



**BODYSTORMING HITS BANGALORE**  
**A DANCE AND SCIENCE COLLABORATION**



## Concept Note

### *Bodystorming Hits Bangalore!*



Can we reflect, remember, react and talk through our bodies? Bodystorming is an initiative which explores this concept in action, giving people an experiential account of what it means to engage with the body as a medium of thought and communication. While we are quite familiar with brain storming- coming up with ideas rapidly in a group situation, we rarely think of doing the same with our bodies. What happens when we collectively throw ideas together spontaneously using our bodies?

Bodystorming – which began as a way of physically committing to and testing ideas about biological processes at the cellular level, is very soon coming down to Bangalore, as a common initiative between the city's dance and the science community. The National Centre of Biological Sciences (NCBS) supported by the Wellcome Trust is hosting the Black Label Movement, a dance company led by Professor Carl Flink and closely working with Professor David Odde (Department of Biomedical Engineering), both from the University of Minnesota, for a 10 day intensive engagement with the dance and science communities in Bangalore. The fundamental idea behind this initiative is to use simple interaction rules between dancers to simulate and understand biological processes, drawing from deeply inter-disciplinary roots.

A series of events are planned, including a Bodystorming workshop and a residency at NCBS where in 10 selected dancers will work with BLM intensely. They will be in constant touch with scientists and researchers to discuss and articulate their work. These sessions will seek to explore the ideas for bodystorming, its potentials and limitations. The program will also include public interaction sessions with lead researchers Carl Flink and David Odde and a final performance by the Black Label Movement. There are plans to continue this engagement beyond the duration of the workshop/residency series to offer dancers and scientists in Bangalore a way to keep the Bodystorming practice alive in the city.



Bangalore offers a conducive context to such a new initiative due to its strong scientific and artistic community. Increasing number of dancers in the city are engaging with dance as something more than just an aesthetic creation in time and space. This program is an opportunity for dancers who wish to work with deeper awareness of body and its role in dance. At the same time it stretches the notion of what it means to experiment in science – playing with the idea that ‘to experience, is to know’.

# Events

## **Workshop in the Community – April 25/26, 2015**

at the Lewis Foundation Studio, Ulsoor, Bangalore

Carl Flink and BLM will work with 25 selected dancers introducing the concept to dancers in Bangalore. This workshop will potentially prepare dancers to explore a continued engagement with the process of Bodystorming.

## **Intensive Residency – April 27 – May 1, 2015**

at NCBS campus, Bellary Road, Bangalore

10 dancers will be selected for this intensive engagement as part of a residential workshop at NCBS. The residency will also involve Open Lessons for the science community at NCBS as well as a Work-in-Progress presentation.

## **Public Talk and Presentation by Carl Flink and BLM – April 26, 2015**

at the National Gallery of Modern Art, Palace Road, Bangalore

This will be the first public engagement of this series and will string together excerpts from BLM's repertory. Opening with a live performance of a 2011 TED talk, the event will include:

"A Modest Proposal: Dance v. Powerpoint"

Excerpt from "HIT" (a quartet), which was directly inspired by BLM's work with David Odde, their science collaborator

Excerpts from a recent premiere work "Alleged Dances"

Excerpt from "This Bleeding Heart . . ."

## **Public Talk and Presentation by David Odde – April 29, 2015**

at NCBS campus, Bellary Road, Bangalore

Prof. David Odde from the Dept of Biomedical Engineering, University of Minnesota will address the science community about how dancers bodies and minds can help towards the deconstruction of a mathematical/computational model.

## **Final Presentation by**

## **Carl Flink, David Odde, BLM and Dancers from the residency - May 2, 2015**

venue to be announced

Talk created with David Odde and BLM, in addition to the presentation of the work created during the bodystorming rehearsals with the local dance artists and Carl's performance of 'Lost Lullabies'

## PLEASE SUPPORT THIS EFFORT

THE SCIENCE AND SOCIETY PROGRAM AT NCBS is seeking financial support for this exciting and a first-of-its-kind science and arts collaboration in the country.

Your support will make it possible to deliver the highest quality of programming for this unique inter-disciplinary project. The project will raise public awareness about artists and scientists developing new forms of creative expression and exploring ways to simulate scientific investigations through the arts.

**YOUR CONTRIBUTION WILL BE RECOGNIZED IN ALL EVENT PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS.**

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To learn more about BLM and Bodystorming, please visit: [blacklabelmovement.com/collaborations/](http://blacklabelmovement.com/collaborations/)

We are grateful for support from:

