

Embargoed until 00.01am, Wednesday 1 July 2021

**Boris Charmatz  
Sea Change**

**Join Manchester International Festival on the opening night of MIF21 for an extraordinary new dance piece – a huge human flipbook sprung to life on the streets of Manchester.**

On Thursday 1 July 2021, MIF21’s opening night, French choreographer Boris Charmatz presents a daring new dance work designed for Deansgate and featuring more than 150 Greater Manchester residents among the cast. *Sea Change* is a huge human jigsaw, and it’s down to the audience to put together the pieces and complete the picture.

*Sea Change* will fill Deansgate with a chain of professional and non-professional dancers, each performing and repeating a section of the choreography on the spot. Rather than the work moving on in front of audiences, it will be up to them to ‘move on’ the work: walking or even running past waves of dancers to animate the action into their very own living flipbook.

Created especially for the Festival, *Sea Change* is a unique and captivating response to the pandemic – a joyous celebration of togetherness in a post-lockdown world, and the warmest welcome back to the city and the Festival.

Boris Charmatz said: *“I was invited to design an event that is both a large festive gathering and a work of art. So* Sea Change *works on two levels, viewers will have both the perception of a single organism, one single continuous movement made by the many, as well as each participant singularly embodying the piece”*

Manchester International Festival Artistic Director & Chief Executive, **John McGrath** says*: “MIF has always been a Festival like no other – with almost all the work being created especially for us in the months and years leading up to each Festival edition. But who would have guessed two years ago what a changed world the artists making work for our 2021 Festival would be working in?*

*From legendary Argentinian artist Marta Minujin’s decision to give the world’s most famous clock, Big Ben, a temporary new home in Manchester to Cephas Williams’ celebratory activist artwork Portrait of Black Britain, the ways in which artists have used the opportunity of the Festival to reflect on life now has been inspiring. Our programme is very different to the one we had almost-fully planned at the start of last year, but I hope it feels urgent and right.”*

*“We hope MIF21 will provide a time and place to reflect on our world now, to celebrate the differing ways we can be together, and to emphasise, despite all that has happened, the importance of our creative connections – locally and globally.”*

*Commissioned by Manchester International Festival. Produced by Manchester International Festival and [terrain].*

**ENDS**

**Boris Charmatz**  
Dancer, choreographer, and creator of experimental projects like the ephemeral school Bocal, Musée de la danse or [terrain], future institution without roof and walls, Boris Charmatz subjects dance to formal constraints which redraw the field of its possibilities. The stage is a notepad where to draft concentrated, organic concepts in order to observe the chemical reactions, intensities, and tensions engendered by their encounter. During 2009 – 2018, he is the director of Musée de la danse / Centre chorégraphique national de Rennes et de Bretagne. In January 2019, he launches [terrain], association established in the Region Hauts-de-France and in partnership with the phénix, scène nationale of Valenciennes, the Opéra de Lille and Maison de la Culture d’Amiens. Boris Charmatz is also associate artist of Charleroi danse (Belgium).

He is the author of a series of seminal works, from *À bras-le-corps* (1993), in addition to his activity as a dancer, performer and improviser (in collaboration with Médéric Collignon, Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker, and Tino Sehgal).

**LISTINGS**  
Thursday 1 July 2021  
Deansgate   
5 - 8pm, timed ticketed entry

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, IMAGES, QUOTES AND INTERVIEW REQUESTS PLEASE CONTACT:**

**Maisie Lawrence**

[**maisie@breadandbutterpr.uk**](mailto:maisie@breadandbutterpr.uk) **07786 075 979**

**Kate Hassell**

[**kate@breadandbutterpr.uk**](mailto:kate@breadandbutterpr.uk) **07921 264 564**

**Ben Chamberlain**

[**ben@breadandbutterpr.uk**](mailto:ben@breadandbutterpr.uk) **07931 723 988**

**NOTES TO EDITORS**

**About Manchester International Festival**

Manchester International Festival (MIF) is an artist-led festival of original, new work and special events reflecting the spectrum of performing arts, visual arts and popular culture. MIF21 takes place from 1 - 18 July 2021.

Staged every two years in Manchester, MIF has commissioned, produced and presented world premieres by artists including Marina Abramović, Damon Albarn, Laurie Anderson, Björk, Boris Charmatz, Jeremy Deller, Idris Elba and Kwame Kwei-Armah, Elbow, Philip Glass and Phelim McDermott, David Lynch, Wayne McGregor, Steve McQueen, Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy, Yoko Ono, Thomas Ostermeier, Maxine Peake, Punchdrunk,

Skepta, The xx, Robert Wilson and Zaha Hadid Architects.

These and other world-renowned artists from different art forms and backgrounds create dynamic, innovative and forward-thinking new work, staged in venues across Greater Manchester – from theatres, galleries and concert halls to railway depots, churches and car parks. MIF works closely with venues, festivals and other cultural organisations globally, whose financial and creative input helps to make many of these projects possible and ensures that work made at MIF goes on to be seen around the world.

MIF supports a year-round Creative Engagement programme, bringing opportunities for people from all backgrounds, ages and from all corners of the city to get involved during the Festival and year-round, as volunteers, as participants in shows, through skills development and a host of creative activities, such as Festival in My House.

MIF will also run The Factory, the new landmark cultural space currently being built in the heart of Manchester and designed by the internationally-renowned architect Ellen van Loon of Rem Koolhaas’ OMA. The Factory will commission, present and produce one of Europe’s most ambitious and adventurous year-round creative programmes, featuring bold new work from the world’s greatest artists and offering a space to create, invent and play.

Attracting up to 850,000 visitors annually, The Factory will add up to £1.1 billion to the economy over a decade and create up to 1,500 direct and indirect jobs. Its pioneering programme of skills, training and engagement will benefit local people and the next generation of creative talent from across the city, whilst apprenticeships and trainee schemes are already underway during the construction phase.

MIF’s Artistic Director and Chief Executive is John McGrath.

[mif.co.uk](https://mif.co.uk)