

## BRISTOL INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

Image: Martin O'Brien, *If It Were The Apocalypse...* © Tim Fluck

## GALLERY 3

### MARTIN O'BRIEN

# IF IT WERE THE APOCALYPSE I'D EAT YOU TO STAY ALIVE

Fri 10 Feb, 2 – 3pm

Warning: Contains adult content, parental discretion is advised.

*The taste of my flesh is salty. For that brief moment when I can taste you, you are mine and when my flesh is in your mouth, for those few seconds I am yours. If it were the apocalypse I'd eat you to stay alive. I wouldn't even think twice. I'm the predator, you're the prey. It's survival of the sickest! If it were the zombie apocalypse, only the infected could survive. You'd always be hunted unless you give yourself to them. You could only run for so long. So surrender and become a flesh eater too. Join the hoard of undead. Become sick and live! Only the sick will survive.*

Martin's work considers existence with a severe chronic illness within our contemporary situation. Recently, he has been working with figures of fear such as the zombie as a metaphor for the sick body, exploring the nature of fear surrounding bodies and their relationship to death. *If it were the Apocalypse I'd eat you to stay alive* explores this deep-rooted fear by reminding us that we all have the potential to be prey.

Martin O'Brien suffers from cystic fibrosis and makes work which is an act of resistance to illness. Martin has been

commissioned and funded by the Live Art Development Agency, Arts Council England, and the British Council. He received a PhD from the University of Reading and is a lecturer at Queen Mary, University of London. A book about his work, 'Survival of the Sickest: Writings on the Art of Martin O'Brien', will be published by LADA later this year.

### About In Between Time (IBT)

In Between Time is an international producer working with artists and audiences to create extraordinary art works and unusual experiences.

We work across dance, theatre, live art, activism, clubs and music, to tell stories that surprise, inspire or act as a catalyst for change. We work anywhere: from theatres and galleries to city streets, heritage buildings and forests.

Based in Bristol, we work across its centre and its neighbourhoods. Our commitment to the city positions it

as a global centre of culture, and our work with local talent develops the careers of world-leading artists.

We commission new work by bold artists and regularly embark on ambitious projects with regional and international partners. Throughout the year, we direct a successful touring programme, sharing unusual ideas with the world.

## IBT 2017

Since 2001, In Between Time's festivals have showcased artists, but the IBT17 Bristol International Festival is a special year for us.

On the 23rd June 2016, the UK voted to leave Europe. As the shock waves continue to reverberate, In Between Time invites you to join us, to take a stand.

Our new initiative, the International Showcase, will present 22 exceptional British live artists who reach out globally, offering a version of the UK that is rich with a diversity of voices.

We will invite over 100 producers from six continents; creating touring opportunities and profiling the UK live arts scene.

We invite you to laugh with us, cry with us, fall, stumble and fly with us, to take a stand and face the future with us.

## Support IBT

# NEW BLOODS DONOR SCHEME

**Help IBT support radical artistic experimentation. By donating now, the value of your support will be matched £ for £ through our Arts Council England Catalyst Award.**

IBT is one of the leading festivals of genre defying 21st century performance in the world and has been the birth-place of numerous artist and producer careers. Our New Bloods programme preserves the space for risk taking work; it provides much needed residencies, commissions and opportunity. It supports diversity and challenges who makes, delivers and experiences art.

It's about the people that we work with, speak to and inspire... the next generation.

**Give what you can afford** and with funding through Arts Council Catalyst Evolve we can match your gift. By adding Gift Aid **£100 from you is £250 for IBT, and an artist fee for 1 day.**

This essential work needs your support and we want to do more of it.

**DONATE: [www.inbetweentime.co.uk/support/](http://www.inbetweentime.co.uk/support/)**

## IBT RECOMMENDS...

### THE RECORD 600 HIGHWAYMEN

Bristol Old Vic

9 – 11 Feb, 7pm, 11 Feb, 2pm (SAT MAT)

Tickets: £12.50 – 25

### THE DAWN FEATURING MATTHEW HERBERT

The Station / The Island

11 Feb 2017, 9pm

Tickets: £10 – 15

**BOOKING: [INBETWEENTIME.CO.UK](http://INBETWEENTIME.CO.UK)**

#ibt17

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