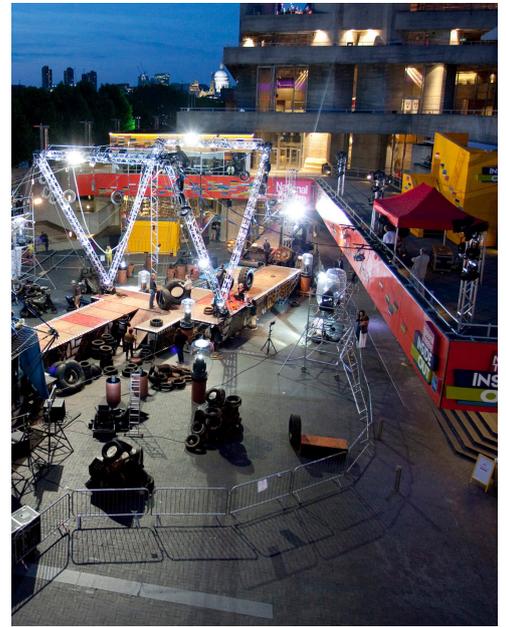


BLOCK

when circus and dance collide



nofitstate
Motionhouse



ABOUT THE COMPANIES

NOFIT STATE

We celebrate the contradictions within ourselves and our work

Creating **beautiful** carnage

And **organised** anarchy

We embrace the human condition in all its dirtiness.

Created in 1986 by five friends, NoFit State is a community bound by a common passion and a collective journey. We work, travel, and love together, we put our lives in each other's hands daily and it is this trust, this bond and this togetherness that gives our work its unique heart, soul and spirit.

We make stories without narrative – creating work that is poignant and poetic. We use large-scale imagery, circus, live music, movement and innovative design. We invent worlds where the boundaries between the real and the imaginary, the possible and the impossible, become blurred, where the frontiers between artists and audiences are broken, where nothing is hidden and everything revealed.

We create work on all scales and deliver community and participatory projects alongside our professional performances.

We hope to inspire our audience to step out of themselves for a moment, have their dreams fed, their spirits nourished and for them to leave uplifted and perhaps stirred to challenge themselves and their world.



ABOUT THE COMPANIES



MOTIONHOUSE

**Pushing movement
to its limits since 1988**

Founded by Louise Richards and Kevin Finnan, Motionhouse is a leading UK dance company.

Our productions are designed to challenge as well as delight our audiences. We integrate elements of circus and acrobatics with contact choreography to create the distinctive style that we are known for. We create '4D' spectacles where music, visuals, dance and physical theatre work to create shows that make our audiences think and feel.

We tour our productions to theatres and festivals across the world. We've developed a reputation over the years for ambitious experimentation. Our productions, in which setting, action and context collide, are world-renowned.

A wide ranging education and participatory programme runs parallel to our touring performance work.

But it's our audiences that are at the heart of everything we do and we pride ourselves on producing shows of outstanding quality that are accessible and enjoyable for all.

ABOUT THE SHOW



BLOCK when circus and dance collide

BLOCK is the encounter between two companies, NoFit State and Motionhouse and two genres, circus and dance. The collaboration between Creative Producer Ali Williams, Artistic Director Kevin Finnan, and Circus Director Paul Evans.

Twenty oversized blocks, fashioned to resemble giant breeze blocks, double as both the performance equipment and the set. Continually deconstructed and reformed, they create an infinite variety of shapes, structures and equipment to play on, move with and explore.

What happens when the equipment becomes the starting point for a physical exploration?

When dance and circus collide? When they converge, rub against each other, blend into one another?

The constant shifts of forms echo the transitory nature of our city centres, the changing landscapes of our environments and within this context, creates for a platform on which the bodies talk about change, barriers, obstacles, repetition, failures and successes.

