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PRESS RELEASE

**The Ugly Ducklings' Dancing Cabaret**  
10 am & 7pm, 5 June 2009



Canadian company Cas Public perform **The Ugly Duckling's Dancing Cabaret** at Aberystwyth Arts Centre on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June at 10am and 7pm.

***The Ugly Ducklings' Dancing Cabaret***, a work for six dancers and a pianist/master of ceremonies, draws its inspiration from the German cabarets of the 1920s, and the fairy-tale world. In a series of short dance numbers reality and artifice intersect in a sunny mix of song, music, dance, theatre and video.

For this work critically acclaimed choreographer H el ene Blackburn has borrowed freely from two stories dear to her: the seminal Hans Christian Andersen tale *The Ugly Duckling*, and *Swan Lake*. The story follows the Ugly Duckling, who's rejected by others because he's different and who dreams of being a swan, and Odette, who's turned into a part-time swan against her will, hindering her chances of love with the Prince! The improbable meeting between these two characters constitutes the point of departure for the work, which addresses the relevance of some of our dreams as well as the loss of illusion.

"Children between the ages of four and eight live in a world where the real and the imagined constantly rub shoulders," says H el ene Blackburn. "They play pretend games. And at this age, they begin to let go of their illusions, give up on Santa Claus and the Tooth Fairy, in order to better confront reality, without totally turning their back on what is magical. I wanted to play with artifice, to question the power of illusions, of reality and its representation, by questioning the place children and adults leave to the magical and to imagination in their lives."

The production is suitable for children aged 4 years and over. Tickets for this production are £5 and can be booked by contacting the Arts Centre ticket office on 01970 62 32 32 or online at [www.aber.ac.uk/artscentre](http://www.aber.ac.uk/artscentre)

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Notes to editors:

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