

ROSEMARY LEE

MELT DOWN



PHOTO CREDIT: HUGO GLENDINNING

Created by Rosemary Lee

Produced by Artsadmin
Originally commissioned for Dance Umbrella

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**ARTS
ADMIN.**



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MELT DOWN

Melt Down is a very simple but powerful statement. Around 40 male performers quietly enter the site and take their positions. At the single toll of a huge bell, they stretch their arms overhead, looking upward to the sky. Over the next ten minutes, with a single toll of the bell marking each minute, the men slowly, almost imperceptibly in fact, ‘melt down’ to the ground. Countless images pass through the viewer’s mind – of battle, human frailty and the resilience of the human spirit, to name but a few.

Melt Down was originally one of a quartet of short pieces performed in open spaces in central London, that combined to make up *Square Dances*. Specially commissioned for Dance Umbrella 2011, *Melt Down* was performed by a group of 40 men under a massive tree in Brunswick Square, at timed intervals over two days.

Rosemary reworks this idea for different contexts incorporating a group of local professional and non-professional performers.



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FURTHER INFORMATION

QUOTES

"I knew this would be challenging both emotionally and physically but I didn't appreciate how much and in what way - this has been a transformative experience in a year of reflection for me and I consider myself such a fortunate man for having had this opportunity" Performer , 2011

"Lee's genius – and I use the word carefully – is to modulate and sculpt her choreography to the dancers before her with a simplicity that makes the movement seem wholly natural and life-enhancing, for participant and spectator alike... the performances that emerge are astounding" Carole Woddis, Reviews Gate

"Beautifully realised and transporting" Donald Hutera, The Times

DOCUMENTATION

[Click here to view a 3 minute Artsonline video of Square Dances](#)
(of which *Melt Down* was a part of)

[Click here to view a 6 minute Guardian video of the process of making Square Dances](#)

PREVIOUS PERFORMANCES

Panorama Festival, Rio de Janeiro Brazil	November 2014
Coastal Currents, Hastings UK	September 2014
Tanz! Heilbronn, Heilbronn Germany	May 2014
Dance Umbrella, London UK	October 2012
Dance Umbrella, London UK	October 2011

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Known for working in a variety of contexts and media, Rosemary has created large-scale site-specific works with cross-generational casts, solos for herself and other performers as well as video installations and short films.

Regardless of the scale, these projects have a unique intimate quality capturing moving portraits of the performers and exploring our relationship with our environment.

Rosemary's recent series site-specific live performances have involved large casts of professional and untrained dancers of all ages: *Common Dance* (Dance Umbrella 2009) paid tribute to the now lost public 'common' land : *Square Dances* (Dance Umbrella, 2011) used what 'common' green spaces we have left in London to gather in a different way and *Under the Vaulted Sky* (IF:Milton Keynes International Festival 2015) revealed the ethereal quality of the Cathedral of Trees, a magical arboretum planted in the footprint of Norwich Cathedral.

These live works have inspired several associated projects: A DVD and symposium (co-curated with Martin Welton, Queen Mary's University of London) entitled *On Taking Care* (2012) that drew on the process of making *Common Dance*. *Melt Down*, one of the quartet of works that combined to make up *Square Dances* has subsequently been remade with local casts across the world - from London & Hastings to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and Heilbronn, Germany.

Rosemary's screen-based works include a series of short dance films - *boy*, *greenman*, *Infanta* (made with Peter Anderson) and *Snow* (made with David Hinton) for the BBC, and the interactive installations *Apart from the Road* and *Remote Dancing* (made with Nic Sandiland). During 2012-13 she collaborated with Echo Echo Dance Theatre Company in Derry-Londonderry resulting in the creation of the acclaimed seven-screen video installation *Without*.

Her three-screen video installation, *Liquid Gold is the Air* (2015) made with dance filmmaker Roswitha Chesher draws inspiration from the tree cathedral and performance of *Under the Vaulted Sky*, is currently touring to cathedrals, churches and galleries.

Working with movement-artist Simon Whitehead, they have together developed *Calling Tree*, a durational performance cycle of songs, movement and messages which take place in a mature tree. First presented in North Wales by Migrations in 2014, they now plan to recreate it in trees in urban contexts starting in Tottenham, London in 2016 as part of LIFT.

Rosemary also writes, guest teaches and lectures internationally. Recipient of both a Bonnie Bird Award and a Jerwood Choreographic Research Project Award in 2013, she is currently a Work Place artist, an Artsadmin Artist, a DanceEast Artist Associate 2015, a ResCen Research Associate Artist (Middlesex University) and holds an honorary doctorate from Roehampton University.



PHOTO CREDIT: RICHARD OLIVER

SPECIFICATIONS

Melt Down can be recreated in different contexts incorporating a group of local professional and non-professional performers. Rosemary would want to explore locations within the city and discuss specific themes that the festival or venue might be interested in pursuing.

EVENT

Performances	2 days of 4/5 performances a day
Locations	<i>Melt Down</i> should be performed in one or several locations along a trail: under trees, public squares or space, places that have a political/social significance
Size of group	30-50 performers depending on chosen locations
Travelling	2 company on the road

HOST TO PROVIDE

- Production/Location manager
- Company Manager + Assistant to recruit/look after performers
- Invigilators for each location
- Rehearsal Space
- Expenses if possible and refreshments for performers
- A large bell as specified by Rosemary

PRIOR TO ARRIVAL

- A suitable location needs to be identified either following a preliminary visit by Rosemary or through detailed discussions with organisers. All relevant permissions need to be secured.
- Participants should be recruited according to Rosemary's brief (the group should be either all male or all female, they do not have to be dancers but need a level of fitness/stamina).
- A schedule of taster sessions and rehearsals should be planned (10 x 3hr sessions including at least 2 rehearsals on site).