

MEDIA RELEASE

10 AUG 2015

**ARTS
ADMIN.**

THE BAROMETER OF MY HEART

Conceived and directed by Mark Storor

Produced by Anna Ledgard

In association with Artsadmin

- 15 Sept – 4 Oct 2015, 8:30pm
- East London venue to be announced at the end of August
- £18.50/£12.50 concessions

What is it to be a man today?

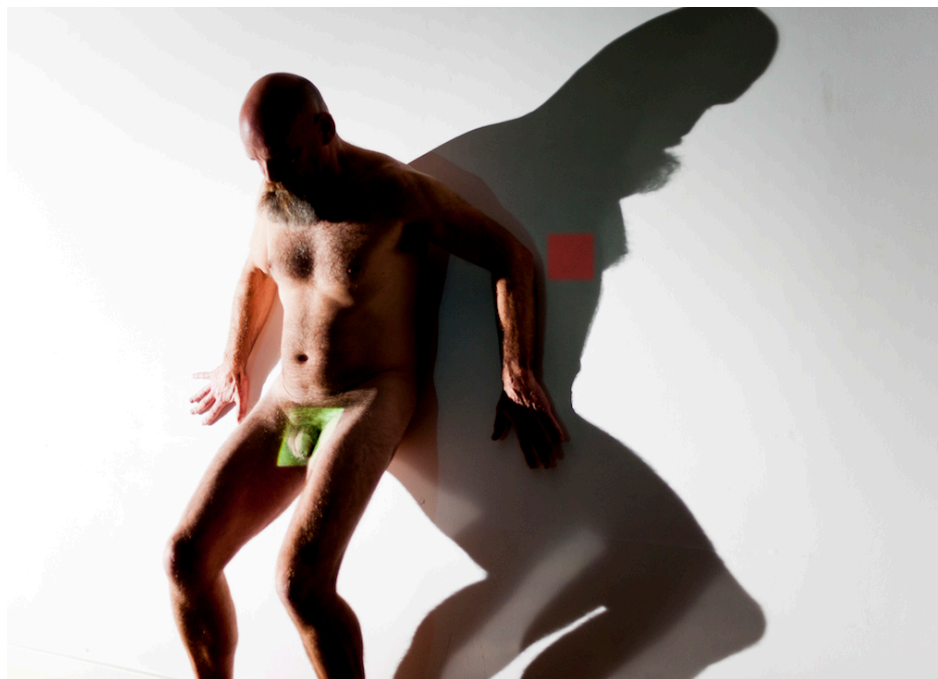


Photo © Stephen King

Inspired by workshops and real conversations with men, performances conceived and directed by artist Mark Storor will bring male experiences previously kept in the shadows into the light.

Made in collaboration with an international company of artists and participants, **The Barometer of My Heart** will explore the rich diversity of male experience. Carnavalesque, primitive and tender: still and moving image, music and animation, live performance, science and sound combine to create an intimate reimagining of masculinity today.

Funded by Arts Council England and the Wellcome Trust, for two years Mark Storor has facilitated workshops with men in religious, military, sports and corporate settings, carving out a distinctive space for men to talk freely.



Supported using public funding by
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Storor says: “Art allows us to look at things we can’t see and to give us a language for things that are unsaid. Too much is hidden, too much is covered up. It has been empowering to work with these men - I realise that they do want to talk about it.”

Jonathan Garside, Everton in the Community, says: “We traditionally use sport and physical activity to engage our men’s group - art was something of an unknown entity for us and them. Initially I was cautious but have been blown away by how they took to Mark’s workshops. It proves that given the opportunity, everyone is an artist and has the creativity to express themselves.”

Working with Dr Leighton Seal, Consultant Endocrinologist at St. George’s Hospital, Tooting, Mark has also undertaken research with men attending erectile dysfunction clinics at St. George’s Hospital, Tooting.

Dr Seal says: “Erectile dysfunction often precedes cardio vascular disease but because it is a social taboo and not taken seriously, men do not visit their doctor and suffer heart attacks, which could have been prevented.”

There is nowhere for men to discuss the issue outside a medical or therapeutic context.

Anna Ledgard, Artsadmin Associate Producer, says: “The Barometer of My Heart explores the boundaries of participation and performance whilst also contributing to the discourse between art and biomedical science.”

