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# Dublin Dance Festival 2015 – Hail and a fond farewell

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Liz's Roche's poetic *Bastard Amber* at The Dublin Dance Festival 2015

*Luca Truffarelli*

After fifty performances of more than twenty five shows across fifteen venues, the streets of Dublin are a little quieter today. For twelve days thousands of people flocked to the city to see dancers and musicians from Ireland, Germany, Switzerland, Belgium, Canada, Spain, Cuba, Italy, Sweden, The Netherlands and Scotland in what truly has been an international [dance](#) festival. And they were not disappointed.

Alongside festival highlights, which included a flamenco superstar and an historic new Irish commission, there were other great reckonings in little rooms with playful tigers, a Korean dance craze, lone artists negotiating with everyday objects and states and the mass slaughter of defenceless cherries. The profoundly moving, deeply thought provoking and laugh out loud hilarious were all given expression in a range of performances as diverse as their respective artists. In no particular order, here are a few of this year's stand out performances

*Bastard Amber* – Liz Roche's poetic new work and the first Irish dance work commissioned for the Abbey stage

*La Edad de Oro* – Israel Galván and flamenco at its wild, passionate and irresistible best

*Tiger Tale* – Barrowland impress and delight with this perfect tale perfectly told

*Field* – Tabea Martin's moving, funny and acrobatic exploration of connection and disconnection

*Built to Last* - Meg Stuart/Damaged Goods/Müncher Kammerspiele's rich exploration of the history and making of dance

This year marked the final year for festival Artistic Director, Julia Carruthers. Carruthers contribution over the last four years should not be underestimated. During her tenure she brought many of the world's leading dance artists to perform for Irish audiences and has been a catalyst for many Irish choreographers and dancers. Her robust and diverse programming has reflected her deep passion and appreciation for dance in all its forms. Over the past four years she has made some brave and daring choices, including performances that questioned and pushed the boundaries of dance, and the festival has been made infinitely richer because of it. We wish her well in all her future endeavours and wish her successor, Benjamin Perchet, every success when he takes up the mantle for the Dublin Dance Festival in 2016.

Over the past decade The Dublin Dance Festival has become one of Dublin's premiere festivals, attracting huge audiences and delivering some of the most joyous, breath taking and diverse performances. This year was no exception. The only downside lies in having to wait a whole year before we can do it all again.

For more information go to:

<http://www.dublindancefestival.ie/>



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