Echo Echo Dance Theatre Company’s production **The Cove** is the result of a creative collaboration between Echo Echo Artistic Director **Steve Batts**, internationally acclaimed artist **Dan Shipsides** and musician **Christopher Norby**.

**The Cove** was created as a response to a long-term engagement with a hidden, remote inlet, on the North Donegal coast called Port-a-Doris. It evokes the very particular landscape of the Atlantic coast of Ireland... the rocky cliffs... the sea below... the big horizons... the endlessly changing weather. It resonates with the contrasting feelings of being alone in nature and sharing the experience with friends; the effort... the challenge... the pleasure... the fear and sense of mortality... the feeling of rock underneath fingertips... the cold of the water... smelling and tasting the sea air.

The setting for **The Cove** is an exceptionally beautiful installation created by **Dan Shipsides**. It has an original score by **Christopher Norby** who is currently composer in residence at the University of Arizona.

The Cove is performed by the six artists of the Echo Echo Ensemble. It was premiered in October 2012 and toured in Ireland in 2012, 2013 and 2014.

The Cove is available to tour nationally and internationally from 2016.

All Echo Echo ensemble artists are experienced teachers. A programme of classes, workshops and/or participatory projects can be linked to performances of **The Cove**.
A production of Echo Echo Dance Theatre Company
A collaboration between Steve Batts and Dan Shipsides
Concept: Steve Batts/Dan Shipsides
Design, Set Construction and Installation: Dan Shipsides
Music Composition: Christopher Norby
Music Performed by: Christopher Norby and Colin Norrby
Costume: Helen Quigley
Lighting: Robert Dahlke, Barry Davis, Steve Batts
Performed by: The artists of the Echo Echo Ensemble: Ayesha Mailey, Kelly Quigley, Janie Doherty, Zoe Ramsey, Antonina Sheina, Esther Alleyne
Direction: Steve Batts
Choreography: Steve Batts and the Echo Echo Ensemble
Duration: 1 hour

Review
http://www.irishtheatremagazine.ie/Reviews/Current/The-Cove
“... told with fable-like simplicity, the dance is a multi-layered meditation on overcoming the constant force of gravity and the fear of falling in order to achieve the joyous freedom of the peak”
Michael Seaver

Audience Feedback
“Outstanding, enthralling, dynamic...
“Beautiful combinations of levels, platforms, pace and atmosphere. Interdisciplinary mediums combined effortlessly. Brilliant!”
“Amazing... very creative... just beautiful and so clever.”
“A beautiful piece combining strength and agility together. A wonderful combination of movement, music, lighting and costume in harmony!”
“Very strong ending, restrained but really conveyed that sense of the void”.
VIDEO LINKS/WEB LINKS

VIDEO
Normally The Cove is performed with audience on four sides. This makes creating a good video representation of the piece in performance challenging. The short video and the full-length edited recording linked to below are both without an audience. A single, fixed camera recording of a live performance is available on request.

10 Minutes. No audience
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PTmzSxp2kQo&feature=youtu.be
This short video has clips of the different sections of the piece giving a general view of the way it develops and the use of the set-installation.

Full length. Edited. 60 minutes. No Audience
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HCuBDHsGyxU
A full length recording of The Cove edited from three cameras. No audience.

Vertical Nature Base
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GsvOsXgawfE
This 30 minute documentary film gives an insight into the depths of the early collaborative work between Dan Shipsides and Steve Batts which led to the creation of The Cove

Introduction to Echo Echo Dance Theatre Company (5 minutes)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=btRrVkwBoOo

WEBSITES
Dan Shipsides
http://www.danshipsides.com/

Christopher Norby
http://christophernorby.com/

Echo Echo Dance Theatre Company
http://www.echoechodance.com
Echo Echo Dance Theatre Company is based in Derry-Londonderry in Northern Ireland. The company is respected for the unique way that it integrates its production and touring work, a wide programme of participatory projects, annual festival of dance and movement and the ongoing programme of events in its home studio and theatre on Derry-Londonderry’s historic city walls. The current core ensemble consists of six dance artists led and supported by Artistic Director Steve Batts, Company Manager Ailbe Beirne, Development Worker Anna Nolan and Technical Manager Barry Davis.

Echo Echo is not a typical contemporary dance company. Central to the work of the company is the concept of “poetic movement”. This idea describes the approach that understands dance as having a similar relation to everyday movement as poetry has to everyday language. The fundamental materials and the underlying grammatical principles are the same. However, in the poetic form, there is scope for enriched depths arising from complex “harmonics” founded on playfulness with form, layering of meanings and rhythmic and tonal associations.

The analogy with poetry is important because it focuses the work on the complexities and depths of the public meaning of movement and away from a primary concern with either functional mechanics or private experience.

Dancing is done by people not bodies. The material is real movement in real time and real space. The concern is to deepen the sensitivity to the way in which movement is “read” and understood by a watcher; a dancing colleague or an audience member.
This is only a summary for general guidance. Please contact Echo Echo Dance Theatre Company for details.

The Cove is normally performed with audience on four sides of an 8m x 8m performance area. The floor needs to be level and smooth. It can be staged in several ways. It suits flexible theatre spaces where the auditorium can be adapted to form an audience in the round. In traditional theatre spaces with a large stage the piece has been set up on the stage with audience, also on stage, surrounding the set. The piece can also be performed in non-theatre venues that are appropriately equipped. The Cove can also be performed with audience on two or three sides. It is technically possible to mount the piece traditionally, with the audience on one side, but this would be done only if other formats were not possible. The Cove has also been performed with a standing audience free to move position during the show. Please contact us to discuss the best arrangement for your venue.

We are also interested to find opportunities where The Cove could be performed outside in an arena setting or in a natural site specific environment.

Lighting Requirements: The Cove needs a minimum lighting rig of approximately 40 assorted projectors. The piece is lit differently according to the particular circumstances of the venue. It does not require anything beyond what is available in a normally equipped theatre.

Sound: Two CD players. Mixer. Four speakers (normally located in corners behind audience).

Get In: Normally on the morning of an evening performance.

Travelling: 6 performers, 1 technical manager and 1 or two others depending on location and local support.
CONTACT DETAILS

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Technical Manager: Barry Davis. barry@echoechodance.com


Supported by
The National Lottery through the Arts Council of Northern Ireland

Derry City Council
Comhairle Ceathrú Dháonáire
Derry City Council

Legacy Trust UK
LOTTERY FUNDED