

MOVEMENT A NEW

Choreographer's Artist Statement



Michael Smith

The inspiration for my piece came when I found Zbigniew Preisner's Requiem. I'm particularly drawn to the format and structure of requiems because you can always find a lyrical sense of hope within the more dominant structure of sadness.

A second piece of inspiration came when someone jokingly suggested a title for a piece of work *Death of the Phoenix*. Because a phoenix continues to be reborn from its ashes, I thought this was an interesting moment to explore, a moment of absence but inevitable substance.

I see this moment in (loosely) three sections: realization that a being is no longer with us, the nanosecond in which a being moves through the underworld, and rebirth. I also wanted to explore how a community experiences this moment in mourning and in expectation.



Empowering Minds, Building Achievement
and Reconnecting Communities