

Matthias Sperling *Now That We Know*

Lilian Baylis Studio, EC1R 4TN

Thursday 1 & Friday 2 November 2018, 8pm

Tickets: £17

Institute of Neurochoreography – First Open Congress

Symposium: Friday 2 November 2018, 2.30pm

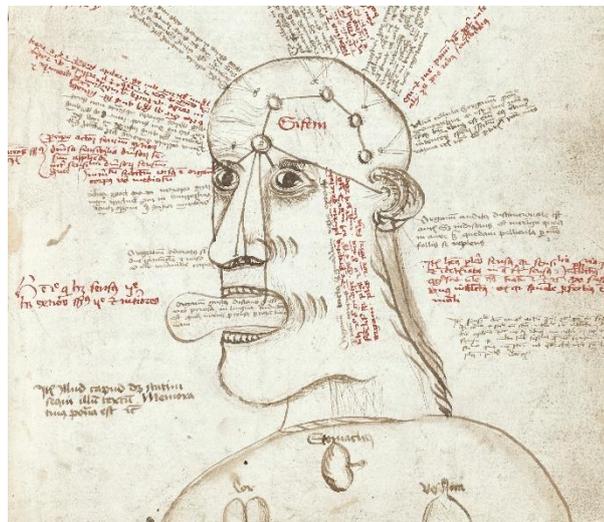
Tickets: £18 or £30 when booked with *Now That We Know*

Ticket Office: 020 7863 8000 or www.sadlerswells.com

“The performance constitutes a significant critical reflection by Matthias, when considered in context of his ongoing commitment to research around neuroscience and choreography; an unflinching and understated representation of the dark political possibilities that lie within his artistic community, and his own work.”

– Paul Hughes, Exeunt Magazine

London-based, Canadian-born choreographer and performer **Matthias Sperling** returns to **Sadler's Wells** with ***Now That We Know***, a performance lecture exploring a future relationship between mind and body, on **Thursday 1 & Friday 2 November** in the **Lilian Baylis Studio**.



Aristoteles, De anima. © Wellcome Library, London. Wellcome Images

Originally presented at Sadler's Wells in 2016, ***Now That We Know*** continues Sperling's exploration into a hypothetical future in which science has discovered precisely how our bodies give rise to our minds, and considers how dance and choreography could be expanded by this new understanding.

The show is accompanied by the **Institute of Neurochoreography – First Open Congress**, a playfully conceived symposium where artists and academics build on the themes explored in ***Now That We Know***, on **Friday 2 November at 2.30pm** in the **Lilian Baylis Studio**. Guest speakers including cognitive scientist **Guido Orgs**, artist and performance maker **Choy Ka Fai**, choreographer **Colette Sadler**, among others, envisage the first 'official' gathering for the fictional institute that Sperling imagines in the show.

Sperling's artistic research is invested in close interactions with both contemporary visual arts and the brain sciences, and seeks to explore how changes in our conceptions of what we are affect what we can do. Reflecting this back into his choreographic research, Sperling explores

how changes in the cultural understanding of the limits and capacities of a body can expand the limits and capacities of choreography.

Born in Toronto in 1974, Sperling studied with the Canadian Contemporary Dance Theatre and went on to study philosophy at university in Canada before coming to the UK to complete his dance training with Transitions Dance Company at Laban. He went on to dance with UK companies including Sadler's Wells Associate Artists and Resident Companies, **Wayne McGregor's Random Dance** and **Matthew Bourne's** Adventures In Motion Pictures, before pursuing his own choreographic work. He was a Sadler's Wells Summer University Artist from 2010-2014.

His works include performances in theatres, galleries and museums and include video works and exchanges that take place in public spaces and online. His work has been presented at leading arts venues and dance festivals including Tate Modern, Tate Britain, Southbank Centre, Royal Opera House, Dance Umbrella, Nottdance in the UK, and in 15 other countries worldwide. Sperling often collaborates with leading dance and visual artists, including **Siobhan Davies**, by whom he was most recently commissioned to create the solo *Loop Atlas*, presented in galleries including Barbican Curve, Tramway, Whitworth and Bluecoat. He has also worked with artists Pablo Bronstein, Carlos Motta and Sadler's Wells New Wave Associate Hetain Patel, and composers including Scanner and George Benjamin.