[Tickets are on sale now.](#)

artsadmin.co.uk/projects/mark-storor-the-barometer-of-my-heart

#BOMH @artsadm

ENDS

NOTES TO EDITORS

MEDIA CONTACT

For more information, interviews and images please contact Jennifer Tomkins, Head of Marketing & Development, Artsadmin: jennifer@artsadmin.co.uk / 020 7247 5102

IMAGES

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LISTINGS

The Barometer of My Heart

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Produced by Anna Ledgard, in association with Artsadmin

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To book tickets go to: artsadmin.co.uk/events/3741

KEY ERECTILE DYSFUNCTION FACTS

- Erectile Dysfunction (ED) is an independent marker of increased risk of cardiovascular* disease (CVD), coronary artery disease (CAD), stroke, and all-cause mortality*
- 40% of men over 40 experience ED during their lives, by the age of 70 it's 70%*
- 49.1% of patients with ED did not complain about it*. The main reasons for this were:
 - failure to perceive ED as a problem 32.4%
 - shame 30%
- ED is associated with stress, depression, low self-esteem, divorce, loss of employment

[*SOURCE: Princeton III consensus Mayo Clin Proc 2012 87(8) 766-78]

ARTIST TEAM

Anna Ledgard has a wide-ranging involvement in arts, health and education. Anna is producer of six arts and science collaborations with Mark Storer funded by the Wellcome Trust including the award-winning *For the Best* in London and Liverpool (2010), *Boychild* and *Visiting Time*. Other collaborations include: *Milk* (2015) and *Bedside Manners* (2014) with Evelina Children's Hospital, London and artist Sofie Layton. Anna regularly writes and lectures on arts participation and theatre. Anna's roots as a teacher led to initiating international arts collaborations and pioneering accredited training for artists and teachers at LIFT (London International Festival of Theatre) and Eastfeast. annaledgard.com

Mark Storer is an artist working in the space between live art and theatre. His work is devised, often site specific and always collaborative. Selected Credits: *Puffball* (2014); *A Tender Subject* (Artangel 2012); *Hungry Tea* (Cork Midsummer Festival 2012); *Fat Girl Gets a Haircut* (Roundhouse 2011); *The Barometer of My Heart* R&D (2011 – 12); *For the Best* (Unicorn Theatre/Evelina Children's Hospital 2009); *For the Best* (Unity Theatre/Royal Liverpool University Hospital 2010); *Visiting Time* (Dorset County Hospital 2004); *Boychild* (Dorset County Hospital 2007); *Best Behaviour* (Polka 2003).

ARTIST COLLABORATORS

Babis Alexiadis - Animation (babisalexiadis.com)

Max Calaf Seve – Trampolinist (maxcalaf.com)

Chris Keenan – Filmmaker (vimeo.com/chriskeenan)

Stephen King – Photography (stephenkingphotography.co.uk)

Jules Maxwell – Sound (julesmaxwell.com)

INTERNATIONAL CAST

Max Beecher - contortionist

Max Calaf Seve – trampolinist (maxcalaf.com)

Ian Cameron – performer/clown (iancameron.weebly.com)

Andy Manley (andymanley.com)

Tyrone Nester

Erika Poole

Venizelos Alexandros Michail – performance artist and trainer

Chris Willoughby – aerialist & fire-eater (chrisalys-circus.com)

Performer No 9

INSTALLATION AND DESIGN ARTISTS

Sofie Layton (sofielayton.co.uk)

Alexa Reid

Jonathan Van Beek

Cathy Wren

PARTNERS

Artsadmin produces bold and inventive art with a live element, touring it to audiences across the UK and around the world. From their East London home, Toynbee Studios, they work to advise and support artists at all stages of their careers. The building also provides rehearsal and meeting spaces for the creative industry. artsadmin.co.uk

Sir Ludwig Guttman Health and Wellbeing Centre is a modern, accessible and environmentally-friendly health centre designed to provide innovative healthcare, wellbeing and community services in E20. The site was originally the base for the Olympics Medical and Doping Centre for the London 2012 Games. guttman.nhs.uk

St George's University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust serves a population of 3.5 million across Southwest London, Surrey, Sussex and beyond. At St George's Hospital the endocrinology department delivers specialist clinics aimed at people with general endocrine disorders, covering all aspects of endocrinology including thyroid disease, calcium disorders, neuro-endocrinology and reproductive endocrinology. stgeorges.nhs.uk

Creative Engagement with:

- 64 men attending Erectile Dysfunction Clinics
- workshops with men in corporate contexts
- 13 conversations with taxi drivers

- E20 Football Club
- Two work-in-progress presentations at Artsadmin
- Two work-in-progress presentations at Wellcome Collection

Ongoing creative collaboration with:

- Everton in the Community, the official charity of Everton Football Club.
- FACT Veterans in Practice, Liverpool.

SUPPORTED BY

Arts Council England champions, develops and invests in artistic and cultural experiences that enrich people's lives. Between 2010 and 2015, ACE will invest £1.9 billion of public money from government and an estimated £1.1 billion from the National Lottery to help create these experiences for as many people as possible across the country. artscouncil.org.uk

The **Wellcome Trust** is a global charitable foundation dedicated to improving health. It supports bright minds in science, the humanities and the social sciences, as well as education, public engagement and the application of research to medicine. wellcome.ac.uk