**ANNUAL REPORT 2024** 

DANCE PROJECTS

FOSTERING DANCE CULTURE IN WESTERN SYDNEY



# FORM DANCE PROJECTS



FORM Dance Projects respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we work and dance: The Burramattagal people and clans of the Dharug Nation. We pay our respects to Dharug Elders past, present and emerging. We celebrate the continuing culture of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and extend our respect to all First Nations people.





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Cover image: Lucky Lartey and Hoyori Maruo. Photo: Lint Gannon Inside cover image: Clayton Church and Hoyori Maruo. Photo: Lint Gannon

## **MANIFESTO**

First Nations sovereignty and more than 60,000 years of culture continually guide our steps from Western Sydney into the world.

We are ethical, playful and kind.

Our dance sits at the creative intersection where the urgency and audacity of the contemporary collides with the reflection and respect of heritage.

Reciprocity, creativity and collaboration between artists is central in all that we offer.

Our agility prepares us for novel conversations in culture, community and creative agency.

By transforming theatres, spaces and sites into creative forums of storytelling, we enable diverse audiences to evolve into vibrant communities.



## **CREATIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

## Who Are We / Where Are We Going?

In 2024, FORM Dance continued to ask—and respond to—questions that define our artform and its role in contemporary Australia: What is Australian contemporary dance? What moves us? Whose stories are we telling, and how do we celebrate the place we call home through movement?

For 25 years, FORM Dance has found its own home in Western Sydney, servicing the local sector with a diverse program of independent Australian contemporary dance, most notably through its partnership with Riverside Theatres in Parramatta and Sydney Festival.

This year, we continued to evolve alongside the region we serve. Western Sydney is transforming economically, culturally, and infrastructurally. After decades of historic inequity, we are now witnessing the benefits of long-term capital investment that is unlocking access to the region's cultural voices. communities and stories. New rail networks and a forthcoming international airport will connect residents and visitors directly to the doors of the Riverside Theatres and Powerhouse Parramatta as they emerge along the riverbanks. Western Sydney University's new Indigenous Centre of Excellence will offer the opportunity to engage with and celebrate the wisdom and traditions of the world's oldest living culture.

## 2024 Highlights & **Strategic Alignment**

Building upon our own history, our 2024 program dovetailed FORM Dance's expertise, networks and agency into many of these large-scale projects and initiatives, aligning closely with Create NSW's Creative Communities policy.

From First Nations Jannawi Dance Clan and Destructive Steps in Western Sydney to Canada's Crystal Pite in Canada and Marc Brew in the UK – our partnerships were testament to our locality, our plurality and our breadth of offer across 2024.

A major milestone in 2024 was the establishment of our new flagship flagship program, *IDEA* (Independent Dance Exchange Australia). Our global networks have opened the door to new partnerships with key venues such as the Sydney Opera House, Machine Hall, Brand X and Brent Street. As we prepare ourselves for the redevelopment of our home at Riverside Theatres in Parramatta IDEA successfully proposed a new peripatetic model of creative operations across the whole of Sydney. More than 760 independent artists engaged with IDEA'24, establishing pathways of opportunity and employment into new Australian-made work in the coming year that will develop and enthral new audiences for contemporary dance in NSW.

While the IDEA 24 budget resulted in an unplanned deficit, the Board acknowledged this as a necessary investment to transition to a new presenter/producer model, with the expectation of long-term sustainability. In response, new financial planning and management processes were introduced in February 2025 to ensure for a more robust oversight moving forward.

## **Our Strengths &** The Road Ahead

While economic pressures and shifting policy landscapes continue to challenge arts organisations across NSW, FORM Dance remains resilient. Our strength lies in our highly skilled staff, the breadth and depth of programming, our partnerships and deep-rooted connectivity. Assets that will ensure FORM Dance remains both relevant, resilient and empowered to continue shaping and celebrating the stories that define our region while extending our impact both at home and across the globe.

Finally, I offer my deep gratitude to all the artists, audiences, supporters and investors who help shape and present these stories to the world.

Paul Selwyn Norton - Creative Director

## **GOVERNANCE**

#### **BOARD EXECUTIVE**

**CHAIR MARK LILLIS VICE CHAIR DOLLA MERRILLEES TREASURER** JUSTIN BOUCHETTI (from June 2024) **TREASURER PAMELA THORNTON** (until June 2024) **SECRETARY JANE WITTER** (until June 2024)

#### **BOARD MEMBERS**

**DOLLA MERRILLEES** JANE WITTER (until June 2024) JUSTIN BOUCHETTI (from June 2024) **LEANN MEIERS** (from June 2024) MARK LILLIS MARTIN DEL AMO MARYLIN MILLER PAMELA THORNTON (until June 2024) PEPA MOLINA

#### **TEAM**

**CREATIVE DIRECTOR** PAUL SELWYN NORTON **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR** LEWIS MAJOR (from April 2024) **CREATIVE PRODUCER** NAOMI HIBBERD **IDEA PRODUCER** KATE DUNN **BLOGGER IN RESIDENCE** VICKI VAN HOUT

# **MESSAGE FROM** THE CHAIR

FORM began 2024 with an ambitious, genre-crossing performance that was informed by our local community. If These Walls Could Sing focused on the stories of people and place, celebrating the diversity of our neighbourhood and articulating aspirations for our future together. This collaboration saw FORM lead work with multiple stakeholders, including local Indigenous Elders, Jannawi Dance Clan, City of Parramatta and the NSW Government to produce a living historical tribute to mark the reopening of Parramatta Town Hall.

This set the scene for a year of significant creative practice, developed through innovative programming approaches and a recalibrated commitment to artists, audiences and the contemporary artform. Our new flagship program, IDEA (Independent Dance Exchange Australia) festival, delivered an intensive program of public performances, workshops and seminars held by local and global leadership across First Nations practice, contemporary dance and physical theatre.

The FORM team displayed impressive commitment and imagination as they created and produced this program in a matter of months, collaborating with an extensive list of partners across Greater Sydney. The true value to the dance community was captured through moving image that profiled individual experiences of the program, which was brought to life across social media. Participant feedback highlighted the gap that this program filled for our dance community, and excitement for the pipeline of creative works that were seeded for future audiences.

