

FORM

DANCE PROJECTS

FOSTERING DANCE CULTURE
IN WESTERN SYDNEY

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Producer – FORM Dance Projects

FORM Dance Projects is a dynamic hub for Australian contemporary dance, based in Parramatta, Western Sydney. Under its current director, Annette McLernon, FORM has grown into one of Australia's leading dance presenters.

FORM's program spans five key areas - presentation, producing, education, community engagement and audience development. Its aim is to support Australian choreographers in all stages of their career; develop artists' national and international profiles; provide valuable professional development opportunities; engage with the local community, including young people and cultural performers from Western Sydney, in meaningful ways; and connect with audiences.

In recent years FORM's program has encompassed producing genre-defying large scale productions with the aim to develop audiences for contemporary dance. The first production was *Puncture* – a multi-disciplinary creation straddling contemporary dance, physical theatre and choral music. Initiated by FORM and co-produced with *Legs On The Wall* and *VOX*, Sydney Philharmonia Choirs, this Patrick Nolan-directed piece explored the evolution of social dancing. It premiered in the 2015 Sydney Festival, playing to sold-out houses and receiving significant critical acclaim.

Buoyed by this success, FORM has commissioned choreographer Martin del Amo – widely considered to be one of the country's most exciting and innovative independent dance artists – to create *CHAMPIONS*, a new cross-sector collaboration, exploring the connections and disconnections between dance and sport, to be presented in a world premiere in Sydney Festival 2017.

Director & Choreographer - Martin del Amo

Martin is a Sydney-based choreographer and dancer. He started out as solo artist, acclaimed for his full-length solos fusing idiosyncratic movement and intimate storytelling. In recent years, Martin has also built a strong reputation as creator of group works and solos for others. His Helpmann Award-winning *Anatomy of an Afternoon*, which premiered at the Sydney Opera House in the 2012 Sydney Festival, was presented with great success at Southbank Centre in London last year. Martin's work has toured nationally in Australia and internationally to the UK, Japan and Brazil. Martin is a recipient of the 2015 Sidney Myer Creative Fellowship.

Associate Artist and Performer - Miranda Wheen

Miranda is an independent dancer based in Sydney. A highly versatile performer, she has collaborated with a number of companies and choreographers throughout Australia and internationally, including: Shaun Parker and Company, Mirramu Dance Company, Restless Dance Theatre, Martin Del Amo, Marrugeku, Stalker Theatre and the Tsai Jui-Yueh Dance Foundation in Taiwan, among others. Miranda has studied in Senegal, West Africa, with choreographer Germaine Acogny at L'Ecole des Sables, the International School for Contemporary and Traditional African Dance, and for three years was a participant in the International Indigenous Choreographic Laboratories held in Sydney, Broome and Auckland.

Dramaturg - Julie-Anne Long

Julie-Anne Long is an award winning independent dance artist based in Sydney. Since graduating from the Victorian College of Arts in the early 1980s she has performed and choreographed on a wide range of projects with companies such as *Human Veins*, *One Extra*, *Bell Shakespeare Company* and *Dance Works*. From 1991-1996 Julie-Anne was Associate Artistic Director of *One Extra Company* with Artistic Director Graeme Watson. She has worked in a variety of dance contexts as mentor, dramaturg, curator and producer including Acting Director of dance research organisation *Critical Path* (2006/2007) and Dance Curator at *Campbelltown Arts Centre* (2009/2010). In 2007, Julie - Anne was awarded an Australia Council Dance Fellowship. She has a PhD from University New South Wales and is currently Lecturer in Dance and Performance in the Department of Media, Music, Communication and Cultural Studies, Macquarie University.