Initially designed as a daytime performance, BLOCK incorporate skills that resonate within an outdoor context: parkour, acrobatics, gymnastics and tricking and blends them with contemporary circus and dance. It combines the quality of movement vocabularies of the two companies, their experience of highly visual creations and occupation of space.

BLOCK is resolutely urban and the modular nature of the design concept allows for maximum potential to explore different configurations and ways of interacting with the equipment.

CREATIVE NOTES



By Kevin Finnan and Ali Williams

The modern city is a nest teeming with activity. Human life streams through it. Block is about living in the city, its contradictions and its challenges.

Living large, living fast and sometimes living in the cracks, this extraordinary cast stay on their toes to thrive and survive in the world of blocks. The tower block, the urban block, danger, love and excitement streaming through the day.

NoFit State and Motionhouse have been looking for opportunities to work together for several years and BLOCK is the ideal project for this exciting collaboration. The desire to join forces to create a project for public spaces echoes the two companies' commitment to making work that is accessible and provides a platform for audience development whilst pushing at the boundaries of their artforms.

The fusion of house styles creates a new theatrical language mixing circus and dance in an extraordinary and seamless way. Fusing the fluidity of dance with spectacular circus to continually reshape the modular staging negates the need to perform "acts", allowing the skills to be fully integrated in the movement vocabulary, creating a new and exciting form.

The initial starting point was to create a new piece for outdoor events and festival, but the easily transportable nature of the stage design, combined with the strong themes running through the piece, give the work a versatility, making it easily adaptable to venues and unconventional spaces.



CREATIVE PROCESS



BLOCK began life as a research project under the direction of Paul Evans for NoFit State's resident trainees and was showcased to an invited audience of arts professionals in Spring 2013. The initial research focused on developing a set of "blocks" and beginning to investigate their potential within a performance context.

The strong potential of BLOCK convinced the company to take the project forward, but with a slightly different approach to their usual creative methods, and, in 2014, NoFit State approached Motionhouse about creating BLOCK as a collaboration between the two companies, with the show directed by Motionhouse Artistic Director Kevin Finnan assisted by Paul Evans as Circus Director.

Two R&D sessions took place in 2015 to explore the meeting ground between the companies, investigate the artistic concepts of the show and push further the circus development.

In 2016, the company created the show over a three weeks residency at French National Centre for Outdoor Arts Creation Citron Jaune.

premiere: spring 2016

CREATIVE TEAM



Kevin Finnan MBE

Artistic Director

Kevin Finnan was Choreographer and Movement Director for the Opening Ceremony of the London 2012 Paralympic Games. Finnan was made an MBE in 2013 for his services to dance – a sector he has been contributing to since he created Motionhouse with Louise Richards in 1988. He has since created more than 30 shows.



Paul Evans

Circus Director

Paul is a regular collaborator with NoFit State, as a performer, circus director and choreographer on a number of projects including *Barricade*, *Streets Alive*, *Open House*, and *Journeys*. He is also Artistic Director for Crashmat Collective, a company that seeks to blur the boundaries between performer and audience.



Ali Williams

Creative Producer

Ali Williams is one of the co-founders of NoFit State. Over the past 30 years with the company she has been a performer, fundraiser, community director, and producer (*Immortal*, *Parklife*, *Barricade*, *Open House*). She has also mentored emerging companies and is passionate about supporting trainees and emerging artists to develop their talents.

COMPANY

Booking and Production

Camille Beaumier
Jo Valentine

Tour Management

Tim Adam

Costume Design

Rhi Matthews
Rike Zollner

Sound Design

Sophy Smith

Set Design

Deb McShane

Set Build

Tarn Aitken

Performers

Lee Tinnion
Andy Davies
Amer Fernandez
Àfrica Llorens Valls
Naomi Tadevossian
Daniel Connor
Alasdair Stewart



2016 tour dates

May

Norfolk and Norwich Festival
mac birmingham
Salisbury International Arts Festival

June

Greenwich and Docklands Festival

July

Festival au Carré, Mons, Belgium
Dance Days Festival, Swansea
Pontio, Bangor
MiramirO, Ghent, Belgium
Surge Festival, Glasgow

August

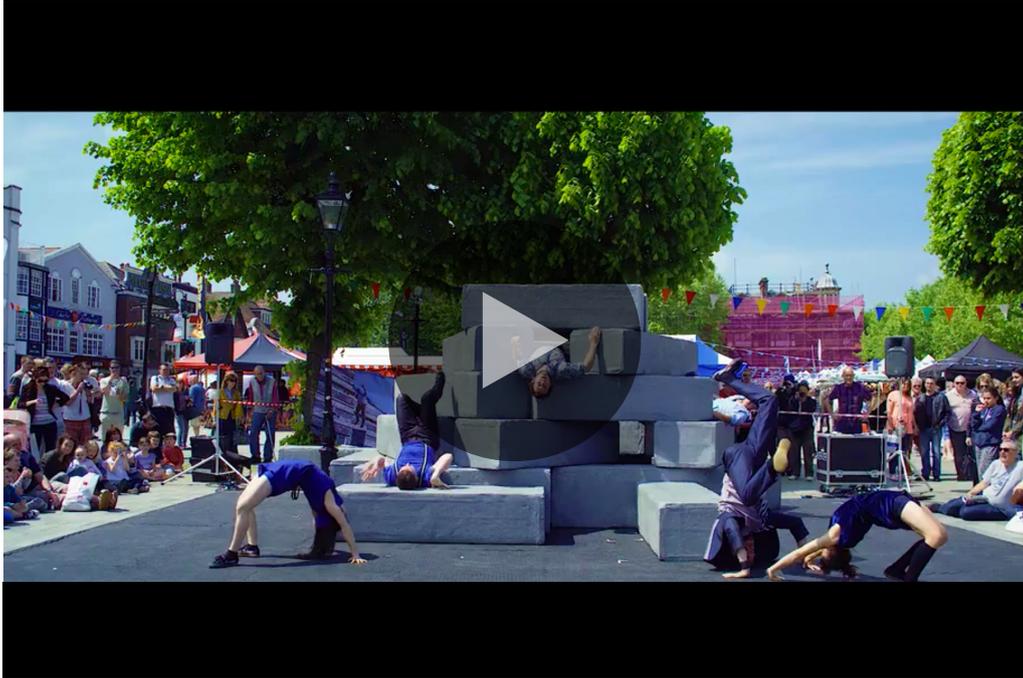
Torch Theatre, Milford Haven
Mwldan, Cardigan
Stockton Riverside International Festival
Circulate, Edmonton Green Shopping Centre, Enfield
Theater Op de Markt, Hasselt
Circulate, Watermans, Brentford
Stratford Circus, Olympic Park
Creative Barking and Dagenham
Bell Square, Hounslow

Articulture, Machynlleth
Articulture, Ynyslas
Articulture, Tywyn Promenade
Articulture, Coed y Brenin
United Welsh, Bryn Aber, Caerphilly
Lansbury Park, Caerphilly
Aberbargoed, Caerphilly
Tredegar, Blaenau Gwent
Wales Millennium Centre, Cardiff

September

Fordham Park, Deptford
Circulate, Albany Theatre, Deptford
Oriente Occidente, Rovereto, Italy
Out There Festival, Great Yarmouth

VIDEO



Block Trailer (2016)

IMAGES



PRESENTING THE SHOW



BLOCK has been designed to respond to the two companies vision for creating work that is accessible in an effort to create a piece for new horizons.

It can be presented in a variety of contexts and environments, from ultra urban to totally rural, each time changing the impact on the visual landscape and adding meanings to the piece.

A versatile project, BLOCK can be presented as a centre piece for festivals, street and site specific events and one off celebrations, launches and openings.

