

A man and a woman are lying down, looking up, surrounded by falling white feathers. The man is on the left, and the woman is on the right. They are both wearing dark suits over white shirts. The background is dark, and the feathers are white, creating a stark contrast.

DUST ENSEMBLE presents

They Fell To Earth

{A Flight Log}

**A NEW PHYSICAL THEATRE SHOW
AVAILABLE FOR NATIONAL AND
INTERNATIONAL TOURING FROM
SPRING 2027**

DUST ENSEMBLE

THEY FELL TO EARTH

{A FLIGHT LOG}

CONCEIVED AND DIRECTED BY MARY
STEADMAN, DEVISED AND PERFORMED BY
XAVIER DE SANTOS AND ZOV VELEZ



CAN WE INVENT NEW NARRATIVES, BECAUSE THE ONES WE HAVE INHERITED ARE LEADING TO OUR DESTRUCTION?

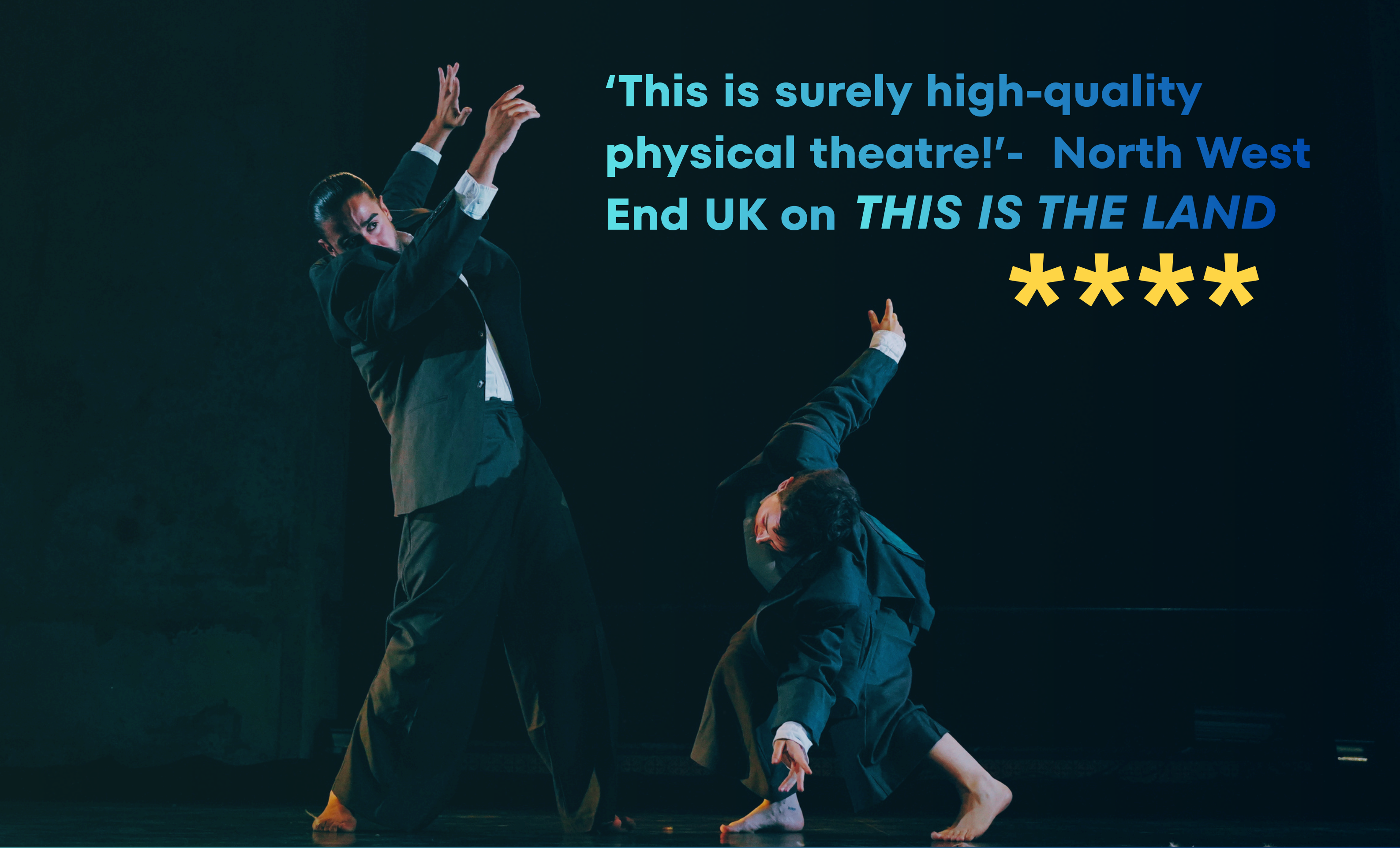
The Greeks understood a timeless truth: a powerful person's belief in their superiority often marks the beginning of their downfall.

In *They Fell to Earth {A Flight Log}*, audiences are immersed in an experience that shatters the ordinary, using visceral movement, surreal poetic imagery, slapstick humour, and live vocal looping. This transformative journey takes you from a mundane world of discarded rubbish to an illusory realm of flight.

Stunned in the aftermath of their fall, this Icarus duo yearns for redemption as they reconstruct their 'falling story'. The stage, designed with a DIY aesthetic, evolves into a garage—latent with possibilities. Through discarded items such as a plank, hook lamps, a rope..., they reclaim the memories embedded in their bodies.

Who witnessed their fall—the sky, the sea, the sun? They tap into fragmented memories, emotions, and sensations, unknowingly summoning spectres to negotiate a deal - will they soar once more, or will they come crashing down again? Can they resist the heady intoxication of hubris?





**'This is surely high-quality
physical theatre!'- North West
End UK on *THIS IS THE LAND***

ABOUT THE SHOW

THEY FELL TO EARTH {A FLIGHT LOG} is a small-scale show featuring 2 queer performers, involving experimental, highly physical theatre and dance, and live vocal-looping.

DESIGN: Inspired by a DIY aesthetic and the photographs of Robert and Shane Parke-Harrison, THEY FELL TO EARTH {A FLIGHT LOG} is slapstick and poetic in tone, referencing Breughel's painting, Buster Keaton and religious iconography. Shifting between an everyday household garage and illusory landscapes of flight.

MUSIC: Philip Jeck courtesy of Touch Records, Joy Division, Kraftwerk and Jocelyn Pook. Original singing by Helen Roberts. Documentary footage of interviews with J. Robert Oppenheimer.

LIVE VOCAL LOOPING: The live vocal looping powerfully documents the duo's journey, layering voices, sounds, and objects to vividly capture the sensation of falling. This technique not only records but also reconstructs the fragmented elements of trauma, revealing the narrative of their fall.

AUDIENCE - the show will appeal to:

Theatre audiences who are interested in known myths and mythic figures

Dance audiences who are interested in an exciting new multidisciplinary company, playing lightly with strong visceral movement that connects to human emotion.

Contemporary arts audiences who are interested in experimental, genre-defying work

Audiences interested in activism and art as resistance

Wider audiences, including those who rarely access the arts, drawn in by the playful humour, vocal-looping and the inventive use of everyday objects

Lgbtqia+ audiences that are interested in alternative representations of masculinities in performance and in 'escaping the story'

Think Laurel and
Hardy meets David
Lynch, meets
Fellini's *La Strada*



WHO IS ICARUS?