Composer - Gail Priest

Gail is a Sydney-based artist with a multi-faceted practice in which sound is the key material of communication and investigation. Originally trained in theatre she has worked as a sound designer/composer for performance collaborating with artists and groups such as *version 1.0*, Martin del Amo and Jane McKernan. She has released several albums and EPs of exploratory music through her own label *Metal Bitch* as well as *Flaming Pines* and *Endgame* records. She is also a curator and writes extensively about sound and media arts, in particular for *RealTime* magazine, and was the editor of *Experimental Music: audio explorations in Australia* through UNSW Press (2009). For 2015/2016 she is the Australia Council Emerging and Experimental Arts Fellow.

Video Design - Samuel James

Samuel James has worked as a dance filmmaker and projection designer in Sydney for twenty years. He has been a collaborator on over 200 performance projects developing integrated, paradoxical languages with video projection. His background in Architecture (Univ. Adelaide) and Media Art (COFA UNSW) led to theatre through set design (1995-2003). Since then he has been a media artist with Performance Space, Urban Theatre Projects and many other theatre and dance companies. In 2013 he completed an MFA Research (COFA, UNSW) on Digital Animism. Recent projects with performance makers include 24 Frames per Second (Carriageworks with Lizzie Thomson 2015), Cut The Sky (Marrugeku 2015-16) and Hiding in Plain Sight (Narelle Benjamin 2014). Sam is the winner of an Australian Dance Award (Best Dance Film 2006).

Lighting Design - Karen Norris

Karen has more than 20 years of experience as a lighting designer for theatre, dance, music and film throughout Australia and Europe. Recent credits include Bangarra Dance Theatre, Liz Lea Dance, Narelle Benjamin, Frances Rings, Julie-Anne Long, Martin del Amo and Sue Healey. Karen teaches technical & lighting design at University of Wollongong, Design Centre Enmore and NAISDA

Set and Costume Design - Clare Britton

Clare Britton is an experienced artist with a practice that spans performance making and visual art. From 2003-2014 Clare developed work as Co-Artistic Director of acclaimed performance collective My Darling Patricia. A founding member of the company, Clare collaborated to create My Darling Patricia's unique process and body of work recognised as having made a major contribution to Australian Independent Performance. Clare holds a Masters of Studio Art from Sydney College of the Arts (SCA). In 2016, Clare is commencing a Masters of Fine Arts at SCA researching The Cooks River and artworks that move through landscapes with a view to making a work for the river. Clare is a current recipient of the Sidney Myer Creative Fellowships.

Training Consultant - Ahilan Ratnamohan

Ahilan Ratnamohan is a theatre-maker creating physical performance inspired by sport, film, language and unorthodox forms. After graduating in 2005 from Film Studies at the University of Technology Sydney, he attempted a professional football (soccer) career in the Netherlands, Sweden and Germany. Since 2007, he has been creating physical performance pieces touring in Australia, South Africa and Europe. His experience as a footballer deeply informs the style of work he creates. Currently based in Antwerp, Ahil premiered his first group work as director, *Michael Essien I want to play as you...*, in 2013. It went on to extensively tour in Europe including to London's 2014 LIFT Festival. Since 2014 Ahil has been an artist in residence at Monty Kultuurfaktorij in Antwerp. His football-dance solo *SDS 1* recently completed an Australia-wide Mobile States tour.

Performer - Sara Black

Sara is an Australian born performer, choreographer and teacher. Throughout her career, she has performed and collaborated extensively nationally and internationally with companies such as Chunky Move (Gideon Obarzanek), Lucy Guerin Inc, Punchdrunk, Protein Dance, NYID (David Pledger), Rogue, Belvoir Theater, Malthouse Theater, and as a guest artist with the Australian Ballet. She was awarded a Helpmann Award for the solo work *Glow* and has since been nominated for two Green Rooms for best dancer. Sara has worked with many independent artists including Narelle Benjamin, Erna Omarsdottir, Damien Jalet, Martin Del Amo, Stephanie Lake, Byron Perry, Carlee Mellow, Bagryana Popov and Antony Hamilton. She continues choreographing and collaborating in theatre and dance in Australia and internationally.

