

**THIS IS POP BABY PRESENTS
CREATED BY PHILIP CONNAUGHTON & PHILLIP McMAHON**

PARTY



**"EXCEPTIONAL,
GRIPPING
AND SEDUCTIVE"**

— The Times



**"HOT, SEXY,
SCARY,
LONELY"**

— The Arts Review

SOULS

CHEMSEX • COMMUNITY • CRISIS

PROJECT ARTS CENTRE DUBLIN 25-28 JULY

SUMMERHALL EDINBURGH 2-27 AUGUST

A Note From the Creators

Chemsex in the queer community refers to using drugs to facilitate or enhance sexual activity. The term was coined by the late David Stewart, a sexual health pioneer and advocate and activist for those engaged in Chemsex.

Queers, sex and drugs is a tale as old as gay time (not all queers, we know!), but we noticed a significant and darker shift in drug and sex culture in Ireland over the past decade and we felt compelled to talk about it.

As makers we wanted to respond to the shift, to shed some light on a world that is incredibly alluring but often traumatic and dangerous. For us, losing friends became the tipping point. If men are dying in our community, we have to talk about it. We have to show up for each other.

Chemsex is a complex subject matter. For those enjoying the scene, attention can feel like judgement, and for those that are vulnerable, attention can feel like a further kick while down. Party Scene looks to acknowledge the heat and fun of a sweaty session while not shying away from the darker corners of the Chemsex world.

Dance-theatre felt like the right medium to guide us through this transgressive landscape. We can paint so much more with the body than we ever could with words. The body holds so much story and it can be perceived differently depending on who's watching and how they see the world. So when we watch dance it's telling us a lot about ourselves. Words then, when used, become urgent and necessary.

Party Scene is not about teaching any moral lessons. This is not a PSA. While we can't, and shouldn't, ignore the risks and dangers that accompany substance use, we are conscious that it's easy to contribute to the stigma around sex and drugs. This piece aims to go deeper. It's about community, understanding, and care - which means being unafraid to criticise too. This piece is of, and for, our own community, with a wider audience invited to gain insight and bear witness.

Party Scene, this production, showcases an incredible Irish design team. Behind the scenes is a dynamic array of producers, technicians and support crew. On stage you'll see an intergenerational international cast, rooted in Dublin, Ireland.

This story is global, but here's what it feels like for us, in our homeplace.

Phillip McMahon & Philip Connaughton

#PartySceneShow | thisispopbaby.com

Created By - Philip Connaughton & Phillip McMahon

Performed by - Anderson de Souza, Carl Harrison, Liam Bixby, Matthew Morris

Outside Voices - Adam Richardson, Aisling O'Mara, Ryan O'Neill, Ellen Kirk, Elton Mece, Janet Moran, TKB, Zdenek Houra

Producer & Marketing - Carla Rogers

Set & Costume Design - Ellen Kirk

Lighting Design - Sarah Jane Shiels with Suzie Cummins

Sound Design - Frank Sweeney

Dramaturg - Ruth Little

Stage Manager - Barbara Hughes

Barber Cuts - Suzanne Redmond

Production Manager - Adam Fitzsimons / Éanna Whelan

Promo Photography - Luca Truffarelli

Graphic Design - Niall Sweeney, Pony Ltd.

Chief LX - Iain Synnott

Producing & Marketing Assistant - Emily Brennan

Production Intern - Anna Kelley

THISISPOPBABY General Manager - Laura Rigney

THISISPOPBABY Directors - Jennifer Jennings & Phillip McMahon

Warm thanks to Cian and all at Project Arts Centre, Fintan Walsh and Birkbeck University, Adam Shanley and the MPower team, Emily Brennan, Amanda Davis, Graham Ryall, Ryan O'Neill, Adam Richardson, Lachie Chapman, João Florêncio, Aoife Drury, Dr Kiran Santlal, David Field, Una Mullally, Benjamin Perchet, Panti, Tim Bingham, Jenni, The Gate Theatre, Marella Boschi, Éanna Whelan, Ian Lambkin, Diarmuid Cawley, Tom and all at Summerhall, Cork Midsummer Festival.

For tour bookings and information, contact:

carla@thisispopbaby.com

About THISISPOPBABY

Since 2007, Cultural juggernauts THISISPOPBABY have ripped up the space between high art, underground culture and trash sensibilities for over 16 years, electrifying 300,000+ audience members across Ireland, the UK, Australia, The United States, Canada and beyond.

Undeniably rooted in and inspired by home town Dublin, the work lives somewhere between theatre, clubbing and art, creating epic nights out and transformative cultural moments.

They are best known for the milestones that were RIOT, Alice in Funderland, their work with drag icon Panti, WAKE, and the legendary performance art club, WERK. Recent highlights include Conversations After Sex by Mark O'Halloran, and If These Wigs Could talk by Panti Bliss.