***Now That We Know* is supported by Arts Council England, Siobhan Davies Dance and Dance4. The symposium is also supported by Midlands3Cities.**

Post-show talk: Thursday 1 November

Symposium: Friday 2 November at 2.30pm

Press night: Friday 2 November at 8pm

Press Contact: Jessica Galliver on 020 7863 8126 or jessica.galliver@sadlerswells.com

Press images can be downloaded from <http://media.sadlerswells.com> – please register your details to log in.

Notes to Editors

ABOUT SADLER'S WELLS

Sadler's Wells is a world-leading creative organisation dedicated to dance in all its forms. With over three centuries of theatrical heritage and a year-round programme of performances and learning activities, it is the place where artists come together to create dance, and where people of all backgrounds come to experience it – to take part, learn, experiment and be inspired.

Audiences of over half a million come to its London theatres each year, with many more enjoying its touring productions at venues across the UK and around the world, and accessing its content through digital channels.

Sadler's Wells commissions, produces and presents more new dance work than any other theatre in the world, embracing the popular and the unknown. Since 2005, it has helped to bring over 160 new dance works to the stage, many of them involving its 16 Associate Artists, three Resident Companies and four Associate Companies – the most exciting talents working in dance today.

It also nurtures the next generation of talent through research and development, running the National Youth Dance Company and a range of programmes including Wild Card, New Wave Associates, Open Art Surgery and Summer University. Sadler's Wells' learning and engagement activities reach over 25,000 annually through programmes that take dance out into the community and invite

communities into the theatre. Projects include community productions and the renowned Company of Elders, its resident over-60s performance group, while events range from pre and post-show talks with dance artists to classes, workshops and assisted performances.

Located in Islington, north London, the current building is the sixth to have stood on site since entrepreneur Richard Sadler first established the theatre in 1683. The venue has played an illustrious role in the history of theatre ever since, with The Royal Ballet, Birmingham Royal Ballet and English National Opera having all started at Sadler's Wells.

www.sadlerswells.com

ABOUT MATTHIAS SPERLING

Matthias Sperling was an Associate Artist with Dance4 (2007-2015) and is the winner of a Bonnie Bird New Choreography Award (2008). In 2012, Sperling was part of Independent Dance's Solo Performance Commissioning Project, where he created and performed an adaptation of the choreographic score *Dynamic* by American choreographer Deborah Hay, a choreographer who has hugely influenced Sperling's practice.

More recently, he took part in the first cohort of Sadler's Wells Summer University 2010-2014, and participated in a series of talks called *We need to talk*, where new names in dance and performance invited leading creative voices to join them in conversation about the role of dance today.

Sperling presented the world premiere of *Now That We Know* in the Lilian Baylis Studio at Sadler's Wells in 2016, followed by national and international touring.

Sperling was invited by Dance4 to co-curate Nottedance Festival 2017, and was recently awarded a scholarship to pursue his artistic research through a practice-based PhD at De Montfort University, in partnership with Dance4 and Siobhan Davies Dance, supported by Midlands3Cities.

ABOUT SADLER'S WELLS SUMMER UNIVERSITY

Launched in 2010 through an open call, Sadler's Wells Summer University supports the development of professional dance artists interested in extending their practice. The first and second editions of the project ran successfully in 2010-2014 and 2015-2018. Summer University offers dance professionals the chance to take part in a four year project, meeting for two weeks each year to share work, hear talks, explore methodologies and philosophies of performance making and extend their own practice through self-study and focussed interventions. The Summer University artists for 2015-2018 are: Kwame Asafo-Adjei, Neil Callaghan, Theo Clinkard, Katye Coe, Nicola Conibere, James Cousins, Dan Daw, Antonio de la Fe, Adrienne Hart, Alexandrina Hemsley, Stefan Jovanovic, Stephanie McMann, Joe Moran, Patricia Okenwa, Katerina Paramana, Eva Recacha, Alesandra Seutin, Charlotte Spencer, Pepa Ubera and Marquez Zangs.