Performer - Kristina Chan

Over the past 16 years Kristina has performed throughout Australia, Canada, UK, USA, Asia, Israel and Europe working with; Force Majeure, Australian Dance Theatre, Garry Stewart, Chunky Move, Australian Ballet, Gideon Obarzanek, Lucy Guerin Inc, Stephanie Lake, Anton, Tanja Liedtke, Tasdance, Sydney Theatre Company, Lisa Wilson, Legs On The Wall, Narelle Benjamin, Victoria Chiu, Victoria Hunt and Martin del Amo. As well as being a collaborator on fellow artists' projects, Kristina is making her own choreographic work. She is developing *A Faint Existence*, a full length solo dance work produced by Force Majeure, and a dance installation/video work in Newcastle with Catapult Dance. Most recently, she choreographed a new work for Sydney Dance Company's *New Breed* season.

Performer - Cloé Fournier

Cloé is a French-Australian dance artist who has been working as a dancer, physical theatre performer, actor and choreographer. Recently, she has performed for companies and independent artists such as: Legs on the Wall (Sydney Festival 2015) Branch Nebula (Santiago A Mil 2014, Sydney Festival 2013), DirtyFeet, The Living Room Theatre, Pearse Projects, Shh Hybrid Arts Theory and Strings Attached. Cloé's choreography credits include *Dining [Uns]-Table* (2015, PACT), *Wished For* (2015, Rocks Village Bizarre), ...*Selves* (2012, Dance meets Music), *Erase* (2010, Sydney Fringe) and *The Window* (2013, dance-film, Eramboo Artist Environment).

Performer - Carlee Mellow

Carlee has worked in both film and live performance as a choreographer, dancer, actor and collaborator with many choreographers and directors, touring nationally and internationally. Her choreographic work has been presented in Melbourne and Berlin. Commissions include Dance Works, Natalie Cursio's *The Album Project* and Lucy Guerin Inc. Other works include her adaptation of *In The Dark*, by Deborah Hay, *Simmer* for Melbourne Fringe Festival and her solo work, *EXPECTATION* presented by Arts House. Her practice explores the body's sonic and energetic capacities to develop multiple ways of giving and receiving information beyond language.

Performer - Sophia Ndaba

Sophia graduated from the McDonald College of Performing Arts, 2006. She is also a graduate of the West Australian Academy of Performing Arts, (WAAPA) 2010 and is currently a freelance independent artist based in Sydney. Sophia's credits include *SUPERMODERN – Dance of Distraction* (2012) choreographed by Anton, choreographer of *VOICED*, WAAPA's 1st year performance season, performer in *Un Ballo In Maschera*, La Fura Dels Baus & Opera Australia (2013), *Big Dance in Small Chunks*, Dance Makers Collective (2013), *Culminate*, Force Majeure (2014), *Merge*, Melanie Lane, Dance Massive (2015) and over the past 3 years has enjoyed national and international touring of Shaun Parker and Company's productions: *Happy as Larry*, *Am I*, and *TROLLEYS*.

Performer - Rhiannon Newton

Rhiannon has worked internationally as a dancer in Europe and Israel under Jan Fabre, Anouk van Dijk, Odelya Kuperberg, Yasmeen Godder and Ruby Elderman. Since 2009 she has worked for The Chrissie Parrott Performance Company developing and performing *The Garden*, *Reign*, *Parched* and *Cicada*. Rhiannon has also worked with Australian choreographers and companies Jo Pollitt, Buzz Dance Theatre, Paea Leach, Aimee Smith, Alexandra Harrison, Company Upstairs and Jonathon Buckels. Rhiannon has recently been in residence at Movement Research in New York and the Centre for Interdisciplinary Arts in Perth developing *Assemblies For One Body / Bodied Assemblies* through the support of the Australia Council. Rhiannon is currently participating in the Eastern European and Australian Choreographic Exchange Project in Slovenia, Croatia and Brisbane.

Performer - Katina Olsen

Wakka Wakka and Kombumerri woman.

