

Presented by Arts House, Melbourne Festival,  
Stephanie Lake and Robin Fox

# A SMALL PROMETHEUS

STEPHANIE LAKE AND ROBIN FOX

**Arts House,**  
**North Melbourne Town Hall**  
Tue 15 – Sun 20 October 2013  
60 minutes  
Post-show Q&A, Thu 17 October

## Creative Team

Created by: **Stephanie Lake** and **Robin Fox**  
Choreographer: **Stephanie Lake**  
Composer and Sculpture Designer: **Robin Fox**  
Performers: **Alana Everett, Lauren Langlois,**  
**Rennie McDougall, Lily Paskas, Lee Serle**

Lighting Designer: **Jen Hector**  
Costume Designer: **Harriet Oxley**  
Sculpture Maker: **Tom Burless**

Production Manager: **Richard Dinnen, Megafun**  
Producer: **Insite Arts**

**artshouse.com.au**  
**insitearts.com.au/artists/stephanie-lake**

A **Small Prometheus** has been supported by the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts, its arts funding and advisory body; the Victorian Government through Arts Victoria; Melbourne Festival; Chunky Move; Lucy Guerin Inc; Ausdance/Peggy Van Praagh Choreographic Fellowship; and the City of Melbourne through Arts House.

## Artistic Notes

It all started with a struck match and ruminations on the vast consequences that can come from small actions. This work is not a telling of the Promethean myth, but rather an exploration of the physicality of heat: how does it move, what does it sound like, what are its implications?

**A Small Prometheus** is also about unpredictability and the boiling points that tip one state into another – from cooperative to menacing, chaotic to ordered, individualistic to unified. The work teeters between recklessness and structure. From convection-driven sound sculptures through intricate and forceful choreography to the sound of heat dissipating in different situations, this work examines the moment when a stable system becomes unstable. Flame, steam, smoke and burning drive the action, with a shifting tension between mechanical precision and anarchic wildness.

**A Small Prometheus** looks at the coexisting darkness and light in human nature and the spark that mediates the two.

We would like to thank our incredible creative team Jen Hector and Harriet Oxley, the brilliant cast, without whom there would be no show, and Insite and Megafun for all of their work behind the scenes. We would also like to thank our presentation partners Arts House and Melbourne Festival, alongside the Australia Council for the Arts and Arts Victoria, for their generous support.

*Stephanie Lake and Robin Fox*

## Biographies

### **Stephanie Lake**

Choreographer

Stephanie Lake is an award-winning choreographer and dancer. After graduating from the VCA she began dancing with companies including Gideon Obarzanek's Chunky Move, Lucy Guerin Inc and BalletLab, and has performed and toured worldwide for the past 13 years. As a choreographer, she has been commissioned by Sydney Dance Company (*Dream Lucid*, 2012) Chunky Move (*Mix Tape* – Green Room Award, Best Choreography, 2011), Frontier Danceland, Singapore (*AxiAL*, 2013), Stompin, VCA and Melbourne Festival; and has collaborated with David Rosetzky, Missy Higgins and Natasha Pincus. Her most recent work *DUAL* (Dance Massive 2013) was nominated for a Helpmann Award for Outstanding Choreography. Future works include *Aorta* for Chunky Move and *Elektra* for Sydney Dance Company/Sydney Symphony. Stephanie was listed with Robin Fox in *The Age's* Top 100 in 2012. She was inaugural winner of the Peggy Van Praagh Choreographic Fellowship (2012) and is currently honorary Resident Director at Lucy Guerin Inc.

### **Robin Fox**

Composer and Sculpture Designer

Robin Fox is an artist working across multiple forms. His *Laser Show* has been performed in over 50 cities at festivals worldwide; he has exhibited visual artwork at CCP Melbourne, GOMA Brisbane and the Australian Synchrotron, among others. His composition *Three Studies for Bionic Ear* was selected by the Paris Rostrum of Composers in 2012. His work on Chunky Move's *Mortal Engine* contributed to a Helpmann Award for best visual production and an honourable mention at the illustrious Prix Ars Electronica. He has released sound on Mego (Vienna), Bocian (Poland), Kranky (USA), Room 40 (Australia) and Synaesthesia (Australia). Recent works include *The Giant Theremin* for the City of Melbourne and the *White Beam* project at Dark MOFO.

## **Alana Everett**

Performer

Alana Everett graduated from the VCA in 2011. She has choreographed for corporate events and solo singers from the Talented Development Program. At the VCA she worked with choreographic mentors Phillip Adams, Rebecca Hilton, Brett Daffy, Lina Limosani, Stephanie Lake and Anna Smith. She was featured in Neil Adams's *En Masse* (2009) and Brett Daffy's *Kwacko* (2010). In 2011 she began working with Stephanie Lake. **A Small Prometheus** is her professional debut.

## **Lauren Langlois**

Performer

Lauren Langlois trained in classical ballet with Marie Walton-Mahon Dance Academy and in contemporary dance at the New Zealand School of Dance. She has performed in works by Sydney Dance Company, Australian Dance Theatre, Larissa McGowan, Lina Limosani, Lisa Wilson and Jacapo Godani. For Chunky Move she has performed in *247 Days, An Act of Now* and *Keep Everything*, the latter earning her Helpmann and Green Room Award nominations for Best Female Dancer.

