

THE PLACE

IS THIS A
DANCE? *Lavaelo*



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ABOUT

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WHAT HAPPENS INSIDE OUR BODIES WHEN WE DANCE?

DO DANCERS HAVE SECRETS?

CAN A DANCE GO WRONG?

IS DANCE THE OPPOSITE OF FROZEN FOOD?

SHOULD YOU DANCE LIKE THIS ON YOUR BIRTHDAY?

When you skip down the street or turn on the spot for no reason; when you stamp your feet in rage or throw your arms in the air in joy... Have you ever wondered 'is this a dance'?

Eva and Lola of Lavaelo explore this question by letting their bodies take the lead, and imagination run riot through playful games and endless questions. Expect energetic movements and abrupt pauses, whales, dinosaurs, turning planets and talking computers in absurd situations! with a bit of contemplation on the side.

This is a show for anyone who has ever found joy in mindlessly moving to music like nobody's watching.

Age guidance 5-11yrs

Duration 43 mins (for theatrical presentation)
20 min (for Schools, Libraries and alternative settings)

Language English or Bengali



SYNOPSIS

Is This a Dance? is an exploration of our bodies in motion and the myriad of different situations they can lead us to, when we let our natural playfulness take the lead. In the work, the dancers let themselves be driven by rhythmic games and questions about dance, that result in moments of absurd but engaging physical games, as well as moments of contemplation and absorption in the physical experience of dancing.



Watch the trailer



Watch the full show



Watch the full show in Bengali



Audience reactions



LVAELO

LVAELO is a collaboration between dance artists Lola Maury and Eva Recacha. Together they create work for young audiences and their families, where young people are encouraged to ask questions about dance. LVAELO's work explores the essence of what dance is, with focus on movement features: speed, duration, rhythm, actions; looking at how these ingredients weave with one another and give rise to a multitude of exciting possibilities not driven by narrative. Their work tests their instinct that children will be particularly perceptive to this as an extension of how they learn through play. What is dance made out of? How do the ingredients fit into place and what happens when they do?

EVA RECACHA

I am Eva Recacha, an independent female choreographer who lives and works in London. My choreographic practice explores the ways of relating movement and text, creating a blend of poetic, humorous and nonsensical juxtapositions through the interplay of both mediums.

I have been commissioned work for the stage by Sadler's Wells, The Place, Festival Santa Susana, EDge, and LCDS, as well as site-specific work by DanceXchange, Bloomberg SPACE, Opera Estate Festival Veneto, and Fundació LaCaixa and Trayectos. I was a Place Prize Finalist in 2011 for *Begin to Begin: A Piece about Dead Ends*, and in 2013 for *The Wishing Well*, winning the public prize on three occasions. In 2014 I was a recipient of the Marion North Mentoring Award. I have been an associate artist at the Place and a Sadler's Wells Summer University Artist. My work has appeared in Time Out's Best of the Year and has been presented in UK and at festivals in Europe. My latest work, commissioned and presented by Sadler's Wells in 2018, is *Aftermath*, a piece dealing with notions of female visibility, value, and power, and the shift in the experience of those after motherhood.

www.evarecacha.com



LOLA MAURY

I am a French London-based choreographer, making intimate and sensory experiences for audiences and participants. Professional recognition includes: Deutsche Bank Award for Contemporary Dance (2008); The Place's 'Hot House' (2014) for exceptional early career choreographers mentored by Peggy Olislaegers and paired with producer Helen Goodman; 'Surf the Wave, Artist as Entrepreneur' (2018); Artist in Residence at the National Centre for Dance in Lyon (FR) for the 2020-21 season.

I have created and toured: *Two To Tune* (commissioned by The Place, 2014), selected for French national platform 'La Grande scene des PSO 2016'; *Figurines* (2016) toured to Triratna Buddhist Centres as part of an audience development activity, engaging people interested in meditation; *Brouhaha* (commissioned by Theatre in the Mill, 2019) with support from The Place, Yorkshire Dance, Dance City, Dance4, DanceEast, Hull Truck and La Briqueterie (Paris). Since September 2020 I have been a PhD student at C-DaRE, Coventry University in partnership with DanceXchange (Birmingham).

I am part of Le Croiseur's directing committee, supporting emerging dance artists in Lyon. I lead the research program Cellule D'essai, funded by the Rhône-Alpes region.

www.lolamaury.com



MARKETING

Key Selling Points

- **Invites Curiosity:** Whether audiences are new to dance or intrigued to know more, *Is This a Dance?* shows that no question is off limits and you're never too young or too old to learn.
- **Learning through Play:** *Is This a Dance?* blurs the boundaries between learning and play, taking the natural playfulness in us all as a starting point to explore the world of dance.
- **Ignites the Imagination:** non-narrative, but full of engaging movement, imagery and music, this piece is designed to enrapture young imaginations and indulging their natural playfulness and daydreaming.
- *Is This a Dance?* the latest work from leading choreographer Eva Recacha and dance artist Lola Maury.

