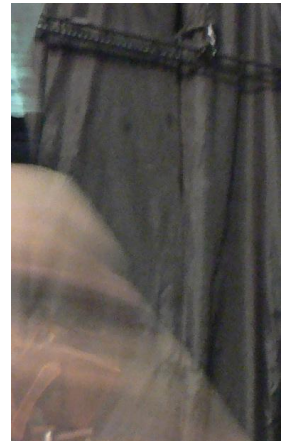
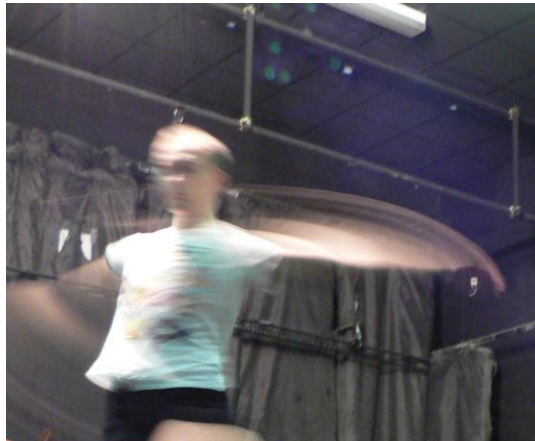
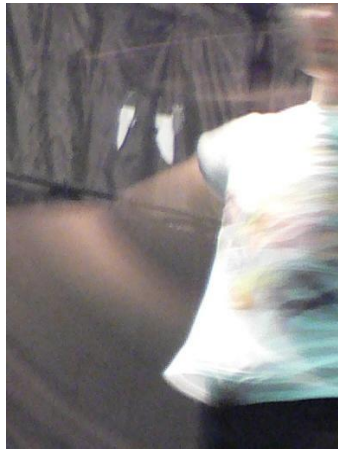


Test Run

Vincent Dance Theatre



Test Run revolves around a repetitive, looping solo performed by dancer Janusz Orlik and directed by Charlotte Vincent. Meaning 'to make considerable demands on somebody, particularly somebody's skills or abilities', the piece is a series of physical problems and musical questions to be answered live on stage by the performer. **Test Run** exposes the bodily and emotional techniques a dancer can use to save himself from total meltdown on stage. A comment on the demands we place on dancers to get things 'right', it reveals the moments where things fall apart to often be more interesting, truthful and soulful than the dance itself.

Taking place on an empty stage with two live violinists (regular Vincent Dance Theatre performer Patrycja Kujawska and Sheffield musician and composer Matt Howden) willing him on, **Test Run** starts simply and grinds to a halt. The music drains away. Silence. The dance picks up again from a recognisable beginning, progressing a little further until it falters again. And so on through a building up of music and choreography, through which we see the mental and physical mechanics of the performer trying to make something function. The audience witness this layering process, which moves towards some kind of conclusion. **Test Run** lays bare the complexity involved in making dance. The stopping moments are awkward,

considered, human, raising questions of the audience. Do you want to see more? Have you had enough yet? Do you think we have what it takes to get somewhere with this? Where the piece ends is to be discovered.

Janusz Orlik has worked with Vincent Dance Theatre since 2002, making and touring **Let the Mountains Lead You to Love, On the House, Punch Drunk and Broken Chords**. Janusz is an exquisite dancer with a natural and engaging presence on stage. Originally trained in ballet in Warsaw, he has developed a soft and sensuous movement quality. He is a confident, dynamic and intelligent performer who is regularly singled out as an outstanding presence in Vincent Dance Theatre's ensemble work.

Test Run is commissioned by Dance Umbrella 2006

Janusz Orlik

Janusz was born in Konin, Poland and trained at the Ballet School in Warsaw and then in contemporary dance at the Bruckner Conservatorium in Linz, Austria. He was a founder member of x-IDA Dance Company and met Charlotte Vincent in 2001 whilst she was making new work there. Janusz has since made four other productions choreographed by Charlotte: **Club Night** with x-IDA, **Let The Mountains Lead You To Love** (2003), **On The House** (2003), **Punch Drunk** (2004) and **Broken Chords** (2005) with VDT. Janusz's own work includes **Eine Nationalhymne**, **Mondrama** and **Exerese Monobloc**. **Test Run** is his fifth collaboration with VDT.



Patrycja Kujawska

Patrycja studied at the Academy of Music in Gdansk, graduating in violin. She was a guest performer at the City Theatre in Gdynia and sang in the Non-Cabaret of Maciej Nowak in the Baltic Sea Cultural Centre. She has performed with Dada von Bzdulow Theatre since 1994 and composed for Dada's **The Doom of the People or My Liver Has No Sense**. In 2000 she was awarded a Gdansk Theatre Scholarship to create a recital **The Ninth Lover of Katarzyna Foster**. She performed in **Papugaj**, choreographed by Tatiana Baganowa and in Avi Kaiser's **Endstation – ZASPA**. With Aurora Lubos she co-founded KLM group and created **Te Takie Te**. For VDT Patrycja made and toured **Drop Dead Gorgeous** (2001), **Let The Mountains Lead You To Love** (2003), **Punch Drunk** (2004) and **Broken Chords** (2005). **Test Run** is her fifth collaboration with the company.

