

Born in Germany, and now based in Brighton, CiCi Blumstein has been working in the UK as a filmmaker, choreographer, installation and performance artist since 1989. Her work seeks out and vibrates in the unknown spaces between body & film, science & performance, architecture & theatre; transforming the physical and personal into a form that others can experience directly.

"I feel that every surface has the potential for movement and creative change: a pavement, a page, a wall, another body ... Once danced, a space cannot be un-danced, it remains in my imagination and in the body as a space of infinite possibilities."

Fusing urban planning, architectural and choreographic principles, CiCi seeks to reveal the powerful impact that individual awareness of creative space can bring to the public realm. Historically, movement forms such as Contact Improvisation, Butoh, and more recently Free Running / Parkour, have been opening up urban and rural space to direct creative exploration. As Brighton is moving towards a dedicated Dance Space for the city in 2012, how could we, both as individuals and as a community, further extend dance and movement into the public and personal architecture of the city right now?

Tonight CiCi will focus on her most recent work ***i am too big for this town*** which poses the questions: How is art shaped by where it is produced? How is creative and personal space determined, and can it be individually calculated? ***i am too big for this town*** revisits her earlier large-scale work ***Feature Creature***, first shown in the Turbine Hall at Tate Modern.

For this year's ***architecture08*** festival, CiCi squeezed all the energy and presence of the original installation into the much smaller dimensions of **Blank Gallery** in Portslade, inviting visitors to a playful exploration of creative space at the edge of town.

Using a simple formula adapted from urban planning, CiCi has created the Measuring Room within the sculptural installation, where visitors can stake out their own creative plot to inhabit and take away. Find out how low you will go in the quest for more space ...

This evening CiCi will open **Debating Dance** with an introduction to the ideas behind ***i am too big for this town***. After a short break CiCi will lead a discussion and playful 'speed measuring' exploration of urban and personal creative space.

The evening will run as follows:

- 18:00** Arrival – drinks in foyer and move down to Digital Lounge
- 18:05** Introduction to **Debating Dance** by Emily James, Projects Coordinator at South East Dance
- 18:10** CiCi Blumstein presentation & discussion part 1
- 18:50** Brief introduction to 'Speed Measuring' in Studio 1
- 19:00** Networking break in foyer.
- 19:15** Networking break continues and start of 'Speed Measuring' workshop in Studio 1
- 20:00** Discussion part 2 & exploration based on 'Speed Measuring' facilitated by CiCi in Digital Lounge
- 20:50** Notices
- 21:00** End



The Measuring Room in ***i am too big for this town***

Debating Dance

Wednesday 24 September 2008

Lighthouse Digital Lounge

18.00-21.00

Free Event

South East Dance welcomes you to our quarterly forum for artists, practitioners and anyone who loves dance: **Debating Dance**. This is a new event which replaces our previous Artists' Updates.

Debating Dance provides a platform for debate around dance and dance practice. Each quarter a new host will lead an evening with a subject of their choosing, South East Dance will provide the venue and support. This evening is hosted by CiCi Blumstein.



i am too big for this town installation, CiCi Blumstein 2008



The next **Debating Dance** will take place early in the New Year. If you would like to host the event or have an idea for a topic to debate please contact Emily James by emailing emily.james@southeastdance.org.uk or calling 01273 645261.

To ensure you're kept up-to-date with South East Dance events and news, please join our mailing list by following the link on our website: www.southeastdance.org.uk

Advance notice of upcoming events:

Dance for Camera Festival 2008 Fri 5 – Sun 7 Dec

South East Dance was established in 1997 to support dance artists and practitioners within Brighton. In 2000 we became a National Dance Agency and a regularly funded organisation of Arts Council England, extending our role to encompass wider regional, national and international agendas. Our mission is to develop more and better dance, for communities, screen and performance through innovative, trailblazing and experimental programmes. We are passionate about dance and excellence and creativity is at the heart of all our work.

www.southeastdance.org.uk