The continued development of creative partnerships allows FORM to support the independent dance sector with critical creative development and presentation opportunities. These partnerships increasingly contribute to our audience development strategy, enabling us to strengthen Sydney's contemporary dance audiences through engagement with our partners' supporters, while also building awareness and loyalty for FORM's creative program and Western Sydney's dynamic cultural ecology.

While FORM's impact is felt across New South Wales, the precarious nature of our arts organisations means there is always a need to help sustain and grow that work. To enable this, we continue to work closely with Creative Partnerships Australia through their philanthropy campaigns. This association raises funds to support performances from dance artists from Western Sydney and beyond. Generous financial contributions from the Packer Family Foundation and Lucas Newland (Inaugural Ambassador for IDEA24) work to ensure that both emerging and established creatives continue to be supported. I want to thank our existing supporters - particularly Parramatta's Riverside Theatres - and encourage others to come on board, so we can continue to contribute to Western Sydney's dynamic cultural landscape.

Chair - Mark Lillis





# **ARTISTIC PROGRAM**

FORM Dance Projects works with Australia's leading choreographers and dancers and a diverse range of partners, from Riverside Theatres and Sydney Festival to independent producers and companies, arts organisations, education institutes, council and community service providers to support dance as an art form.

FORM Presents a curated, signature program of dance works presented by FORM and Riverside Theatres. The program features some of Australia's most innovative and exciting choreographers and performers. The season provides enormous opportunity for early-career to established independent choreographers to present their works with support from FORM Dance Projects in venue hire, technical production, administration, marketing and publicity.

FORM ventures into commissioning and producing large scale, genre-defying productions. These commissions support artform development, enhance professional development and the dance practices of early career to established dance artists. Through our entire artistic program FORM fosters career pathways, provides employment, and promotes the "Made in Parramatta" reputation and brand.

Image: Clayton Church and Hoyori Maruo.

Photo: Lint Gannon

## IF THESE WALLS COULD SING

# Stories of Parramatta shared through immersive theatre and song.

From eel, yam and shepherd's pie, to dumplings, samosa, sfeehas and the nori roll – how time and tastes have flown through Parramatta. Through the eyes of the Rosella and the tastebuds of the Ibis, celebrate the history and culture of Parramatta as told through song, dance and feasting.

Audiences met the charismatic Flying Pieman and were transported to the time of the Inspector of Nuisances, Haydn's Oratorio and the banning of Rock n Roll in Parramatta Town Hall. This was an evening of historical highlights in Parramatta Town Hall as it opened its doors once again to its rich and diverse community. Local luminary

Christine Johnston and her band magically weaved stories of place and people into a compelling song-cycle, where audiences could hear, see and taste the beauty and diversity of who we were, who we are and what we aspire to become as a community in Parramatta, Western Sydney.

I was stunned by the incredible staging of the mini-musical. The music, songs, images and costumes of the characters of this musical created an incredible atmosphere filled with magic and history. We moved into the past, where we met the legendary flying Pie man and other interesting personalities. Incredibly talented people worked on this fantastic project that gave me goosebumps and a huge desire to go back and enjoy it all over again.

Audience Member

Loved the experience, the Indigenous dance, the story telling (including amazing bird calls), the dance, music and spontaneous singing all made for a meaningful, immersive delightful night... hope it can be shown again!

Audience Member

#### LOST STORIES. FOUND.

A bite-sized look into Parramatta's unique history and legendary characters through a self-guided audio experience – as told by the Flying Pieman.

Audiences experienced story-telling of place and community at its most up close through a personal device. The charismatic figure of William Francis King, the infamous Flying Pieman, fed audiences the stories of Parramatta's past in an immersive sculptural installation inspired by the landscape of the Parramatta River in the newly refurbished Parramatta Town Hall.

#### **SONGS FROM THE SKY**

Stories of the River shared through immersive theatre and song.

Wentworth Point community experienced an immersive celebration of the history and culture of the Parramatta River told through song, dance and feasting. Set in a sculptural installation inspired by the river landscape, with locally made dumplings served by the charismatic Flying Pieman, live music, dance and theatre performance transformed the twilight sky of Wentworth Point. The performance began with a special First Nations performance and Welcome by Jannawi Dance Clan.

FORM Dance Projects embraces adventurous projects with a big heart and eyes wide open, allowing me the privilege of working with an inspiring creative team and a vibrant diverse community rich in history with an exciting projected future. Thank you for your insatiable drive and big thinking!

Christine Johnston Independent Artist





#### PARRAMATTA COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS

As part of FORM's Parramatta-wide wrap-around program of events supporting If These Walls Could Sing, FORM presented a series of free community workshops which ran from 29 January to 7 February 2024.

#### Darug Cultural Weaving Workshop facilitated by Jannawi Dance Clan

This workshop delved into First Peoples' storytelling through an immersive cultural weaving event. Participants were invited to engage in a rich cultural exchange about the meaning of community through weaving traditional pieces. Jannawi Dance Clan led this exchange, offering their profound knowledge and fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of the world's oldest living Indigenous culture.

#### Brazilian Drumming Workshop facilitated by Parramatta **Drumming Group**

Participants learned and played beats from the streets of Rio including Brazilian regional styles such as funk, sambareggae, maculele, Afro and Afoxe. Everyone was encouraged to come along, have some fun and make some noise.

#### Dumpling Making Workshop facilitated by Sydney Olympic Peninsula Multicultural Community Association

Participants learned how to make traditional Chinese dumplings whilst connecting with culture and the community of Wentworth Point.

#### Indian Dance Workshop facilitated by Agal Dance Company

Participants learned the basics of Bharathanatyam (South Indian Classical Dance) in this inclusive workshop. Participants used their hands to create gestures for story telling along with footwork from the Bharathnatyam dance style.

These initiatives were proudly supported by the NSW Government through the Culture Up Late Western Sydney Program.