Highlights have included *Walking into the Bigness*, choreographer (Directed by Wayne Blair and Chris Mead, Malthouse Theatre), *Long Grass*, Vicki Van Hout, Sydney Festival & Dance Massive (2015), *Bone Woman...when all is gone* (bwsene !nmotion Australia), 2014 JUMP Mentorship - Philip Channells, *Big Dance in Small Chunks*, Dance Makers Collective (2013), *Cultivate*, Force Majeure (2013), *Murder*, Erth Visual & Physical Inc. (2014), *I Am Eora*, Wesley Enoch, *NO COLD FEET*, De Quincey Co, *DanceWEB* recipient ImPulsTanz (2011), *Forseen* Frances Rings and Narelle Benjamin, Bangarra Dance Theatre in *Clan*, *True Stories*, *Mathinna*, *Rites of Spring* with Australian Ballet, *Awakenings*, *Fire - A Retrospective* and *Of Earth & Sky*.

Performer - Marnie Palomares

Marnie trained at the University of Western Sydney. Since 2004 she has worked for Branch Nebula, Shaun Parker & Company, Chunky Move (Gideon Obarzanek), Antony Hamilton, Narelle Benjamin, Sydney Theatre Company, Nigel Jamison, Garry Stewart, Jason Pitt, Bernadette Walong, Dean Walsh and Liz Lea. Marnie has performed throughout Australia, New Zealand, Europe, America, London, Russia, Korea, Malaysia, Canada and the Middle East. Marnie has choreographed for Tasdance, Sydney Festival First Night (2009), Pulse8, TV commercials for Big W and Oral B, ABC 2's Giggles and Hoot, Nickelodeon Kids Choice Awards (2011), QL2 Centre for Youth Dance, Catapult Flipside, Ev & Bow, Australian College for Physical Education (ACPE) and Dance Makers Collective.

Performer – Melanie Palomares

Melanie Palomares is an Independent dancer and performer. Since 2006, she has worked and performed for Shaun Parker & Company (*Happy as Larry*, *Am I*), Branch Nebula (*Bush Sessions*), Ghenoa Gela (*Winds of Woerr*), Force Majeure & Ghenoa Gela (*Game of Seven*), Taikoz & Digital Shamans (*Origin of O*), Jason Pitt (*What remains, Oi*), Bernadette Walong-Sene (*Hiddenrevealed*), Liz Lea (*120 Birds, Inflight*), Deborah Pollard & Paschal Daantos Berry (*Within & Without*), DirtyFeet Dance Collective, Kay Armstrong (*Pulse8*), Martin del Amo and Narelle Benjamin. She is also a founding member of Dance Makers Collective (*Big Dance in Small Chunks*).

Since 2011, Melanie has worked with Shaun Parker & Company touring throughout Australia, Europe, UK and Asia. She was also Rehearsal Director for *The Yard*, touring regionally from 2011-2015.

Over the past two years, Melanie has choreographed and performed a solo for The Village Bizarre Festival *Through the Windows*, The Rocks Sydney.

2016 projects included Ghenoa Gela's *Fragments of Malungoka* which won the Keir Choreographic Award, Dance Makers Collective (*Dads*) and a choreographic residency with Kristina Chan & Marnie Palomares (*Campbelltown Arts Centre*).

Performer - Kathryn Puie

Kathryn has performed nationally and internationally with companies including, Fiches Theatre Urbain (Paris), Stalker Theatre Company, Branch Nebula, Strings Attached, Spare Parts Puppet Theatre, Legs on the Wall and BodyWeather company De'Quincey Co. Puie studied a BA (Dance) at The West Australian Academy of Performing Arts, Perth and has an extensive performance history in various styles of movement, stilt walking/acrobatics, aerials and puppetry spanning over more than a decade. The past 3 years Puie has been Legs on the Wall's resident choreographer for dance and aerial production, *PUNCTURE* created in collaboration with FORM Dance Projects and VOX Sydney Philharmonia Choir premiering at the 2015 Sydney Festival.