Audiences Development

- **Recommended age: 5-11**
- **Schools Groups:** Reception, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2.
- **Families with Young People:** Families with young people will all find something in this piece, whether the energetic performers, the rhythmic soundtrack, or the contemplative questions asked; *Is This a Dance?* has broad age appeal.
- **New Dance Audiences:** Parents and guardians new to the world of contemporary dance will find this a friendly and playful introduction to performance, and is great for families looking to try something new.
- **Music Interest:** the energetic and pulsating score from sound artist Alberto Ruiz Soler will attract contemporary and electronic music fans.
- **Poetry:** The absurd and poetic text of the soundtrack is full of questions, rambles, and rhythmical games, and will spark interest in audiences interested in poetry and storytelling.





TECHNICAL SPECS

These technical specifications are for school hall performances.

More detailed and bespoke technical specifications are available on request.

Duration	43 mins (for theatrical presentation) 20 min (for Schools, Libraries and alternative settings)
Performance Space	Minimum 8m x 8m, to be covered by dance floor toured by the company.
Get In	Theatres - 6 hours / Schools and alternative settings - 2hrs
Get Out	1 hour following the show.
Set	Venue to provide seating, set will vary depending on venue, at minimum a dance floor will be brought.
Warm-Up Space	Please ensure a warm-up space is provided. Ideally this would be the same as the performance area.
Lighting	We can use what is available.
Sound	Sound designer/technician travels with his computer and operates the sound. Sound technician will ideally be placed behind the audience. The venue needs to provide: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a PA system (at least two good/powerful working speakers placed on each side of the performing space) • a long audio cable to connect a computer to the PA system • a table to place a computer on • a power extension cable
Touring party of 4	2 dancers, 1 production manager, 1 lighting technician
UKBA	The touring party all have the right to work in the UK and EU without the need for a working permit. Additional Parking for a van.

SPAGHETTI CLUB

Michael Crowe's Spaghetti Club has been running since 2018, providing children with exciting, fun introductions to complex artistic and philosophical questions. The *"Is This a Dance?" Spaghetti Club* looks at what dance is. How it might help you in an emergency. What dance might look like a billion years into the future, etc. etc. The club explores in a light-hearted way via writing exercises and drawings.

The Spaghetti Club is a wraparound activity offer with *Is This a Dance?*. Previously, Michael Crowe completed a series of workshops with children from Grasmere Primary School. The students created drawings investigating what dance is, isn't, was, might be, etc. etc. which then went on display as a front of house exhibition alongside performances of *Is This a Dance?*. As expected, the children turned out to be experts on dance, both physically and intellectually.

SPAGHETTI CLUB WRAPAROUND OFFERS*

Light touch: FOH exhibition with existing artwork plus activity booklets.

Engaged: Facilitator offers workshops in schools ahead of show and children's artwork is incorporated in the exhibition.

*additional fees apply



CREDITS

Co-Choreographers: **Eva Recacha** and **Lola Maury**

Co-writers: **Alberto Ruiz Soler, Eva Recacha, Lola Maury, Michael Crowe.**

Sound Artist: **Alberto Ruiz Soler**

Costume and Set Designer: **Kate Lane**

Lighting Designer: **Ben Moon**

Education Advisor and Curator: **Michael Crowe**

Children voices (English version): **Unai Ospina Recacha** and **Arin Ospina Recacha**

Children voices (Bengali version): **Imaan Alam**

Translation: **Sohini Alam**

Production Manager: **Chris Burr**

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(Image composition by **Eva Recacha** on pages 1 & 7)

Is This a Dance? is commissioned and co-produced by **The Place.**

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THE PLACE *Lavaelo*



ABOUT THE PLACE

The Place, London's creative powerhouse for dance development, has been leading the way in dance training, creation and performance for 50 years. In a changing landscape, our vision for the future remains steadfast: We are powering imagination through dance, championing new ideas, embracing risks and creating a dance ecosystem unlike any other in the world, with optimal conditions for dance artists and enthusiasts to realise their full potential. The Place is home to London Contemporary Dance School, an extensive theatre and artist development programme, education projects, a range of classes and courses and a nationwide touring model. As a pioneering dance organisation, we are committed to creating no-barriers access to exciting dance experiences and opportunities for everybody, offering a diverse and dynamic theatre programme for audiences, empowering artists and dance makers and giving young people access to the highest quality opportunities to touch their lives with dance.

theplace.org.uk

Contact

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