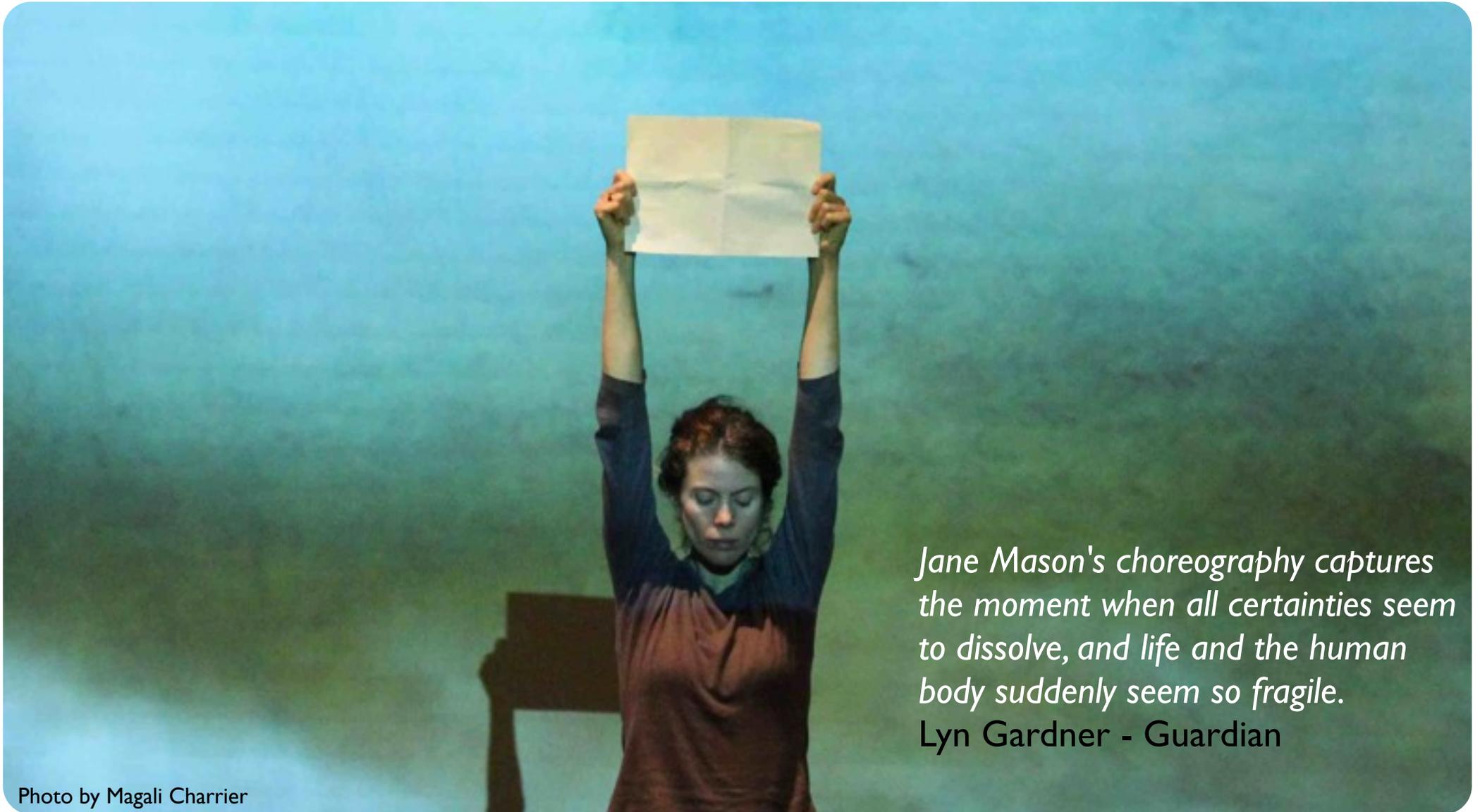


# JANE MASON

## LIFE FORCES



*Jane Mason's choreography captures the moment when all certainties seem to dissolve, and life and the human body suddenly seem so fragile.*

