DANCE ON

PRESENTED BY DANCE AND PRODUCTION STUDENTS

11 – 18 JUNE 2015
FROM/TO/FROM
Choreography: Lee Serle
Music: Robin Fox
Costume: Eleanor Hutchison
Lighting: Nick Glen
Stage Management: Jess Scott

Dancers: Jacqueline Aylward, Isabelle Beauvard, Arabella Frahn-Starkie, Jonathan Havakis, Benjamin Hurley, Leandra Osmond, Jack Riley, Emily Shoesmith, Patrick Weir, Georgia Wilson

HALF GLASS
“There are no facts, only interpretations.”
– Friedrich Nietzsche

This work has become a giant assortment of my current choreographic interests

Choreography: Emma Riches
Music: Matthew Zambon
Costume: Eleanor Hutchison
Lighting: Nick Glen
Stage Management: Jess Scott

Dancers: Sheridan Gerrard, Hillary Goldsmith, Baden Hitchcock, Matthew Hyde, Georgena Kalpakidis, Olivia McPherson, Leandra Osmond

PROGRAM

PIT
A large hole or cavity in the ground, often where a natural substance is quarried. A low or wretched psychological state. The stone of a fruit, as of a cherry, peach or plum. Set something in conflict or competition with.

Choreography: Kyall Shanks
Music: Tyler Smyth
Costume: Meropi Tourogiannis
Lighting: Candy Cooper
Stage Management: Elise Mercurio

Dancers: Hannah Brown, Michelle Carli, Arabella Frahn-Starkie, Siobhan McKenna, Jenna Pacholek, Jack Riley, Emily Shoesmith

Warnings: Haze

UNDER ECHOES
“This piece grew out of two concepts – that individualism and personal identity is inextricably linked to the society and community that they exist within. No person, no matter how unique they feel they are, can be unaffected by the people who surround them, and the meaning we place on our lives cannot be divorced from tide of culture that washes over us every day.

We both exert influence and are influenced by each other, either directly or indirectly. The second element within the piece explores the quote by Soren Kierkegaard that, “Life can only be understood backwards; but it must be lived forwards.” The journey each of us takes may seem mysterious and foreign at each moment, until the final destination is arrived at. Echoes of meaning only achieve clarity once the final perspective is achieved, and the intertwining influence of all whom we have made contact with is seen as a whole.”

Choreography: Feng Feng Wang
Music: Gus MacMillan
Costume: Isabel Waluga
Lighting: Candy Cooper
Stage Management: Elise Mercurio

Dancers: Tessa Dunn, Meg Ferrier, Hillary Goldsmith, Catherine Haber, Ashlen Harkness, Rosemary Leverton, Olivia McPherson, Kylie Miro, Alexandra Petracca, Jacqueline Trapp

Video contributor: orangehd/videezy.com

CHOREographers

Emma Riches
Choreographer

Emma was a member of the NSW State Dance Company (2009-2011), through which she received the UWS Talent Development Scholarship. In 2012 she completed a Certificate IV in Performance at Ev and Bow. At the Victorian College of the Arts (VCA), Emma has worked with choreographers Phillip Adams, Helen Herbertson, Lina Limosani and Rochelle Carmichael. In 2014 she was a member of Yellow Wheel, performing works by Jo Lloyd and Amber McCartney for the Melbourne Fringe Festival. Earlier this year she undertook a secondment with Lucy Guerin Inc. Emma is honoured to be presenting her first choreographic work in the VCA’s ‘dance ON’ season and is very grateful for the opportunity and support.

Personal Acknowledgment: Massive thanks to my cast and crew for their dedication and support throughout this process - I have learnt incredible amounts from each and every one of you.

Lee Serle
Choreographer

Lee is a Melbourne based choreographer, performer and teacher. He creates work in varied contexts and forms; including dances for the stage, site-specific, interactive performance installations, and solo works.

His works have been presented in Australia, USA, France and Lebanon, and he has been commissioned to create new works for the Lyon Opera Ballet, Sydney Dance Company, Rolex Mentor and Protégé Arts Initiative, Lucy Guerin Inc., Australian Centre for Contemporary Art (ACCA), Next Wave, and the Victorian College of the Arts (VCA).

