

Laban students set to Improvise to Earl Brown's Score: '*December 1952*.' By Adam Gillick.



Dancers: Camille Giradeau, Ryan Phur, Sarah Armstrong and Zoe Georgallis. Photography by Karolin Bertilsson

Final year students of the BA (HONS) Dance Theatre Course at Trinity-Laban (Conservatoire for Music and Dance) in London, including Brighton students, Sam Jordan and Cara Richardson, are currently undertaking the rigorous and professional task of working with internal choreographer, performer and dance artist, Lizzie Kew Ross, in their interpretation and recreation of the visual score, '*December 1952*'; a work composed by leading American, avant-garde composer, Earl Brown.

As part of the students' commissioned work which is to be assessed, the dancers will work closely with composition students from neighbouring Trinity College of Music with structured improvisation and performance workshops surrounding theories of volume and abstract perception. The work will explore methods used by choreographer William Forsythe, alongside invaluable influences from artists such as Jackson Pollock and concepts of mobility, freedom and balance presented by the works of Alexander Calder.

The five week intensive studio sessions include preparatory classes by dancer and performer Susannah Recchia and improvisation and creative workshops led by Laban Faculty's own Lizzie Kew Ross. There have been musical collaboration with composition students from Trinity College as well as the interpretations of the performing bodies realised through multi media, and ink and charcoal, by current students of the MA Drawing Course, offered by the Princes Drawing School, Shoreditch, London.

Kew Ross said: '*December 1952* has encouraged all, dancers, musicians, lighting and costume designers, to create and think in challenging new ways, it has been our aim to keep the performance mobile and spontaneous as Brown would have intended. It has been and will continue to be a 'journey' through the score.'

Performances of the students' 'work in progress' can be seen at the Bonnie Bird Theatre at Laban on Thursday 21 and Friday 22 of October and at The Southbank Centre Ballroom on 9 January 2011 as well as at other supporting venues across the capital.

Other featured choreographers working alongside Lizzie include performer and choreographer, Melanie Clark (Laban Faculty), Stacy Spence (Trisha Brown Company) and Kerry Nichol who previously danced with Wayne McGregor Dance Company. Students working with Stacy Spence and Lizzie Kew Ross can be seen at The Southbank Centre performing their works alongside *Move: Choreographing You*, a specifically designed exhibit, housed at The Hayward Gallery, exploring the concepts of perception and understanding of the body in performance. A work that showcases installations and sculptures by renowned choreographers and visual artists from the last 50 years - allowing the viewer to participate and become a dancer - a must see for dancers and non-dancers alike.

To see performances of the commissioned work please contact Laban Box Office (+44 (0)20 8691 8600) or The South Bank Centre (+44 (0)20 7960 4200).