Lyn Gardner - Guardian

# LIFE FORCES

AVAILABLE FOR TOURING FROM 2015

Photo by Sophia Clist



With its initial trigger in some boxes of photographic slides taken by her father some years ago, *LIFE FORCES* develops a work of mining, uncovering, transposing and inviting, and opens up new landscapes of be/longing. Developed in close collaboration with a film maker, a writer-performer, a visual artist and a dramaturg, *Life Forces* offers a meditation on memory's place in the face of uncertain futures, on place and home and their resilient fragilities, on the utopian impulse to 'build' together and to let (it) go, on the arcing electricity of connection and the drift of dispersal, and on transformation and change as the core ground of being, the 'life force' that links everything and everyone.

David Williams

Over the past decade or so, in her solo and collaborative work in live performance and film, Jane Mason has explored ways in which the movements of bodies and objects can create 'image worlds' of great affective resonance and tenderness.

These dynamic architectures of memory, loss, and longing combine dance, text, song and music in patterns of images that slowly align and unfold to suggest passage ways through felt times and spaces of a rhythmmed intimacy and intensity. Usually triggered by some aspect of her own lived experience, these 'worlds' invite a quiet attention to detail, and an active slowing down into present process. Over the years, many of Jane's images have lingered with me and etched themselves into my imagination – for in their exquisite precision and mystery, paradoxically they seem to invite and activate something of the life forces within our own memories and associational fields.

David Williams

I work within dance because I am drawn to how it has the capacity to express us wholly. The work and performance of Jane Mason uses the complexity of our thought and feeling and she makes the most intriguing and telling of dance performances which I have and will always treasure.

Siobhan Davies

## TECHNICAL

LIFE FORCES is suitable for small-mid scale dance and theatre venues with a minimum performance area of 8m x 8m with a (semi) sprung floor.  
Full tech spec available on request.

Running time	1 hour 10 (approx.)
Requirements	black dance floor or clean polished wooden floor White back wall or cyclorama. Same day get in following pre rig 2 Venue crew

## FEE

Fees for LIFE FORCES depend on the number of shows and the associated educational activity. Please contact Creative Producer Tanya Steinhauser to discuss the project.

## CONTACT

Tanya Steinhauser  
Creative Producer

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## WEBSITE & VIDEO

[www.jane-mason.co.uk](http://www.jane-mason.co.uk)

[www.jane-mason.co.uk/jane-mason-video-clips.php](http://www.jane-mason.co.uk/jane-mason-video-clips.php)



Photo by Benjamin J Borley

## CREDITS

Choreographer/ Performer/ Writer	Jane Mason
Performer/ Writer	Phil Smith
Dramaturg	David Williams
Sculptor/ Designer	Sophia Clist
Filmmaker/ Animator	Magali Charrier

# RESPONSES TO JANE MASON'S WORK

## LIFE FORCES PREVIEW AT SIOBHAN DAVIES STUDIOS ON 4TH JULY 2014

It was an incredible beautiful, haunting, poignant piece that I became very absorbed in and admired for its restraint, simple poetry of movement, images and ideas, humour and fragility.  
Emily McLaughlin, Royal Court Associate

... the relationship between the two performers has something tender and compelling, and unforced.  
Nikki Tomlinson, Artsadmin

## EARLIER RESPONSES TO WORK IN PROGRESS SHOWINGS 2013-2014

The extract I saw was visually compelling...What at first appears stark and simple is deceptively complex and nuanced. I received each moment and interaction as having been carefully considered and crafted. Fabulous work.  
Pam Woods, audience member

I made some resonant and moving connections between the shapes, the images on the walls and time passing and mortality and that kind of endlessness of things circulating...  
Paula Crutchlow, artist and artistic director - Blind Ditch

There are lots of things being transmitted that are very powerful for me.. to do with vulnerability and exposure and joy and tenderness and deep sadness... a kind of father child, lover, loss, together that's constantly moving in and out like breathing.  
Sue Palmer, artist

## SINGER 2011-2012

Watching Jane Mason's 'Singer', I experienced beauty; deep, deep sadness; fierce love and the steely will to live life in all its fullness.

