

## **He Whom You Shall Love Is Absent**

**15 April 2023**

**Performance Sharing at 2pm & 7pm  
The Swiss Church, London**

By Sarah White with tyroneisaacstuart  
In collaboration with Gardner & Gardner

*He Whom You Shall Love Is Absent* is an improvised dance performance by Sarah White, with tyroneisaacstuart: exploring faith and doubt, belief and disbelief. The work exists within the space of improvised performance - and the acts of attention, listening and contemplation - as a site for sense-making of the unknown or not-yet-fully-known. The performance itself is a site for movement research and generation.

The title of the work is taken from Simone Weil's text *Gravity and Grace*, 'to put our life into that which we cannot touch in any way...It is impossible.... That is what is required.' How do we affirm the impossible and lean into that which we cannot see? How do you give yourself to that which you cannot touch, and sometimes cannot hear? How do we sense and make-sense of this mystery?

Within the context of Christian belief, faith and trust is in an incarnated and resurrected God, a God made flesh: who encountered those around him with touch and intimacy.

At the resurrection Christ's body disappeared, at the ascension it vanished a second time. Faith is in an absent body which is why it is sometimes so hard to believe because one longs to touch the body of Jesus as proof and as certainty of the existence of this God in which we believe, in the false illusion that this proof would cease all our doubts.

The work is performed with dancer/musician tyroneisaacstuart, in collaboration with artist duo Gardner & Gardner. It has been developed with funding from the Arts Council DYCP, and with support from dance artist Laura Doehler. With thanks to The Swiss Church London for supporting this project.

### **Sarah White**

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Sarah is a London-based artist working across installation, performance and writing currently studying on the MA Creative Practice: Dance Professional at Trinity Laban. Sarah is a Visual Arts Programme Curator with Morphē Arts and has worked as an artist mentor with the charity since 2012.

### **tyroneisaacstuart**

@tyroneisaacstuart

tyroneisaacstuart is an East London-born & based interdisciplinary artist. He works with dance, music and theology as materials for digital and live spaces. He recently launched his debut album, S!CK to critical acclaim.

Gardner & Gardner

[www.gardnerandgardner.co.uk](http://www.gardnerandgardner.co.uk)

Heidi and Peter Gardner are a husband-and-wife duo based in Glasgow. Their work is created through a long process of consideration, distillation and paring back, involving elements of contemplation, observation and repetition of action. With a commitment to listening as an artistic practice. Peter is an ordained minister working with visual arts communities in Glasgow.