Lee was Protégé in Dance for the prestigious Rolex Mentor and Protégé Arts Initiative 2010-11; mentored by seminal American choreographer Trisha Brown. Through this initiative he created and performed new work with the company, and toured within the USA and internationally.

An inaugural recipient of the Australia Council for the Arts’ Creative Australia Fellowship in 2012, Lee embarked on a research and development period for two years of solo choreographic practice mentored by Tere O’Connor (New York). Following this he has been an artist in residence at ACCA, culminating in his solo work ‘60 Second Dances’, for the Framed Movements exhibition for the 2014 Melbourne Festival.

Lee has collaborated and performed in works by Lucy Guerin Inc., Chunky Move (Gideon Obarzanek), Trisha Brown Dance Company, Antony Hamilton, Shelley Lasica, Stephanie Lake and Byron Perry, touring extensively worldwide.

Kyall Shanks
Choreographer

Kyall Shanks began dancing in 2009 with NSW based youth dance company ILING Physical Theatre. Performing with ILING for four years he toured to Wollongong, Sydney and Singapore. He participated in the Merging Emerging Artist Program at the 2012 Bathurst Catapult Festival. In 2013 he began studying at the Victorian College of the Arts (VCA) as well as being a part of the youth dance company Yellow Wheel. In 2014 he taught and choreographed a short piece at Casuarina Senior College in Darwin. In that same year he was also one of eight second year students to tour to Malaysia as part of the 2014 Tari Dance festival, performing in Anna Smith’s ‘Incandescence - white with heat’. Choreographers he has worked with include Lee Pemberton, Adam Wheeler, Don Asker, Jane Mortiss, Alexandra Harrison and Kirk Page. At the VCA he has performed in works by Antony Hamilton, Helen Herbertson, Phillip Adams, Anna Smith and Lina Limosani.

www.leeserle.com

Personal Acknowledgment: Massive thank you to all the dancers for their contribution to this process and work, also to the production students and staff.

VCA
Dance


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Feng Feng Wang
Choreographer

Feng Feng Wang was born in China, and began full time dance training at the age of 11 when she was accepted into the prestigious Shanghai Dance School. There she studied Classical Ballet, Chinese Folk Dance and Chinese Traditional Dance for six years. Upon graduating she took up a tertiary placement at the Beijing Dance Academy where she studied choreography for four years, receiving a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance and learning a variety of styles including Merce Cunningham, Martha Graham and Trisha Brown. During this time she also studied for a period in New York at Dance and choreographed and performed ‘Rust Sleeve’ at the Connecticut International Dance Festival. She then went on to work in the Chinese Central Ballet as a staff member, dancer and assistant choreographer. During this time she choreographed ‘Blood’ at the International Computer Music Festival in Beijing and performed ‘Calling for Wilderness’ with the Beijing Modern Dance Company, China. In 2004 she moved to Melbourne, Australia to study a Graduate Diploma in Choreography at the Victorian College of the Arts (VCA), The University of Melbourne. During this time she choreographed and performed many works including ‘White Fan’ and ‘Phoenix Feathers’. In 2005 she completed her Master of Choreography at the VCA developing new works ‘The Treasure’ and ‘Xing’. In 2006 she became an Australian citizen and formed her own company, Red Span Dance Company, which was immediately successful in the receiving the inaugural Victorian Arts Centre’s Full Tilt funding initiative to redevelop ‘Xing’ which included a brief showing of the new work at the Victorian Arts Centre Black Box. She blends her Chinese background with more contemporary Western influences, searching for an original character and style that expresses a complex and subtle aesthetic, one that provides intimacy, simplicity and abstract grace.

Robin Fox
Composer

Robin Fox is a leading Australian audio-visual artist working across live performance, exhibitions, public art projects and designs for contemporary dance. His laser works which synchronize sound and visual electricity in hyper-amplified 3D space have been performed in over 50 cities worldwide. The new manifestation of this work RGB LASER SHOW premiered at Mona Foma 2014 (Hobart) and recently featured at Tramway (Glasgow), Vivid Festival (Sydney) and the Barbican (London).