We are always excited by the uniqueness and challenges offered by site-specific adaptations. These can take a variety of scale, from the transposition of a show into a space, to the re-invention of a piece, making it truly site-specific and environment-responsive.

Talk to us about your ideas.



BLOCK is easy to tour and low tech, with a very light impact on the environment.

A daytime performance, it is aimed at audiences of 500 – 1500 people and can be performed up to 2 times a day. Its lightness and versatility allows it to be presented in 2 different locations the same day.

BLOCK is performed by seven performers on freestanding purpose-built matting. The set comprises 24 blocks and the show has been designed and choreographed to be performed on any surface that is firm, level and dry.

The blocks are 45cm x 60cm x 2m and are stacked upon each other in various formations. It is imperative that the playing surface is extremely level, and at least 10m x 10m with a height clearance of 10m plus the space required for the expected audience.

The show runs for approx 40 mins.

Full risk assessments and events plans are available on request.



NOTE ON OUTDOOR ARTS



Our work evolves with time. This is what keeps our shows fluid, alive and always fresh.

Each performer brings with him or her, a skill, a technique mastered over the years. And with their bag of tools, each one of them brings their humanity.

Their fears, their doubts, their joys and their dreams.

It is the weaving of all of this that makes our work unique and of the instant. When a performer leaves, sometimes to follow another path in life, sometimes due to injury, it is all of this they take away with them. We never replace a performer by another performer. We never re-create an act, but always, work with the whole fabric of each individual. This means our shows change from one year to another, and this is what excites us: the constant re-inventing of our work, re-shaping of our ideas.

When booking one of our shows, it is important to remember that a performance seen a month or a year before, will never be the same. Videos and images change. But the essence of our work, its spirit, is always respected. To maintain the authenticity of our work, we must work with the individuals around us, and adjust to the coming and going of the collective and the journey of the company.

FUNDERS AND SUPPORTERS



Commissioned by Without Walls, Stockton International Riverside Festival, Norfolk & Norwich Festival and Out There International Festival of Circus & Street Arts.

Co-produced by Archaos, Pôle National des Arts du Cirque Méditerranée and Le CITRON Jaune, Centre National des Arts de la Rue.

Supported by Arts Council England, Cyngor Celfyddydau Cymru – The vArts Council of Wales, Llywodraeth Cymru – Welsh Government and the Big Lottery



MARKETING EXAMPLES



BLOCK

NoFit State Circus and Motionhouse bring together their unique styles in BLOCK - an exciting new collaboration.

Twenty oversized blocks are deconstructed and reformed into an infinite variety of shapes for the performers to play on, move with and explore. BLOCK is about life in the city; its contradictions and challenges.

What happens when dance and circus collide? When they converge, rub against each other, blend into one another?

Dance Days, Swansea
09.07.2016, Times TBC

Price
01792 60 20 60 / taliesinartscentre.co.uk/dancedays

Pontio Loading Dock / Doc Llwytho Pontio, Bangor
10.07.2016, 2pm & 5pm
Price
£5
01248 382828 / pontio.co.uk

Torch Theatre
03.08.2016, 4.30pm & 7.15pm
Price
01646 695267 / torchtheatre.com

Theatre Mwldan, Cardigan Castle Grounds
04.08.2016, 5pm & 7.45pm
Price
01239 621 200 / mwldan.co.uk

Articulture, Machynlleth & Ynyslas
20.08.2016, Times TBC
Price
01654 710260 / articulture-wales.co.uk

Articulture, Tywyn & Coed y Brenin
21.08.2016, Times TBC
Price
01654 710260 / articulture-wales.co.uk

United Welsh
22.08.2016, [Times here](http://times.tbc)
Price
[Venue telephone / website](http://venue.telephone/)

United Welsh
23.08.2016, [Times here](http://times.tbc)
Price
[Venue telephone / website](http://venue.telephone/)



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Company No. 3180348

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Arts Council of Wales



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