## **Rennie McDougall**

Performer

Rennie McDougall is a performer, choreographer, teacher and writer. Since graduating from the VCA in 2010 he has worked with Phillip Adams BalletLab, Chunky Move, Lucy Guerin Inc, Luke George, Stephanie Lake and Lee Serle; touring nationally and internationally. He created the short works *Just Watch Me* for Next Wave (2010); and *Thoughts are Circular* for Lucy Guerin Inc (2011). He premiered his first full-length work, *SUPERTONE*, as part of Next Wave 2012, and recently premiered *yes dance* for Melbourne Fringe 2013.

## **Lily Paskas**

Performer

Lily Paskas graduated from the VCA in 2006. With Amber Haines she created and performed in *Away* for Lucy Guerin's Pieces for

*Small Spaces* (2007) and *Slug Love Goonion* for Next Wave (2008). She choreographed *Wade Rising* for *With the Lot* curated by Kyle Kremerskothen and Lucy Guerin (2009) and *The happy Pony club come in* for Nat Cursio's Private Dances (2010). She has performed for Chunky Move, X machine, Rogue, Phantom Limbs, Finucane & Smith, Black Lung Theatre Company, Antony Hamilton, Shelley Lasica, Lee Serle, Jo Lloyd, Stephanie Lake, Frances D'Ath, Daniel Schlusser, Rennie McDougall, Melanie Lane and Felix Ruckert. She was nominated for Green Room and Australian Dance Awards for her performance in Antony Hamilton's *Drift*.

## **Lee Serle**

Performer

Lee Serle has collaborated and performed with Lucy Guerin Inc, Chunky Move, Antony Hamilton, Shelley Lasica, Stephanie Lake and Byron Perry. In 2010 he was awarded a mentorship with American choreographer Trisha Brown as part of the Rolex Mentor and Protégé Arts Initiative; performing, touring and developing a new work with her company in New York. In 2012 he was an inaugural recipient of an Australia Council Creative Australia Fellowship, developing his choreographic practice in Melbourne, New York and Beirut. His choreographic credits include *A Little Murky* for Lucy Guerin's Pieces for Small Spaces; *I Feel Love* and *On It Goes* for Next Wave; and *P.O.V.* at both the New York Public Library and Dance Massive 2013. This year he has been commissioned to create a new work on Lyon Opera Ballet, alongside Lucy Guerin and William Forsythe.

## **Jen Hector**

Lighting Designer

Jen Hector has received five Green Room Award nominations for lighting and set design. Recent projects include Sandra Parker's *The Recording*, Jo Lloyd's *Future Perfect*, Rimini Protokoll's *100% Melbourne*, Back to Back Theatre's *Hell House* and Madeleine Flynn and Tim Humphrey's *Gauge*. She has also worked with Circus Oz, Tim Darbyshire, YGLAM, Jenny Kemp, BalletLab, Richard Murphett and Leisa Shelton.

## **Harriet Oxley**

Costume Designer

Harriet Oxley studied fashion at RMIT and theatre design at the VCA, and has gained over ten years' experience designing costumes for theatre, dance, opera, film, circus and musical theatre. Recent credits include *Moonshadow the Musical*, *Unashamed Desire* (music video for Missy Higgins) and Ros Warby's *Tower Suites* (2012); *Chunky Move/Victorian Opera's Assembly* (2011, 2012); *Chunky Move's Mix Tape* by Stephanie Lake and *Victorian Opera's Angelique/The Bear* (winner of a Green Room Award for design in opera)(2010); Tamara Saulwick/Malthouse's *Pindrop* (2010, 2011); and Jenny Kemp's *Madeleine* (2010).

## **Richard Dinnen (Megafun)**

Production Manager

Richard Dinnen worked in Queensland, Sydney and the UK before relocating to Melbourne, where he has worked for a decade with companies including Arena Theatre, the Malthouse, Andrew Kay and Associates, and the Sydney and Melbourne Festivals. He was Production Manager for the Opening and Closing Ceremony river events for the Melbourne Commonwealth Games in 2006. Before joining Megafun, he was Production and Operations Manager for *Chunky Move*. Since joining Megafun as Technical Manager in 2008, he has worked with clients including Lucy Guerin Inc, Lee Serle, MONA FOMA and Dark MOFO, Byron Perry and Force Majeure. Megafun provides creative and technical services to theatre, events, exhibitions, public art and interactive media.

## **Insite Arts**

Producer

Insite Arts is an Australian independent producer, working with artists to initiate ideas, develop and create art, and take it to audiences. As a producer, Insite Arts provides key artistic support and management to its artists' projects and practices, collaborating with them from concept through to realisation.

## **Thank You**

Stephanie Lake and Robin Fox would like to thank Tom Burlless, Michaela Coventry, Richard Dinnen and Lucy Guerin; Leif Helland, Byron Scullin, Freya Waterson, *Chunky Move*, Dame Peggy Van Praagh Trust and Ausdance; Josephine Ridge, Michael Stevens and the Melbourne Festival team and Angharad Wynne-Jones and the Arts House team.

## **Arts House**

Arts House presents contemporary arts in programs encompassing performance, exhibitions, live art, residencies and other activities that nurture, support and stimulate cultural engagement. We value work in which artists at different stages of their careers, as well as our diverse audiences and communities, are actively involved in creating an imaginative, just and environmentally sustainable global society.

Arts House's programs include two curated public seasons of multidisciplinary work each year. Approximately half of this work is selected through an Expression of Interest process. We seek artists who are responding to the urgent issues of our time in imaginative and surprising ways, taking artistic risks and offering multiple ways for audiences to engage with or co-author their work.

For more information, please contact us on the details below.

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