Icarus is foresaken son

Icarus is a working-class kid in a garage band

Icarus likes Coca-Cola

Icarus is The Fool

Icarus is The Inventor

Icarus is Leonardo Da Vinci

Icarus is a Goshawk

Icarus is inventive

Icarus likes Maths, especially Algebra and Equations

Icarus is barely noticed in a Breughel painting

Icarus channels the inventors of the past

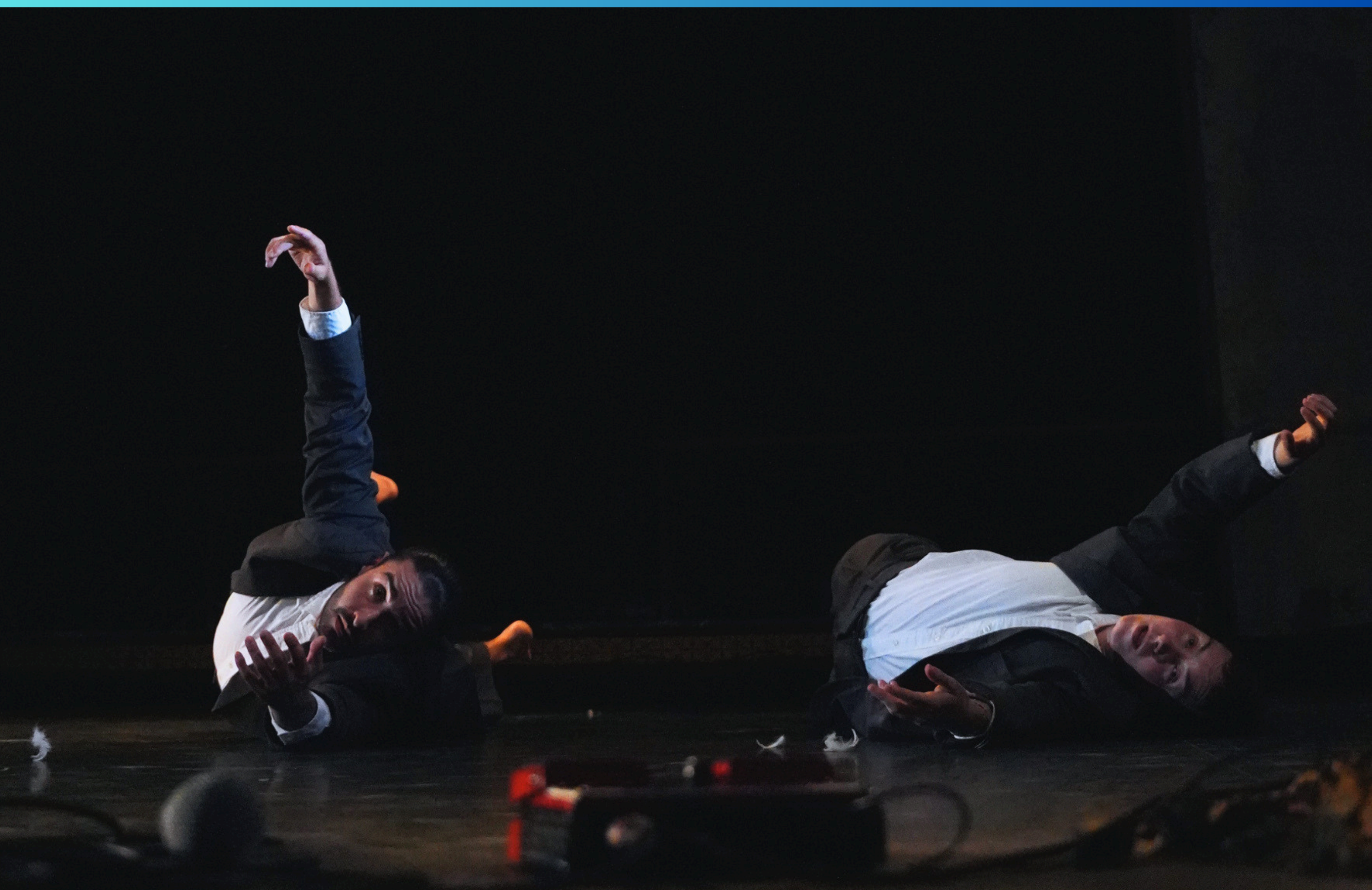
Icarus will try to reconstruct everything he can remember of the fall

Icarus will fail

Icarus will confront his demons

Icarus will bargain with the Devil

Icarus will die and resurrect over and over again...