#### PRODUCED AND PRESENTED BY

FORM DANCE PROJECTS

#### LEAD ARTIST

CHRISTINE JOHNSTON AS MADAME LARK

## CONCEPT, COMPOSERS, MUSICIANS, PERFORMERS

CHRISTINE JOHNSTON WITH PETER NELSON & TRENT ARKLEYSMITH

#### COLLABORATIVE CREATIVE ARTIST, PERFORMER, CHOREOGRAPHER, VOCAL ARTIST ANTON INDIGENOUS DANCE COMPANY

JANNAWI DANCE CLAN

#### SET AND COSTUME DESIGNER

MELANIE LIERTZ

**LIGHTING DESIGNER PETER RUBIE** 

#### PRODUCTION AND TECHNICAL MANAGER

ALEJANDRO ROLANDI

LOST STORIES, FOUND, AUDIO INSTALLATION OPERATED COIN

LOST STORIES. FOUND. SOUND DESIGNER PETER KENNARD



# IDEA - Independent Dance Exchange Australia

FORM Dance Projects launched its new annual Dance Festival IDEA - Independent Dance Exchange Australia. Over four weeks across the Greater Sydney area, IDEA'24 featured an intensive program of public performances, workshops and seminars held by local and global leadership across First Nations practice, contemporary dance and physical theatre.

With IDEA, FORM Dance has developed a new city-wide creative initiative which aims to effectively refresh the pipeline of opportunity and creative productivity within the Sydney dance sector and support recent graduates and midcareer artists.

IDEA is set to be an annual hosting of master workshop programs, the development and presentation of new Australian-made work, international programming, and local/regional/international touring through FORM's organisation, venue and festival partner networks including Critical Path, Riverside Theatres, Brand X, Q-Topia and Sydney Opera House.

IDEA'24 offered participating artists a suite of diverse development opportunities, from two-week intensives to five-day deep dives. The weekly Saturday Watercooler discussions saw creative leaders gather to unpack processes in a shared forum with the sector colleagues, audiences and communities.

Hosting these workshops were some of the world's most vital and in-demand choreographic voices, Crystal Pite (CA), Maxine Dovle (UK) with Gabrielle Nankivell (AU) and Hofesh Shechter (UK). Rounding off this cohort was First Nations choreographer Vicki Van Hout (AU) and Marc Brew (AU/UK) championing a new leading voice with disability.

It was really nice to have such a long festival style workshop series in Sydney, it's felt like something that has been missing from the NSW landscape, it's a great opportunity to build more of a sense of connection between the established freelancers and new graduates etc. for me a particular highlight was working in machine hall I thought this was a unique opportunity to engage with a site specific practice on a scale that is not normally accessible outside of large budget productions.

IDEA'24 Participant

I genuinely had the best time throughout the 2 weeks! It gave me exposure to contemporary dance, physical theatre and improvisation that just isn't offered in Australia.

#### IDEA'24 Participant

The cohort of artists were fabulous - diverse in culture, age, practice, geography and experience. They were all respectful of each other's diversity - and 100% willing to collaborate with each other. The feeling in the room could not have been better. It was an intensive week of experimentation, learning, taking risks and play.

#### IDEA'24 facilitator

Everything that a 5 day intensive should be - challenging, productive, with a good sense of overwhelm. There was a great feeling of collective energy, enquiry and camaraderie hopefully sparking a new phase of practice for all.

IDFA'24 facilitator



Images: Clayton Church, Marc Brew, Hoyori Maruo, Surekha Krishnan. Photos: PSN

#### **WORKSHOPS**

#### **DOYLE + NANKIVELL -**PHYSICAL LANGUAGES OF STORYTELLING

Maxine Doyle & Gabrielle Nankivell - 11 Days, Sep 2-14

In this workshop Gabrielle and Maxine shared their artistic dialogue through extended improvisation scores and creative practice. There was an opportunity for site-based work at Machine Hall which allowed the participants to develop ideas and approaches for articulate movement language and site-sympathetic performance.

Participants: 34

#### VICKI VAN HOUT -INDIGENOUS CONTEMPORARY DANCE MAKING

6 Days, Aug 26 - 31

Vicki Van Hout led a six-day workshop, designed to give the participants insight into the activities and subjectivities that Indigenous dance makers engage with when creating contemporary choreographies. Vicki's workshop offered an interdisciplinary approach incorporating storytelling, song cycling and craft making skills. Drawing upon her knowledge of kinship practices, which include concepts of reciprocity, of mapping and tracking country, she illustrated how these become tools for generating new movement vocabularies.

Participants: 7

#### MARC BREW - OUR BODIES / OUR STORIES

8 Days, Aug 27-Sep 06

Marc Brew is one of the UK's leading, pioneering, multidisciplinary and inclusive theatre makers. He led an 8-day workshop process with selected artists Ashleigh Veitch, Chloe Morrison-Greet, Em Yali, Renata Commisso, Ryuichi Fujimura, Thomas Evans, Zakaria Ghomri and Zoe Morgan. Marc taught movement sequences and facilitated creative tasks to build choreography.

Participants: 8

#### **HOFESH SHECHTER - MOVEMENT FUNDAMENTALS**

w/Sam Coren - 5 Days, Aug 26-30 / Sep 02-06

Sam Coren, former Hofesh Shechter Company dancer and restaging assistant led two five-day workshops delving into Hofesh Shechter's movement fundamentals - Groove & Rhythm, Totality, Energy & Emotion, Floorwork. Sam explored repertoire from across Hofesh's early works, sharing creative tasks and his imagery - a fascinating insight into Hofesh's creative process.

Participants: 34

#### **CRYSTAL PITE REPERTOIRE &** KIDD PIVOT IMPROVISATION TOOLS

w/Jiří Pokorný - 5 Days, Aug 26-30 + Sep 02-06

Crystal Pite is one of the most innovative and influential choreographic voices of the 21st Century. She is known for works that courageously address themes such as trauma, addiction, conflict, consciousness and mortality; her bold and original vision has earned her international acclaim and inspired an entire generation of dance artists. Former Kidd Pivot dancer Jiří Pokorný led two five-day workshops sharing Crystal Pite's phenomenal repertoire and the Kidd Pivot Improvisation Tools that underpin and support her creative practice.

