

## **evolution**

*evolution* is a biographical account.

...of learning to live in a body ...and of a body learning to dance.

*evolution* tells the story of Claire's journey into learning to dance - spirals, to ballet, to her own specific vocabulary, woven through with the story of the medical interventions that she has experienced throughout her life – a bar to turn her legs out, calipers, then to crutches. In particular it is the story of how her body has changed and developed - particularly since beginning to work in dance.

*evolution* was Cunningham's debut work created in 2007 with the support of Creative Scotland Award and the additional support of The Dance House, Glasgow. In 2009 the work was combined with Cunningham's second solo work; *mobile*, to create the double bill *ME (Mobile/Evolution)* which won a Herald Angel Award in the Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2009, and has subsequently toured widely throughout Europe and in more recent years to Latin America.

Direction: Kally Lloyd-Jones, Linda Payne, Jane Simpson

Music: Matthias Herrmann, Bach, Freed/Brown.

Lighting Design: Grahame Gardner

Music Editing: Nigel Dunn

Production Manager (Greece) Brian Gorman

Producer: Nadja Dias

## **Claire Cunningham**

Claire Cunningham is a performer and creator of multi-disciplinary performance based in Glasgow. One of the UK's most acclaimed and internationally renowned disabled artists, Cunningham's work is often rooted in the study and use/misuse of her crutches and the exploration of the potential of her own specific physicality with a conscious rejection of traditional dance techniques (developed for non-disabled bodies) or the attempt to move with the pretense of a body or aesthetic other than her own.

A self-identifying disabled artist, Cunningham's work combines multiple artforms and ranges from the intimate solo show *ME (Mobile/Evolution)* (2009), to the large ensemble work "12" made for Candoco Dance Company. In 2014 she created a new solo: *Give me a reason to live*, inspired by the work of Dutch medieval painter Jheronimus Bosch and the role of beggars/cripples in his work, and the full length show *Guide Gods*, looking at the perspectives of the major Faith traditions of towards the issue of disability. She is a former Artist-in-Residence at the Women of the World Festival at the Southbank, and of the Ulster Bank Belfast Festival at Queens.