His groundbreaking work with Chunky Move Dance Company has contributed to the work ‘Mortal Engine’ receiving a Helpmann award for best visual production and an honorable mention at the Illustrious Prix Ars Electronica 2009. Other works with Chunky Move include Gideon Obarzanek’s ‘Connected’, Antony Hamilton’s ‘Keep Everything’ and Stephanie Lake’s ‘Aorta’. His recent sound work Interior Design: Music for the Bionic Ear in association with ANAT and the Bionic Ear Institute, was shortlisted for a Future Everything award in the UK 2011 and selected by the Paris Rostrum of Composers in 2012.

Gus Macmillan
Composer

Gus Macmillan has worked in the arts industry over the last 25 years as a composer, musician and sound designer. Based in Melbourne, Australia, since 1996 he has performed as a multi-instrumentalist with Blue Grassy Knoll, and conceived, co-wrote and produced live scores to the silent films of Buster Keaton. These shows received five star reviews at the 1999 and 2000 Edinburgh Festival and have toured internationally ever since. In 2004 he completed a Graduate Diploma Course in Sound Design at Victorian College of the Arts (VCA), working with sound and music in a variety of different art forms including dance, theatre, film, documentary, circus and puppetry. He has his own recording studio and continues to write, perform, and teach music. Gus also has an Honours Degree in English and a Master in Australian Studies, and was the 2005 Guildford Banjo Jamboree’s two-tune pick-off champion.

Tyler Smyth
Composer

Tyler Smyth is a composer, sound designer and producer specialising in interactive media including film, animation, theatre and installation. Tyler has studied with many distinguished composers, and is currently a flautist for the Australian Army Band Melbourne. Tyler has worked on a number of Melbourne based productions, and will be representing Australia at the 2015 Asian Composers League conference in the Philippines. His current projects include the score to an upcoming indie video game and a newly devised musical theatre work. Tyler will complete his Bachelor of Fine Arts (Contemporary Music) at the Victorian College of the Arts (VCA) this year, and intends to continue on to further study.

Matt Zambon
Composer

Matt Zambon is a composer, lyricist, singer/songwriter, arranger and musical director. South African singer/songwriter and multi-instrumentalist Matt Zambon has composed music for a variety of art/media forms including a close collaboration with animator Kristy O’Dea on the works ‘Monochrome’ and ‘These Are My Rooms’. Mostly identifying himself as a contemporary pop/rock musician, Matt has worked as songwriter and frontman of the bands Polar White and Flight Plan and is now performing with Bay Rd. Matt has always had a keen interest in Musical Theatre and is currently writing the book and music for a new short-musical ‘Anna Next Door’, which will be put on at Mudfest 2015.

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Artistic Director and Head of Dance
Jenny Kinder

Head of Production
Kym Williams

Lighting Designer (Pit and Under Echoes)
Candy Cooper

Lighting Designer (Half Glass and From/To/From)
Nick Glen

Costume Designer (Under Echoes)
Isabel Waluga

Costume Designer (From/To/From)
Candice Macallister

Costume Designer (Pit)
Meropi Toutouniannis

Costume Designer (Half Glass)
Eleanor Hutchison

Sound Designer (Pit and Under Echoes)
Celine Khong

Sound Designer (Half Glass and From/To/From)
Linton Wilkinson

Production Coordinator
Louise Woodward (Bluebottle)