Participants: 42

#### **RAGHAV HANDA - CREATING WORLDS/ CONTEMPORARY MOVEMENT – KATHAK PRINCIPLES**

5 Days, Sep 2 - 6

Raghav led a five-day workshop introducing the participants to his process and techniques he utilises to create worlds rich with symbolism, surrealist imagery, and sound. Through task work, the participants were invited to draw upon their familial and contemporary narratives to generate material (movement and text) and seamlessly interweave into an abstract setting. His highly dynamic choreographic style is inspired by his training and the rhythmic patterns of classical Indian kathak dance.

Participants: 4

#### MARTIN DEL AMO - TALKING DANCE

5 Days, Sep 2 - 6

Drawing on a multi-layered methodology Martin has developed over more than 20 years, Talking Dance took an investigative approach to dance making and provided choreographic tools and strategies for participants to generate, structure and analyse solo performance material. This workshop was aimed at dancers and choreographers interested in the integration of spoken text into choreographic structures.

Participants: 4

#### SUE HEALEY - DANCE and the MOVING IMAGE

w/ cinematographer RICHARD CORFIELD

5 Days, Sep 9 – 13

Sue Healey led a 5-day workshop for participants interested in developing a screendance practice – experimenting with and challenging the form of dance for the screen. This workshop honed visual perception and kinaesthetic awareness alongside choreographic and film-making skills. Each artist devised and created a short dance film over the week, whilst assisting and performing with other collaborators. Participants used smartphones/their own cameras, as well as collaborated with professional cinematographer Richard Corfield. Editing was explored on the final day and developments of the films have continued beyond this workshop.

Participants: 8

#### SAM COREN - TOOLS TO BUILD WORLDS

10 Days, Sep 2-13

Sam's practice mixes theatrical ideas from mask, mime and clowning with his dance experience to create works that are physically complex, darkly humoured and ever so occasionally insightful. This two-week creative workshop/development comprised of teaching tools to control the participants narrative theatrically and create innovative, complex textures in movement material. Using these tools, the participants brought an idea to life in a short creation, culminating in a sharing.

Participants: 15

#### CREATIVE DEVELOPMENTS

#### **CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT 1: SPEAK PERCUSSION**

23-31 AUGUST 2024

Speak Percussion takes percussive art to its physical and conceptual extremes. For their creative development, Speak Percussion developed their work AirSticks for Dancers. AirSticks convert movement into sound. In the form of small wireless devices that can be worn or attached to objects, the instrument celebrates the different ways we move and feel sound. Three performers Tra Mi Dinh, Azzam Mohamed and Oliver House created new short dance works in collaboration with composer and instrument inventor Alon Ilsar, and choreographer Martin del Amo.

#### **CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT 2: ALEX CRAIG**

26 AUGUST - 8 SEPTEMBER 2024

During their residency at the Centre for Creativity, Sydney Opera House, Alex Craig explored the development of collaborative embodied systems which draws on knowledge and practice informed by Blindness / their Blind perspective in the evolution of equitable creative exchange with sighted artists. Alex worked with long-term collaborator and access facilitator Imogen Yang; alongside dancers Gabriela Green Olea, Annalouise Paul, Sile Ellis & Emily Yali.

#### **CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT 3: AZZAM MOHAMED & LEE-ANNE LITTON**

9-13 SEPTEMBER 2024

Litton, an Australian contact improvisation expert practitioner, and Mohamed, a street dance leader, explored the history of their respective practices and potential for innovation in their cross-fertilisation. The circle arena links them together, yet codes, cultures, and vocabularies vastly differ. The pair acknowledges the pioneer role of their mentors (Alejandro Rolandi and Nick Power) whilst diving deep in their comparative experimentations. Members of their respective communities joined them in their findings in an open sharing on 13 September 2024.

#### **IDEA NOW**

7 SEPTEMBER, 2024 7PM RIVERSIDE THEATRES PARRAMATTA

IDEA NOW was an inaugural showcase of new Australian independent dance as part of the city-wide IDEA'24 festival.

This special event took place for one night only on Riverside's Lennox stage, showcasing thrilling independent dance as a central feature of the IDEA'24 festival. The evening featured world premieres, offering an engaging mix of dance genres, cultures, and styles.IDEA NOW shared new and innovative choreography with local audiences and national and international partners. This platform promoted exposure, creating connections and opportunities for future collaboration between artists, venues, programmers, and investors.

#### **FEATURED**

**BIRD** by Kirby Casilli **OVERTURE** by Tegan Jeffrey-Rushton IF I'M BECOMING HUMAN. THEN WHAT DOES THAT MAKE YOU? by Tom Evans **DREAMSTATES: COSMOS.** by Callum Mooney **TINY PASSENGER** by Amber McCartney **INFINITY BIAS** by WE ARE HERE Company

#### **IDEA WATERCOOLER**

The Watercooler events brought together local, national and international artists, arts workers and creatives together in fostering conversation, collaboration and exchange. Leading artists from across the IDEA'24 program held a fire-side chat, moderated by Martin del Amo, sharing current creative practices, challenges and discoveries.

#### WATERCOOLER #1

31 AUGUST, 2024 6PM DRILL HALL, CRITICAL PATH

w/ Marc Brew, Vicki Van Hout, Jiří Pokorný (Crystal Pite), Allon Ilsar (Speak Percussion) and Imogen Yang

#### WATERCOOLER #2

7 SEPTEMBER, 2024 8.15PM RIVERSIDE THEATRES PARRAMATTA

w/ Maxine Doyle, Gabrielle Nankivell, Sam Coren (Hofesh Schechter), Raghav Handa, Martin del Amo

#### **WARM-UP CLASSES**

FORM provided free warm-up sessions with Jess Hesketh for IDEA participants ensuring dancers were warm and ready to jump into their workshops.

