightened by placing the performers and bicycles in a more theatrical space (i.e. suspended from a building), that will instantly convey the idea of danger and risk that is often involved with cycling on busy roads.

The music / soundtrack will be key in generating the atmosphere of a busy road, allowing the performers to build a relationship with the concept even though vehicles are not actually present.



The last three Bicycle Ballet shows have all explored the joy of cycling, and in each show there have been moments of exploring the dangerous side to this pastime / mode of transport. The subject of danger, and consequently death can be a hard subject to tackle, and that's why we feel placing the show on a different physical plane will heighten the concept.

Bike on a Wall will be choreographed by Janine Fletcher. Janine is a trained dancer who collaborated with Hazel Maddocks for a year and a half learning aerial skills and exploring aerial vocabulary. She has choreographed the last two, Bicycle Ballet touring productions and performed with Urban Playground and Lucid Incident, and is the co-artistic director of The Two Wrongs. This will be the first time she will have choreographed an aerial piece.

We are looking at working with Seth Allan, a highly experienced rigger, who has worked with De La Guarda, No Fit State, Bassline Circus, Cirque Bijou, Stereophonic Circus, Upswing and Heir of Insanity, amongst others. He continually explores the possibilities of modern climbing equipment, rigging hardware and props for ever more extreme stunts. He has rigged and flown from cranes, buildings and national monuments.

During the R&D period, we aim to work with two aerialists who are highly experienced in both aerial, dance and particularly devising.

Hazel Maddocks, a combined arts practitioner whose work fuses dance, aerial circus and physical theatre. She is artistic director of Zu Aerial Dance for which she mostly creates indoor work, but has performed outdoors with Periplum, as an aerialist in The Bell, and also in Arquiem.

Victoria McManus combines theatre and dance with aerial circus, specialising in aerial rope, trapeze, silks, acrobatic bungee and harness work. She has performed in Pericles and Man Falling Down at Shakespeare's Globe, La Clique at The Famous Spiegel tent, and Storm at The Barbican, amongst others. She has performed in circus and site specific shows such as 'Wired and Free' an aerial crane show in Perth, Australia, and at Opening Ceremonies for Liverpool City of Culture, The Asian Games, and An Audience with Kylie Minogue, and will be performing in the Opening Ceremony of the London 2012 Olympic Games.

Ollie Aylmer has been working with music for 16 years. He writes for 'Lift' and 'Poke' library music companies, with international distributions. He co-writes for 'Aswarm' art in sound and has a variety of creative projects, including 'Firstmenoffthemoon' and 'Gekobeat'. He also works in performing arts, writing and producing soundtracks for public performance and exhibitions, collaborating on Soundspace at Eureka in Halifax, Crackers for The World Famous, The Barbershop for 3 Monkey Productions and The Big Dance for Smallwonder, and creating soundtracks for the three Bicycle Ballet productions.

Karen Poley is an experienced creative producer, of outdoor arts and the driving force behind Bicycle Ballet and installation project, reCyculture. She has produced outdoor events and performances since 1996, working with artists and companies such as Zap Art, Magnetic Events, Charlie Morrissey and Periplum. She will bring strategic direction and development, fundraising and management skills.