From the moment Jane came on stage the audience was spellbound, with their silence and focus becoming a tangible presence in the space...

The combination of media was masterful.. I loved the decisive sculpting of space... through the use of tape, electrical cables, props and lights. The way this unfolded was mesmerising, with a precision and clarity that brought depth and powerful meaning to everyday materials. By the end of the piece it felt as if she had explored and defined every corner of the space.

This was an unforgettable performance of great honesty and dignity which I will never forget.  
Alexander Davey, audience member

This piece brought into sharp and highly evocative focus a sense of memory of the past and a deep nostalgia and sense of longing for past relationships, as symbolized by the Singer sewing machine. Layered with this was a deep sense of hope and determination for the future, evoked most clearly by the sound of a small baby crying and falling to sleep.  
Grace Siregar, audience member



Jane Mason is an artist of rare and quiet originality. Life Forces, her powerfully intimate new work, is brimming with invention, secrets and play. It is a deeply affecting and masterful theatrical miniature.

Wayne McGregor CBE

Photo by Benjamin J Borley

## JANE MASON CHOREOGRAPHER/WRITER

Jane trained in theatre at Bretton Hall University in the early 90's. Since 1997 she has worked as an independent choreographer and performer creating her own work for live performance (Singer, Come on Sun, The Brow, Desert, Find This) and for film (ANDOUT, Hard Told, The Pleasure of Gliding). She danced for Random Dance (94-97) before freelancing for choreographers including; Charles Linehan, Wendy Houston, Emilyn Claid, Colin Poole, balletLorent and Deborah Hay. She choreographs in various collaborative contexts including Street Dance for Lone Twin and with directors for theatre productions including: Mr Kolpert (Royal Court), Song of Songs (Weeding Cane), Breathing Irregular (The Gate), SUSAN and DARREN, Old People, Children and Animals and Entitled for Quarantine and most recently on Adrian Howells' LIFE GUARD, a National Theatre of Scotland/Arches Co-Production.

Recent projects include: choreographing and performing in Blind Ditch's This City's Centre and collaborating with filmmaker Rachel Davies on The Tree. Jane is currently collaborating with playwright Natalie McGrath on 'We'll Meet in Moscow' in response to Russia's banning of gay pride for 100 years. She was one of the resident artists for Independent Dance's 2014 what\_now festival and has been awarded Dance4's 2014 Commission Collective commission to create 'A dance at Home'. Jane is a recipient of the 2014/15 Dance UK mentorship programme.

[www.jane-mason.co.uk](http://www.jane-mason.co.uk)

# COLLABORATORS

## PHIL SMITH Performer/Writer

Phil Smith is a performance-maker, writer and researcher. He specialises in creating performances related to walking, site-specificity, mythogeographies and counter-tourism. He is a core member of site-based arts collective Wrights & Sites. He is company dramaturg for TNT (Munich), the world's leading English language theatre touring to non-anglophone countries. His most recent work includes a performance for a visually impaired audience with Siriol Joyner, Blind Ditch's *This City's Centre* and the keynote presentation for the *Resonant Terrains* conference at HMP The Verne. His books include *On Walking* (2014), *Enchanted Things* (2014), *Counter-Tourism: The Handbook* (2012) and *Mythogeography* (2010) (all Triarchy Press). He is Associate Professor (Reader) at Plymouth University.

## DAVID WILLIAMS Dramaturg

David Williams has collaborated on projects with Lone Twin, Goat Island, Forced Entertainment, Insomniac (Pete Brooks), ExTC (Australia), and choreographers Emilyn Claid, Jane Mason (UK), Malgven Gerbes & David Brandstaetter (Germany) and others. He is dramaturg with Lone Twin, and the editor of two books about their work.

David has published texts on contemporary performance, dance and art in books as well as many journals internationally, including *Performance Research* (UK), *TDR* (USA), *Frakcija* (Croatia) and *Writings on Dance* (Australia). His most recent published writings are about animals and/in performance; artists and waste; artists and weather; place and memory.