Sep 02-06 / 9:00-10:00 / Brand X City of Sydney Studios Sep 9-14 / 9:30-10:30 / Drill Hall, Critical Path

IDEA 2024 was made possible by the generous support of Create NSW, Lucas Newland, British Council, AFTRS, Sydney Opera House, Riverside Theatres, Critical Path, Brand X, Qtopia, Hofesh Shechter Company, Company Marc Brew, Crystal Pite and Kidd Pivot.

## **REBLOOM**

discovery and healing stemming from Australia, is specifically designed to young women grappling with mental create a safe space for healing and growth

Westfield Chatswood

**BLACK DOG INSTITUTE ARTS-BASED KNOWLEDGE** TRANSLATION LEAD PROFESSOR KATHERINE BOYDELL **EVALUATION MANAGER** 

ZEBRAR | **CREATIVE TECHNOLOGY STUDIO CO-FOUNDER & CEO SIMONE CLOW CO-FOUNDER & VFX SUPERVISOR** ANDREW LODGE **CREATIVE DIRECTOR RICHARD SWAN SENIOR TECHNICAL ARTIST** SAM ELMOHAMED **LEAD SOFTWARE DEVELOPER** JOHN DOOLAN

**UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY SYDNEY UBER CURATOR** DR. BARBARA DORAN

**FORM DANCE PROJECTS** DANCER/CHOREOGRAPHER PRODUCER/MOVEMENT DIRECTION





## **FORM PRESENTS 2024**

**FORM DANCE PROJECTS AND RIVERSIDE THEATRES PRESENT** 

#### **NONE OF US**

**DUTI Dance Company, Mathew Mizyed** 9 – 11 May

Questioning the concept of ownership, identity and connection to place.

Choreographed by DUTI Dance Company director Mathew Mizyed, the work showcased some of Sydney's leading versatile dance artists, Rachell Dade, Andi Huynh and Chantelle Landayan. The work is deeply connected to the idea of ownership with place, people and time.

The choreography is a blend of soft and strong, fluid and fixed, constant and still and is fostered organically through Mathew's patient creative process. None of Us is created with original music by Tony Buchen.

"My father was born in Jaffa, Palestine in 1942. I visited Jaffa and the Wadi Rum desert in 2017. This visit to my father's homeland made me feel connected to who I am. While it was my first time there, a sense of familiarity engulfed my being. Wadi Rum confronted me in a physical and spiritual way. The expansiveness of this desert land made me question who had walked here before. There were people here before us and 'None of Us' were the first. This inspired the name, movement and concept of this work."

#### Mathew Mizyed

Director and Choreographer of None Of Us.

**CHOREOGRAPHER** MATHEW MIZYED PERFORMERS RACHELL DADE, ANDI HUYNH. CHANTELLE LANDAYAN

LIGHTING DESIGNER/STAGE MANAGER FRANKIE CLARKE

**MUSIC** TONY BUCHEN

**COSTUME DESIGNER** GARY BIGENI

**LOCATION PARRAMATTA RIVERSIDE THEATRES.** 

LENNOX THEATRE



The kind of art that changes peoples awareness; drawn in beautiful forms without argument. Overall, the kind of transformative experience that art, when it's honest and from the heart, makes us better people. I think 'None of Us' touched all of us.

Audience Member

Captivating, so in tense with emotions, just nothing I've seen before

Audience Member

Movement, light, sound and texture come together in this story in dance told by Mizyed and his creative performers and collaborators.

**Carol Wimmer** Stage Whispers

#### **LEARN THE REPERTOIRE SEE THE SHOW**

FOR STUDENTS YEARS 9 - 12 Friday 10 May 2024

Learn the Repertoire, See the Show offered dance students a unique opportunity to learn repertoire from the show followed by a matinee performance and a postshow Q&A.

Led by choreographer Mathew Mizyed, the workshop began with a warm up, followed by learning a section of choreography performed in None Of Us and finished with the opportunity to perform the choreography in small groups.

**PARTICIPANTS** 23



#### FORM DANCE PROJECTS AND **RIVERSIDE THEATRES PRESENT**

**sixbythree** – a festival of six dance works by three choreographers over three events on 5-6 July 2024.

#### **COWBOY**

#### Michael Smith and The Farm

Cowboy is an interactive, solo contemporary-dance work that unpacks one's ability to have a complete, genuine and meaningful experience as an imagined self. An original sound-score composed by Ben Ely transforms our surroundings into that of a Western Film.

Cowboy utilised its performance space to create both intimate settings and vast, open landscapes with a free-roaming audience who actively transformed into instruments of the Western World. Cowboy is poignantly humorous yet sensitive, where Michael's personal attempt for self-realisation and connection resonates beyond the cowboy fantasy.

**CREATOR AND PERFORMER MICHAEL SMITH PRODUCER** THE FARM MUSIC COMPOSER BEN ELY **SOUND DESIGNER** ANNA WHITAKER **LIGHTING AND PRODUCTION CHLOE OGILVIE MENTOR** GAVIN WEBBER DRAMATURGS MARTYN COUTTS, LIESEL ZINK, **GAVIN WEBBER** 

**LOCATION PARRAMATTA RIVERSIDE THEATRE.** THE COURTYARD

As the audience milled around the space, Michael Smith entered, dressed in his cowboy costume and set off on a ride which felt genuine, spontaneous and humorous, with a healthy dose of self-mockery on the side. - Geraldine Higginson, Dance Australia

Cowboy is produced by The Farm, and supported by the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland.

## LIEN

#### **Lewis Major**

A one-on-one performance that embodies the beauty of human connection and the power of shared moments. In the gentle embrace of solitude, Lien emerges as a testament to community and empathy, born as an antidote to the distancing and isolation that has shaped our recent history.

In this intimate exchange, one audience member and one dancer come together on an otherwise empty stage for a singular ten-minute encounter that will never be repeated. A spontaneous performance guided by the tender conversation that unfolds in the preceding moments; a gift to the audience member and a performance that no one else will ever witness.

**CHOREOGRAPHER** LEWIS MAJOR **PERFORMERS** CLEMENTINE BENSON. STEFAAN MORROW, ELSI FAULKS

## **QUARTETTE**

#### Lewis Major

Quartette is a mixed dance bill comprising of four works. Two by Russell Maliphant OBE, Mort Cygne, Lament and Epilogue by Lewis Major.

