



# EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

# 9

# 1

## Gas Public

Please ensure that all mobile phones and electronic devices are switched off, or put on silent.

3–6 August 6.00pm  
4 August 4.00pm

CHURCH HILL THEATRE

The performance lasts  
approximately 55 minutes  
with no interval

Part of **You Are Here**

Supported by  
**Claire and Mark Urquhart**

With additional support from  
**Conseil des arts et des lettres  
du Québec**

**Canada Council for the Arts,  
Conseil des arts de Montréal**

Family workshops supported  
by the **Québec Government  
Office in London** and the **High  
Commission of Canada to the  
United Kingdom**

# 9

## Cas Public

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Dancers

**Nicholas Bellefleur-Bondu**  
**Cai Glover**  
**Daphnée Laurendeau**  
**Carson McDougall**  
**Danny Morissette**

Technicians

**Emilie Boyer-Beaulieu** (Technical director)  
**Slim Dakhlaoui**

Choreographer

**Hélène Blackburn**  
(Choreographer & Artistic Director)

There are always multiple intentions and desires floating in the mind of a creator. Weightless, they linger, waiting for a spark to bond them, to bring the creation to life. 9 is formed from two such intentions that had been with me for a long time: to work with Beethoven's music; and to examine the uniqueness of the small defects hidden behind the apparent perfection of my dancers' bodies.

These two came together a priori for 9, following a secret, told to me in confidence by Cai Glover. Cai is hard of hearing and without his hearing aid he is deaf. Few spectators realize it, but for him the impact is monumental – it affects all aspects of his senses – thus, his vision of the world. While discussing one day, he told me that he found me particularly generous and delicate with him because when he didn't hear what I said, I always took a moment to reformulate my sentence by choosing other words. To me, he did not seem to be hard of hearing. Surprised, I revealed that my efforts to reformulate my thinking were not based on a delicacy towards his situation but was instead me trying to mask my inadequate level of English, it being my second language. Surprised by my response, we laughed at the fact that our respective perceptions led us to completely different interpretations of the same situation ...

I believe we perceive the world much more than we objectify it, that is, through our senses, we imagine reality even more than we objectify it. In fact, we are constantly creating and recreating what we call reality. Our subjectivity unfolds in the world around us as much as the world creeps into us. Perception has thus become the catalyst uniting my desire to work on Beethoven's music and the singularities of my dancers. Cai's disability became the anchor uniting them.

The Edinburgh International Festival believes that creativity is for everyone – it inspires self-confidence and improves the way we communicate with one another. Working across four key pillars of activity – children, young people, communities and talent development – the International Festival aims to reach as many people as possible of all ages both locally and internationally, and is committed to ensuring the annual global celebration of culture is accessed by all through a year-round bespoke programme of projects and opportunities.

As part of our Learning and Engagement activity, we present a number of year-round creative projects that engage children who are in school years up to Primary 7 with music, theatre, opera, and visual art. Year-round, our *Art of Listening* project sees Primary 7 pupils visit The Hub for an exploration of classical music and what we can discover when we take time to listen to what composers are telling us through their music; in August, 2000 pupils attend the *Virgin Money Schools Concert* in Princes Street Gardens where the Scottish Chamber Orchestra perform the same repertoire from that evening's *Virgin Money Fireworks Concert*; and our My Festival project this year connected Primary 6 pupils across the city in a story-creation and animation initiative which resulted in participants animating stories they received from other participating pupils from across Edinburgh.

**Caroline Donald is Head of Learning and Engagement at the Edinburgh International Festival.**

**For more information about all of our Learning and Engagement activity, please visit [eif.co.uk/about/learning-and-engagement](http://eif.co.uk/about/learning-and-engagement)**

**Alongside performances of 9 the International Festival is offering two family dance workshops with dancers from Cas Public inspired by the show. The workshops take place on Monday 5 August, 11am and Tuesday 6 August, 11am at the Church Hill Studio. Tickets are £6 and BSL provision is available for the workshop on Tuesday 6 August.**