Assistant Production Coordinator
Indiana Belle

Stage Manager (Half Glass and From/To/From)
Jess Scott

Stage Manager (Pit and Under Echoes)
Elise Mercurio

Assistant Stage Manager (Pit)
Guy Grouard

Assistant Stage Manager
Allyson Bang

Stage Management Shadow
Natasha Keehan

Costume Manager (Half Glass and From/To/From)
Julia Orlando

Costume Manager (Pit and Under Echoes)
Jackie Mates

Costume Maker (Under Echoes)
Tessa Robinson

Costume Maker (From/To/From)
Christian Garvie

Costume Maker (Pit)
Alice Mere

Costume Maker (Half Glass)
Megan Baker

Costume Shadow (Under Echoes)
Madelyn McCarthy

Costume Shadow (From/To/From)
Eleanor Schmiedte

Costume Shadow (Pit)
Natalie Gillis

Costume Shadow (Half Glass)
Tamika John

Head Electrician
Alex Blackwell

LX Board Operator
Ounie Withrow Aitken

LX Crew (Head)
Andrew Marshall

LX Crew
Dayna McManus

LX Crew
Sidney Millar

LX Crew
Brittany Lazzarinii

LX Crew
Joshua Bliss

LX Crew
Thomas Lloyd

Audio Operator
Joshua Bliss

Audio Operator
Thomas Lloyd

Eleanor’s interest for design developed from a childhood of colour and movement. Eleanor always knew that she wanted to spend her future absorbed in a world of fabrics and textures and was able to freely experiment with these at a very young age with sewing, making animations and other creative gestures. She was accepted into Top Designs in 2011 for her animation of 3,000 hand drawn and painted frames which she completed in Year 12. Since arriving at the Victorian College of the Arts (VCA) Eleanor has worked on Theatre, Music Theatre, Film and Dance and has recently developed a great interest in scenic painting and wooden automatons and mechanisms. Eleanor’s enthusiasm for making and designing knows no bounds.

In 2013 Nick moved to Melbourne from Tasmania after being accepted into the Bachelor of Fine Arts (Production) at the Victorian College of the Arts (VCA). Nick’s lighting design credits include; ‘Guys and Dolls’, ‘Resonance’ (co design; Declan O’Neill), ‘Nine’, ‘Assassins’, ‘New Short Works’ and the Music Theatre Graduation Showcase. Nick has also been lucky enough to travel to Beijing in his second year for the International Stage Design Student Work Exchange where he was involved in various theatre design workshops with professionals around the world. Earlier this year Nick completed an internship with Don Holder as his Assistant Lighting Designer (Broadway Lighting Designer) on the Broadway show of ‘On The Twentieth Century’.
Elise Mercurio first experienced the performing arts as a child, watching side-stage as her parents performed as professional dancers. It seems fitting then that she would end up side-stage once more. Since enrolling at the Victorian College of the Arts (VCA) Elise has worked on ‘Romeo and Juliet’ (directed by Bagryana Popov), ‘It’s an Earthquake in my Heart’ (directed by Robert Walton), ‘UN/clean’ (directed by Noel Jordan), ‘Calvin Berger’ (directed by Casey Gould) and most recently, ‘Young & Jackson: The Play’ (directed by Wayne Harrison) at fortyfivedownstairs. Elise hopes to stage manage dance and music theatre shows, whilst also finding time for her love of cooking, reading and golden retriever puppies.

Jess’s strong interest in production developed from her involvement with the National Youth Theatre Company in Auckland, New Zealand as one of the first students admitted to their Production Development Program. In 2013, Jess moved to Melbourne to begin a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Production). In her graduating year, she is grateful that her university experience has exceeded her expectations, through studying what she loves with a driven, motivated and passionate cohort. Some of Jess’s credits at the Victorian College of the Arts (VCA) in 2014 include: Stage Manager of ‘4:48 Psychosis’, Costume Manager of ‘dance ON’ and Costume Manager of ‘Relational’ choreographed by Rebecca Hilton.

Prior to her acceptance to the Victorian College of the Arts (VCA), Isabel completed work experience at The Australian Ballet, sparking her passion for costume design and interest in production design. At the VCA she has worked as a costume assistant and maker for the production of ‘Romeo and Juliet’ and the collaborative devised show ‘Plus Sign Attached’ as part of Living Positive Victoria’s ENUF campaign. She participated in the set construction for the film ‘New You Hair and Beauty’ and was the production designer for graduating short film ‘Splenda’. She is currently constructing costumes to be paraded at the mid-year Prague Quadrennial in Europe.
Meropi Tourogiannis is completing her third and final year at the Victorian College of the Arts (VCA). In 2014, she was involved in major productions such as ‘A Little Touch of Chaos’ as the Costume Design Assistant and being selected as the Props Manager on ‘L’il Abner’ for designer Adam Gardner. With her aesthetic intelligence and self-motivation she was able to complete both with the highest of quality. A passion for historical costume, as well as a strong interest in the contemporary construction of garments, has promoted Meropi as a talented and enthusiastic young designer.