Icarus is a lyric in a song:

"My brother lies upon the rocks; he could

be dead, he could be not, he could be you " (Bowie, The Bewlay Brothers)



RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

In 2026, Mary became an artist-in-residence at Emerge Studios, where she received support to return to her artistic practice. Collaborating with long-time associates, including devisers and performers Xavier De Santos and Zov Vélez, along with dramaturg Alice Buckley, Mary rediscovered the playfulness in her work. She aimed to capture the humour and chaos of 'playing games and going too far', ultimately fostering a dynamic relationship among the performers. The desire to take risks and be bold and inventive as a strategy for survival became central to the development of the performance and its themes.

Throughout 2026, we developed a movement language based on a spatialised dramaturgy of falling into shifting landscapes. This evolved through the use of objects and vocal looping as 'active agents' alongside the performers. Allowing the emergent process to unfold, many fragments and scenes arose, which are now being constructed within this shifting landscape composition.

In July 2026, we had the opportunity to present the first 15 minutes of our work on an Open Stage presented by IMPERMANENCE at the Mount Without in Bristol. The feedback received was overwhelmingly positive.

"It was very ingenious...and the looping of sound very effective"

"I loved your piece at the Mount Without last Thursday. More than promising. Loved the suits, the precision and layering of music/sounds, as you danced!"

"It was so exciting to get a glimpse of your new work...loved the energy, creativity, movement vocabulary, sound looping, and humour"

Watch an edit of the performance [HERE](#)

We will premiere the show on October 14th at the University Theatre in Bath. The show will be ready for touring throughout 2027



SOCIAL IMPACT

Mary's work with Dust Ensemble is dedicated to creating a social impact. This commitment is reflected in the themes of her projects, which emerge from her research into hauntology—the past continues to haunt the present. Her work brings to light the unheard, the unacknowledged, the overlooked, and the discarded; emphasising the importance of these insistent voices. This act of resistance encourages the audience to engage more deeply with the dominant structures in our society and to see how these play out in the social institutions. The wraparound activities can be tailored to the locations where we perform, connecting with local collectives and organisations for discussions and creative workshops focused on invention, and creating new myths for our future. These activities may also involve bringing artists together for round tables and Q&A discussions on these urgent topics.



Technical Information

The show is still in development, and so these details are subject to change. If you have any specific questions about the technical requirements of the work, please get in touch.

Running Time: 1 hour 10 minutes (no interval)

Minimum playing space: 6 (w) x 6m (d)

Stage: Proscenium or Thrust

Company: 3 touring (2 Performers, 1 Director).

Dressing rooms: One dressing room minimum required.

Get- in/tech: 5 hours

Get- out: 1 hour

Venue staff: The show requires 1 x multi-disciplined technician for our whole time in the venue.

Lighting: The LX plan is currently in development.

Sound: The sound design is currently in development. We will require use of the full venue PA system for the live-vocal looping on stage.

A man in a grey suit is reaching up towards a bright yellow balloon. Another man in a grey suit is crouching on the floor, looking up at the first man. The background is dark and moody.

TEAM

Conceived and Directed by Dr Mary Steadman
Devised and Performed by Xavier De Santos and Zov Vélez

Dramaturg support by Alice Buckley
Photography by Samuel De La Torre
Video Filming at Mount Without by Louis Veillon
Rehearsal Footage filming by Alice Buckley
Singing by Helen Roberts
Sound: Philip Jeck recordings courtesy of Touch Records

Special thanks to our partners at Emerge Studios, Bath Spa University

EMERGE



They Fell To Earth { A Flight Log} is in development and will be available for national and international touring from Spring 2027.

We are also looking for co-producing and co-commissioning partners to invest financially in the work.

Please get in touch for opportunities to see the work. Contact:
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www.marysteadman.co.uk