Quartette is a unique collaboration performance between the rising star of Australian dance, choreographer-director Lewis Major, and his company, with his mentor "Britain's leading modern dance creator" (The Daily Express), the legendary Russell Maliphant OBE.

The combined effect of Benson's strong, beautiful dancing, the "mist" and the music by Dan Yates (after Debussy) was mesmerising, presenting a suitably impressive conclusion to this enthralling work.

Peter Hackney Arts Hub

**ARTISTIC DIRECTOR I FWIS MAJOR PERFORMERS** CLEMENTINE BENSON, STEFAAN MORROW, ELSI FAULKS

## **MORT CYGNE, LAMENT & EPILOGUE**

**CHOREOGRAPHER** LEWIS MAJOR

#### TWO

CHOREOGRAPHER RUSSELL MALIPHANT OBE **MUSIC** ANDY COWTON **LIGHTING MICHAEL HULLS** 





CHOREOGRAPHERS/PERFORMERS **BEVERLEY LI. TIFFANY NUNG CHOREOGRAPHER** ASHLEY GOH **OUTSIDE EYE** NICK POWER **LIGHTING DESIGNER** HANA TRUBAN **STAGE MANAGER** ABBY DINGER

Previously developed and presented through Flying Nun at Brand X Sydney and Dancehouse Melbourne.

#### INTERFLOW

Expanding their work to the performance space, Destructive Steps Dance Association's INTERFLOW follows the journey of four street dancers of diverse Asian backgrounds as they explore and contemplate the flows within their freestylebased dance. In play with storytelling, theatrical lighting and a range of music genres, they deconstruct and reconstruct their Hip Hop, Popping and Locking bases alongside the establishing and evolving style of Waving as they seek to find their place between past, present and future.

"The performances shown at Intersections were examples of Australia's take on experimental street dance. From static movement to the interplay of street dance in the public realm, the synergy of Australian street dance was palpable."

Karen Leong Arts Hub

CHOREOGRAPHER/PERFORMER/DIRECTOR AMELIA DUONG

CHOREOGRAPHER/ PERFORMER ALICE TAUV, DANIEL KIM, LAURA BAO- TRAN HUYNH LIGHTING DESIGNER HANA TRUBAN

**STAGE MANAGER** ABBY DINGER

# **BLOGGER** IN RESIDENCE



#### **VICKI VAN HOUT**

Since 2013 FORM Dance Projects has commissioned Australia Council Dance Award (2019) recipient Vicki Van Hout to be our blogger in residence. Throughout the year, Van Hout wrote about all things dance from her unique perspective as an Indigenous choreographer. Van Hout's blog contributes valuable reputable discourse within the dance community and is a perceptive, entertaining and articulate window to the dance world for a larger audience.

#### **Choreography by Circuitous Means** 12 APRIL 2024

'Why the seemingly mindless natter about my diary?' you may well ask. Well, because this month dance has not presented itself in the neat confines of the western performance arena that is the black box theatre. No. Instead, just as the contents of my journal, my experience of dance this month has been bandied about in many guises. In rehearsal rooms, and on paper, cardboard and industrial strength glad wrap and outdoors on the unforgiving ground normally reserved for pedestrian perambulation. Yes, the dreaded C word that is... concrete. And so, I will regale you with said chosen reminiscences and in no particular order.

#### Shining the spotlight on all things embodied 1 OCTOBER 2024

From Campbelltown Arts Centre's annual Movement Movement dance industry panel to the FORM Dance Projects' comprehensive IDEA workshops, showings and forums, to the Sydney Dance Company INDance and the Sydney Opera House's Unwrapped season offerings, not to mention the Dance scheduled as part of the Sydney Fringe Festival. Yes, our city has really shined the spotlight on all things embodied.

#### Vale Garry Lester

4 NOVEMBER 2024

Lastly I'd like to leave you with a poem I read in dedication to my dear friend-

Wonnarua man with a wit full of hard edges quick as a blade and as deep as a plunger with a long handle it could cut that deep

And did

Wonnarua man land owner and not enough cash to rub two cents of which he commonly had no common

Did I tell you about the time he bought a seven kilo jar of red pickled cabbages?

Because they were on sale in the back of a store, the jar was hefty and he thought he was being nifty, thrifty even And down the sink they eventually sailed, pushed through the grating to clog the pipes

Wonnarua man so much knowledge of nicks and gnats, of this and that, of gob shite and patter it just tumbled forth from everywhere and when and as if from nowhere all at once

Wonnarua man my biggest champion, one time best friend, sounding board and confidante, my nemesis and mirror Wonnarua man lover of dogs more than people Wonnarua man dancer on boards and on paper and down telephone lines

All hours of the night and day I miss you all hours of the night and day You were the knight of nights And I was the daylight screaming through windows So loud and so gauche Both of us mate You can't deny it

Now

Wonnarua man a complex mess You were loved in unconventional ways And will sit in the best most creative inducing part of our memories

(To Garry Lester from Vicki)

# **MARKETING AND PUBLICITY**

FORM Dance Projects strategically aims to promote contemporary dance to wide audiences both in the theatre and online. FORM collaborates with designers at Alphabet Studio and photographers and video artists to develop a unique brand, which promotes and presents artists' productions to the highest standards possible. Images are a powerful way to communicate with audiences and our creative team work hard to convey evocative and powerful marketing collateral to capture people's attention and elevate contemporary dance. FORM continues to work with Jala Design who created our website design launched in 2017.

FORM engaged highly regarded publicist company Kabuku PR to gain excellent media exposure for our presentation programs and IDEA. This ensures that our artists gather valuable reviews and audience interest in their work.

