

Paul Michael Henry - C.V

Dancer // Musician // Director // Curator // Arts Researcher

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Performance work: www.paulmichaelhenry.com

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"Utterly compelling, the astonishingly talented Henry has much to say."
- Glasgow Theatre Blog

"A singular talent of grace and power" – Lorna Irvine (reviewer for the List and Exuent)

*"A rare instance of multi-disciplinary production that feels organically fused together with a unifying aesthetic...Henry attacks the challenge of moving with uncompromising intention with rigour. ****"* - The Skinny

"A disciplined, creative and unique performer to Scotland and I have not seen his like in Europe in fact." – Morag Deyes (Artistic Director, Dance Base Edinburgh)

Paul Michael Henry is a dancer, musician, writer and director based in Glasgow. Their work is informed by Butoh dance, punk rock and ritual, and is performed all over the world. Their themes are political, social & spiritual, dealing with love, neglect of the body, destruction of the environment and atrophy of the soul in consumerist society.

Michael is also Artistic Director and creator of UNFIX, an evolving and experimental festival platforming ecologically committed performance, dance, music, film and discussion. UNFIX is intended as a contribution to the waking up of the human species to our predicament in an age of climate change, ecological threat and massive inequality. It is based in Glasgow and is ongoing there and in New York City, Bologna and Tokyo.

Michael recently completed a SGSAH (AHRC) funded Doctorate at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and the University of Glasgow, working on embodiment and climate change through Japanese Butoh Dance and related practices.

Selected Art Works and Performances

- **2025-2026:** Collaborations with Butoh artist Pik Kei Wong, musicians Iain McDonald and Speculum Bunny. Ongoing research into *BELONG*, a new dance work exploring nervous system regulation in performance and daily life through Butoh and Polyvagal theory.
- **2022-2023:** *Excuse Me I am Expanding*, a new dance film shot between Japan, Ireland and Scotland exploring ecological crisis and personal identity.
- **2021-2022:** *SHRIMP DANCE* run at Dance Base, Edinburgh Fringe Festival (supported by Creative Scotland and SGSAH). Film commission *My Whole Face Sort of Fell Off* shown at Art.Earths' *Borrowed Time* symposium. 4-month residency with VID art|science in Bologna Italy working as composer for *Prometheo*, a forthcoming multimedia performance. Artistic Director for UNFIX 2021, an international festival programming in Scotland, Italy, the United States and Japan.
- **2019-2020:** *SHRIMP DANCE* performances at CCA Glasgow and Winterweft, Frankfurt. Artistic Director, UNFIX Festival, CCA Glasgow, supported by Creative Scotland, Glasgow Life and Goethe Institut. *SMITE ME NOW* (film) screened at Scottish Mental Health Arts Festival.
- **2018:** Performances: *En Chair et Son* Festival (Paris, Le Cube), supported by Creative Scotland; UNFIX Japan (Tokyo & Akita), supported by Creative Scotland; *Warmed Air* (Anatomy Rooms, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh Fringe Festival); *Palimpsest* at Anatomy (the Traverse, Edinburgh); *Mammy* (Psychedelic Cabaret, Bristol); *For Matthew* by Douglas Moreland (Glasgow International Festival). Guest Lecturer and Butoh masterclass teacher: Edinburgh College of Art.
- **2017:** Performances: UNFIX Japan (Keio University, Tokyo); *Laughter at Being Crushed* at Howling Earth (Gloucester), and toured in the United States supported by Creative Scotland (Chicago Post-Butoh Festival, Asheville Butoh Festival and UNFIX NYC New York); Dancer for music video *Caustic Wit* by Kapil Seshasayee; *SHRIMP DANCE* (Scottish Mental Health Arts Festival, Platform Glasgow). Residencies at the Work Room (Tramway Glasgow) and *Dreamtime* (Dance Base Edinburgh).
- **2016:** Performances: *Breadwoman* with Anna Homler and Steven Warwick (Glad Café, Glasgow); *Palimpsest* at Anatomy Cabaret (Summerhall, Edinburgh); *Love for the Dead Bag* at UNFIX NYC (New York) R&D for *Shrimp Dance* supported by Creative Scotland (Dance Base, Edinburgh).
- **2015:** Performances: *Awakening an Ecology of the Imagination* with acclaimed author & ecologist Alastair McIntosh (CCA Glasgow); *eX...it!* international Butoh Dance festival (Berlin). Artistic Director, UNFIX Festival (CCA Glasgow).
- **2014:** Performances: *Laughter at Being Crushed* (Glasgow, Dublin, Cork, Turin & Bologna); *Sisyphus Dreaming*, Buzzcut Festival (Glasgow). Co-Artistic Director, *Moving Bodies* Butoh touring festival (Europe).
- **2013:** Performances: *Love for the Dead Bag* (Dublin Butoh Festival); *DogManEarth* (Buzzcut Festival, Glasgow); *Shrimp Dance* (the Basement, Brighton). Residency & performances in South Africa with

Swallows Foundation.

- **2012:** Performances: Love for the Dead Bag (Stockholm Fringe Festival, Buzzcut, Glasgow); Il Teatro Della Beffa (Lecce, Italy); Arretos Kura (Bologna, Italy); Escorial (Bologna, Italy).
- **2011:** Performances: Knocking Theatre (Ostuni Street Arts Festival, Italy), Kaleidoscope festival, St. Andrews). Choreographer, What Do We Do Next (The Arches, Glasgow). Apprentice Director / Choreographer to Al Seed on Last Orders (David Hughes Dance in association with National Theatre of Scotland, Edinburgh Fringe 2011).

Academic Profile

- **2019-2023:** SGSAH funded Doctoral Researcher at Royal Conservatoire of Scotland / University of Glasgow.
- **2022-2023:** Visiting Doctoral Researcher at Hijikata Tatsumi Archive (Keio University, Tokyo, Japan).
- **2020-2021:** Member of the Embodied Research Working Group for the International Federation of Theatre Research. Artist in Residence with VID arts|science, Bologna (Italy).
- **2019:** Undergraduate tutor at Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.
- **2011-2012:** Postgraduate Diploma with Distinction in Sonic Arts at the University of Glasgow.
- **2008:** Faculty scholarship-funded Masters in Literary Studies with Creative Writing (Distinction) – University of Strathclyde.
- **2002:** First Class Honours Degree in English Studies – University of Strathclyde. Awarded the Meston Prize and Dean's Certificate of Merit. Dissertation funded by a Carnegie Award.

Other Activities

- **2009-2023:** Study of Butoh Dance and Noguchi Taiso body mechanics in Japan with Yoshito Ohno, Yukio Waguri, Kayo Mikami and Seisaku & Yuri, and research at the Hijikata Archive, Keio University; in Europe with Tadashi Endo, Yumiko Yoshioka, Atsushi Takenouchi, Masaki Iwana, Gyohei Zaitzu, Yuko Kaseki, Frank Van de Ven (Body Weather), Imre Thormann.
- **2010-2019:** Freelance sound engineer for live events and recordings at Glasgow venues including the Barrowlands, Broadcast, Stereo, the Old Hairdressers and Mono.
- **2014:** Awarded ABRSM Grade 8 in piano; freelance piano tutor.
- **2009:** Intensive study of Paratheatre with Antero Alli whose system incorporates the work of Jerzy Grotowski and Gurdjieff.