@thisispopbaby

Philip Connaughton is a choreographer from Dublin. He trained at the Rambert School of Ballet and Contemporary Dance in London. He was artist in residence at axis:Ballymun, associate artist at Dance Ireland and is resident artist at Project Arts Centre. He formed Company Philip Connaughton in 2014. Over the last five years he made a dance trilogy around queerness, and caring for his mother living with dementia (Assisted Solo, Mamafesta Memorialising, and Love Songs). He has been a company artist of THISISPOPBABY for 10 years, most recently choreographing Party Scene and WAKE. He just premiered his latest work TROJANS at Cork Midsummer Festival.

philipconnaughton.com | @companyphilipconnaughton

Phillip McMahon is a playwright and director based in Dublin. Writing credits include Come On Home, Town Is Dead & Alice In Funderland (all at the Abbey Theatre). His most recent play Once Before I Go (Gate Theatre) has been added to Ireland's secondary school Leaving Certificate syllabus.

Directing credits include If These Wigs Could Talk by Panti Bliss, Haunted by Tara Flynn, Straight to Video and Dublin Oldschool by Emmet Kirwan and Insane Animals by Bourgeois & Maurice.

Phillip is co-director of THISISPOPBABY. He has created and directed many works within THISISPOPBABY, including international hit, RIOT, and more recently, WAKE at Dublin's National Stadium. Phillip is a former Writer In Association at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin. He is currently Artistic Associate at the Lyric Hammersmith Theatre, London, and is Research Fellow at the Birkbeck Centre for Contemporary Theatre, London. @McMahonPhilly

Liam Bixby

Liam is a native of Newburyport, Massachusetts and is a recent graduate from The Bachelor in Acting (Hons) Course at The Lir Academy (2021). He was recently seen in the role of Niall in Waiting for the Offo by Mahon McCann for Bosco Productions, as well as Roderick II in The Long Christmas Dinner at the Abbey Theatre (2021/2022) and most recently Eamon in Uroboros which premiered at the Galway Film Fleadh. Liam is ecstatic to be returning to Party Scene and to the THISISPOPBABY team for this year's tour. Instagram @liambxb

Anderson de Souza

Originally from Brazil, Anderson has over 15 years of experience in dance and theatre. Currently living in Ireland combining teaching, choreographing and performing, he works with companies and organisations such as: Dublin Youth Dance Company, CoisCéim, Company Philip Connaughton, Dance Ireland, Firkin Crane Cork, Dance Theatre of Ireland, and Schloss Solitude in Stuttgart.

Anderson has achieved high-level dance training in Ballet, Contemporary Dance, Musical Jazz, and Modern Dance. Anderson has also worked with Mariam Ribon, Karla Holden, Fiona Quilligan, THISISPOPBABY, Eimear Byrne, Emma Meehan, David Bolger, Anna Newell, RTE Culture Night Opening, Helga Deasy, Emma Martin/United Fall, Jess Rowell, and Hayley Earlam. Anderson is always looking for new ways to use dance as a tool to be of relevance, for social integration, education and inclusivity. Most recently working with people with disabilities and children with profound needs has been his new passion.

Instagram @souzaandy

Carl Harrison

Carl is an award-winning performer from Manchester having been in the 'biz' for over 15 years working in dance, theatre, film and cabaret. He has most recently directed and hosted PEEP in Punchdrunk's The Burnt City. As well as performing, Carl co-founded and hosts queer cabaret night 'Small Pleasures' which has delighted audiences in London, Brighton and Shanghai. He is also Mr. 'CAMP FIT!' - an inclusive, online gayrobics class which was voted No. 1 Lockdown workout by The Independent Newspaper. Previous Credits : Punchdrunk's Drowned Man & Sleep No More Shanghai, Aletta Collins, Thick & Tight, Encounter Productions, Brokentalkers, ThisisPopBaby, Protein Dance. Instagram @campfitwithcarl

Matthew Morris

Matthew is a mature performing artist, home grown in Australia having trained at WAAPA back in the late 80's and since then he has travelled and worked internationally for over 35 years with companies and directors on both small and large scale projects.

His preferred practice is devised theatre or collaborative creation and his body of work has so far included dance, physical theatre, puppetry, film, site specific/immersive experience and digital arts. A bit of choreography, modelling, advertising and voice overs to spice things up. Having recently relocated back to Australia, Matthew continues to connect and engage with dynamic performance communities globally, developing creative relationships in the dance, theatre and film industries. Let's work together. Instagram @mobilelifeforms



Cultúr Éireann
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SUMMERHALL fringe

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**For tour bookings and information,
contact: carla@thisispopbaby.com**



If you have been affected by any of the issues highlighted in this show or are struggling with Chemsex, helpful services include:

**www.dean.st | www.londonfriend.org.uk
man2man.ie**

MPOWER | mpower.hivireland.ie

HSE Gay Men's Health Service | 01 9212730 | gmhsclinic@hse.ie

Rialto Community Drugs Team | 01 454 0021 | graham@rcdt.ie

The Switchboard | 01 872 1055 | theswitchboard.ie

BelongTo Youth Services | 01 670 6223 | www.belongto.org

SEX PARTY FIRST AID GUIDE

One of the best resources we have to keep ourselves, our friends, and those we play with safe at sex parties – is each other. Some people use drugs for sex at parties, some don't. Regardless, learning some sex party first aid skills is useful for everyone as it can help in avoiding accidents, overdoses, assaults and death.

The MPOWER team at HIV Ireland has developed the Sex Party First Aid Guide so we can all enjoy the party – safe from harm.