**TOTAL MEDIA LISTINGS: 91** 









## **APPENDIX ONE**

#### **ARTIST LIST 2024**

Abbey Harby Abby Dinger Adam Ghaffar Aiden Holland Aishwariaa Alana Pointon Alejandro Renaldo Alessandro Carlos Barbosa

Alex Craig Alex Lusty Alive Tauv Alon Ilsar

Amber McCartney Amelia Duong Amelia Ullrich Amy Flannery **Analise Cunington** 

Andi Huynh Andrew Lodge Andy Cowton Anna Whitaker Annalouise Pau Annette Maguire

Anton

Arabella Kiefer Ariana Wolf Aroha Pehi Asher Simkins Ashleigh Veitch Ashley Goh Audrey Goth-Towney

Avalon Ormiston Ayesha Peerbaye Aveshah Rose Azzam Mohamed Bella Lopes de Oliveira

Ben Ely Beth Mooney Beverley Li Bianca Yeung Byron Cleasby Callum Mooney Camille Saint Saens

Candy Park

Cassandra De Vaney Chantelle Landayan Charlie MacArthur Charlotte Deany Chidambaram R Suresh

Chloe Morrison-Greet Chloe Ogilvie Chloe Smith

Christine Johnston Christopher Wade Claudia Hurley Clayton Church

Clementine Benson

Cosima Ivv

Cosima Thorne Torres-Sturt

Courtney Seigert Cristian Besel Dana Bledsoe Dane Yates Daniel Kim Diane Busuttil Dr. Barbara Doran Dr. Diane MacDonald Dylan McCelland **Ebony Pluess** Elaine Shi

Ella Jones Ella Power Ella Sowinska Ella Watson-Heath

Elsi Faulks Emily Yali Emma Dunstan Emma Feliciano Emma Saunders Erika Barnier

Fiona Larkin Frankie Clarke Franky Drousioti Gabriela Green Olea Gabrielle Nankivell Gabrielle Wilson Gari Bigeni Gavin Mills

Gavin Webber Genevieve Craig Georgette Sofatzis Georgia Eleni Douvartzidis

Georgia Vincent

Ginevra Cicatello Gupala Yunupingu Hana Truban Hanna Hansen Hannah Billingham Hannah Mansfield Hannah Roberts

Harlisha Shannon Newie

Hayley Corderoy Hoyori Maruo Hugo Poulet Imogen Yang Ioan Milutin Isobella Laidlaw Jacinta Mullen Jack Tuckerman Jackson Biala Jasmin Luna Jeremy Chau Jessi Houah Jessica Blackstock Jessica Hesketh Jessica Thorn Jessy Quay Jiří Pokorný Jo Madden John Doolan

Joseph Ipsaro-Passione Josh O'Conner Joshua Freedman

Jovce Lam Julia Cable Julien Cravero Justin Sacco Kate Baines Kate Clerkin Kate Dunn Kate Leona Katherine Bovdell Kirby Casilli Lauren Bao- Tran Huvnh

Lauren Colson Lauren Davidson Lauren Warburton Lavla Meadows Lee-Anne Litton Lewis Maior Liesel 7ink Lilv Tieu Lisa Crowe Livia McKeon

Lucky Lartey Lucy Doherty Luka Ravment Maddie Tratt Madeline Harms Madison Pattrick Maggie Teasdale Marc Brew Marcus Whale Maria Paula Marron

Matteo Barbosa Maxine Dovle Megumi Ogawa Mekaila Trippis Melanie Leirtz Mia Rashid Michael Hulls Michael Smith Monikka Fliah Nana Miss Koori

Naomi Hibberd Naomi Reichardt Natalie Marie Cunzolo Natasha Sturgis

Nesh Vũ Neven Connolly Niamh Moriaty

Nick Atkins Nick Power Nick Vagne

Paula Marron

Peta Strachan

Peter Kennard

Phaedra Brown

Phoebe Bavlev

Rachel Terry

Rachell Dade

Raghay Handa

Reina Takeuchi

Ritchard Swan

Robert Polmear

Romain Hassanin

Ryan Broomfield

Rvuichi Fuiimura

Sam Flmohamed

Sarah Vyne Vassallo

Samuel James

Santi Barker

Sarah Kalule

Sarah White

Sabine Roberts

Sage Godrei

Sam Coren

Russell Maliphant OBE

Remy Rochester

Renata Commisso

Rhiannon Thomas

Peter Nelson

Peter Rubie

Pepa Molina

Nikky Muscat Oliver House Olivia Dahdah Olivia O'Brien Olivia Pascoe Olivia West

Lucas Augusto Filippi

Martin Del Amo Martvn Coutts Mathew Mizved Matias Alvarez Moreno

Serene Dharpaloco Yunupingu Shaun Johnston

Sienna Denby Sienna Klarica Sierra Mann Sile Fllis Simone Clow Sneha S

Sophia Georgiou Sophia van Gent Sophie Cowan Sophie Eccles Stefaan Morrow Stella Mackenzie Sue Healev

Sugar MacGillivrav Surekha Krishnan

Sv Chan Tara Gilmour Tara Kinajil-Moran Tay Mackay

Tegan Jeffrey- Rushton

Thomas Evans Tiffany Nung

Tobiah Booth-Remmers

Tom Bird Tony Buchen Tra Mi Dinh Trent Arkylesmith Ubu Wilson-Wouters

Vicki Van Hout Vida Rosauer Vincent Garcia Vishnu Arunasalam Vivienne Clements-Lee

Xin Hui Ona Zakaria Ghomri

Zakayyah Ibinoh MacLean

Zel Wu Zoe Jewell Zoe Morgan

**ARTISTS IN THE PROGRAM: 257** 

**LETTERS OF SUPPORT** PROVIDED BY FORM DANCE TO ARTISTS: 15

# **APPENDIX TWO**

#### **AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT 2024**

Live Audience

All combined	3710
Total	289
Parramatta Community Workshops	134
Learn the Repertoire None of Us	23
IDEA Class Participants	97
IDEA Development artists	13
IDEA Workshop Participants	156
Education and Professional Development	
Total Online Audience	1099
Blog Views	1099
Online Audience	
Total Studio Audience	114
Azzam Mohamed and Lee-Anne Litton Showing	14
Alex Craig Showing	12
Speak Percussion Showing	34
Sam Coren Showing	21
Marc Brew Showing	33
Studio Audience	
Total Live Audience	2208
INTERSECTIONS: Street Dance X Theatre	140
sixbythree	152
None of Us	326
Studio Showings	114
Watercoolers	131
IDEA Now	105
Songs From The Sky	300
Lost Stories. Found.	220
If These Walls Could Sing	720