David is currently Professor of Performance Practices at Royal Holloway, University of London.

## SOPHIA CLIST Sculptor/ Designer

Sophia is an artist and award winning theatre designer. She creates installations, sets and objects, puppetry and costume for performers and audiences to inhabit, manipulate and transform. Much of her work is participatory and interactive, collaborating with artists in dance, theatre, music, film and with the general public. Recent work includes designs for *Get Happy – Told by an Idiot*, Barbican: *Front of House* for Matthew Bourne's *Swan Lake*, *West Side Story & Sadler's Sampled – Sadler's Wells*; *In This Place – Pentabus Theatre*; *Oxygen – Dreadnought South West*; *The World At Your Feet – Barbican Theatre Plymouth*; *Phenomenal People – Fuel, WOW Festival*; *And The Horse You Rode In On – Told By An Idiot*, Barbican, Brighton Festival, Drum Theatre Plymouth; *Cinderella – Lyric Theatre Hammersmith*.

Sophia was Theatre-Rites Associate Artist 1997-2008. She co-created the award winning production *Mischief - Sadler's Wells and Dance Touring Partnership*. Sophia's installation *Stretch - Crying Out Loud*, has toured nationally and internationally as far afield as Toronto, Chicago and Perth, Australia.

## MAGALI CHARRIER Filmmaker/ Animator

Magali Charrier is a filmmaker and visual artist based in London. Her background in Fine Art, experimental animation and live performance has led her to develop a unique approach to the medium of filmmaking. She is a Communication and Animation graduate from the Royal College of Art.

Magali specialises in producing moving image content for video projections for live performances. She has created unique handcrafted interactive worlds for theatre and dance companies such as *L'Arc Electrique*, *Compagnie Jabberwock* and *State of Flux* in France and the UK.

Her interest lies with the filmed image and its physical manipulation. By merging moving drawings with live action, she puts markmaking at the centre of film-making, turning the process into a physical and felt experience.

Awards include : *12 Sketches on the Impossibility of Being Still*, Winner International Award for VideoDansa, IDN Festival, Barcelona, Winner, NAHEMI Award at Encounters Film Festival, Jan 2011, Nomination, Conran Foundation Award, London, June 2010; *Tralala*, Winner, Award for the Best Dance Film @ CineDans Festival, Amsterdam, Dec 2005, Winner, Audience Prize @ the Moving Picture Festival, Toronto, Nov 2005, Nomination, Best Animation Short @ Birds Eye View Festival, June 2005



Photo by Benjamin J Borley

Jane Mason is a uniquely sensitive and generous performer.

Deborah Hay

The humanity and integrity within Jane's work consistently astonishes me. It is essential, precious and needs to be seen.

Fiona Millward  
Co-Director, Independent Dance

## EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITY

Alongside a presentation of LIFE FORCES, Jane Mason and her highly experienced team of interdisciplinary collaborators can tailor various bespoke education packages, opportunities and specialist training for students and artists to further develop their practice. Workshops can suit all levels and could include:

- insight into Mason's interdisciplinary working process
- choreography & writing 'building moving stories'
- choreography & visual images/ slides 'working with memories'
- choreography & objects

Please contact [Creative Producer Tanya Steinhauser](#) to discuss what can be offered in more detail.

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## LIFE FORCES

has been researched and developed with funding from the National Lottery through  
Arts Council England.



LIFE FORCES is supported by

Swindon Dance  
The Place  
ICIA University of Bath  
Pavilion Dance South West  
The Point  
South East Dance  
Exeter City Council  
and Kaleider.

Photo by Sophia Clist

I've known Jane and her work for the past 18 years. And we've worked together on more than a dozen projects. Jane does something unique. She creates intimate, human, uncommon work that speaks of big ideas and poetry through the tiniest details and clear expansive images. She is an utterly distinctive and original artist - a joy to work with and to watch.

Richard Gregory - Artistic Director, Quarantine



Supported using public funding by

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