Media Listings	
IDEA	13
None of Us	32
sixbythree	14
INTERSECTIONS: Street Dance X Theatre	31
Total	90
Print Media	
Dance Australia - Jul/Aug/Sep	25,000
Dance Informa	18,000
Parra News - May	220,000
The Western Weekender - May	220,000
The Western Weekender - June	220,000
The Western Weekender - October	220,000
Daily Telegraph - Shortcuts	4,600,000
Riverside April - June Program	10,000
Riverside July - September Program	10,000
Riverside October - December Program	10,000
Total	5,553,000

Online Engagement	
FORM Website Visits	44,000
FORM Instagram reach	78,400
FORM Facebook reach	26,200
FORM Enews audience	1,070
FORM Youtube views	645
FORM Vimeo views	106
AT Parramatta - None of Us	30,000
AT Parramatta - sixbythree	30,000
AT Parramatta - IDEA NOW	30,000
AT Parramatta - INTERSECTIONS	30,000
Riverside Theatres E-News - None of Us	62,000
Riverside Theatres E-News - sixbythree	62,000
Riverside Theatres E-News - IDEA NOW	62,000
Riverside Theatres E-News - INTERSECTIONS	62,000
Total	518,421

## **APPENDIX THREE**

**FINANCIAL REPORT 2024** 

THIS IS AN ABRIDGED VERSION OF **FORM DANCE PROJECTS 2024 AUDIT. FULL VERSION IS AVAILABLE** ONLINE AT THE ACNC WEBSITE.

Supplied by Simon Joyce, **Director SDJA Audit Specialists** SDJ Audit Pty Ltd t/a SDJA ABN 11 624 245 334 Level 13, 32 Smith Street, Parramatta NSW 2150

#### STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Revenue	2024	2023
Revenue from contracts with customers	4 98,071	4 70,804
Other income	2 05,810	7,461
Total revenue	703,881	478,265
Expenses		
Administration and other operating costs	(430,407)	(251,532)
Donations in-kind expense	(150,300)	-
Employee benefits	(224,994)	(224,566)
Total expenses	(805,701)	(476,098)
(Deficit)/surplus before income tax	(101,820)	2,167
Income tax expense	-	-
(Deficit)/surplus for the year	(101,820)	2,167
Other comprehensive income	-	-
Total comprehensive (loss)/income	(101,820)	2,167

#### **STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY** FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Accumulated Funds	Total Equity
Balance at 1 January 2023	1 56,470	156,470
Surplus for the year	2,167	2 ,167
Other comprehensive income	-	-
Total comprehensive income	2,167	2,167
Balance at 31 December 2023	158,637	158,637
Balance at 1 January 2024	158,637	158,637
Deficit for the year	(101,820)	(101,820)
Other comprehensive income	-	-
Total comprehensive loss	(101,820)	(101,820)
Balance at 31 December 2024	5 6,817	5 6,817

#### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

	2024	2023
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	2 31,307	2 49,175
Trade and other receivables	4,027	-
Other assets	7,754	27,050
Total current assets	243,088	276,225
Non-current		-
Total non-current assets	-	-
Total assets	243,088	276,225
Current Liabilities		
Trade and other payables	33,477	26,593
Provisions	24,194	8,874
Contract liabilities	1 28,600	82,121
Total current liabilities	186,271	117,588
Non-current	-	-
Total non-current liabilities	-	-
Total liabilities	186,271	117,588
Net assets	56,817	158,637
	30,017	100,007
Equity		
Accumulated funds	56,817	1 58,637
Total equity	56,817	158,637

#### STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	2024	2023
Cash flows from operating activities		
Receipts from grants, donors, sponsors, customers and others	6 44,084	4 68,636
Payments to suppliers and employees	(664,531)	(602,683)
Interest received	2,579	3,941
Net cash used in operating activities	(17,868)	(130,106)
Cash flows from investing activities	-	-
Net cash provided by investing activities	-	-
Cash flows from financing activities	-	-
Net cash provided by financing activities	-	-
Net change in cash and cash equivalents	(17,868)	(130,106)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of financial year	2 49,175	3 79,281
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	231,307	249,175

## **PARTNERS, SUPPORTERS & SPONSORS**

#### PRINCIPAL PARTNERS









#### **PROGRAM PARTNERS**







**DESIGN** 

**PR AGENCY** 

**WEBSITE DESIGNER** 

alphabet.

KABUKU®



#### FORM DANCE PROJECTS WORKS WITH

Agal Dance Company **Biscuit Tin Productions** Brand X **Brent Street** Campbelltown Arts Centre City Of Parramatta Company Marc Brew Critical Path

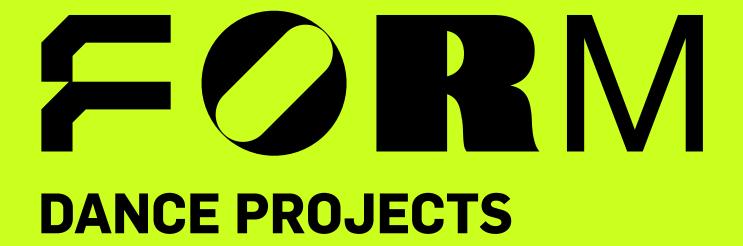
Crystal Pite, Kidd Pivot Dance+Media **Destructive Steps Dance** Association **DUTI Dance Company** DUTI Studio Hofesh Shechter Company Jannawi Dance Clan

Lewis Major Projects Oh Sheila Operated Coin Parramatta Artists Studios Parramatta Brazilian **Drumming Group** Parramatta Town Hall Qtopia Sydney

Queensland Government / Arts Queensland Russell Maliphant Dance Company Speak Percussion Sydney Dance Company Sydney Opera House, Centre for Creativity

Sydney Olympic Peninsula Multicultural Community Association Svdnev Samba The Farm Wentworth Point Community Centre





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