

2 – 5 February 2017

Bunny

Luke George &
Daniel Kok

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Image: Bernie Ng

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Thu 2 – Sun 5 Feb **Xpm**
120 mins
Warning: Adult Concepts

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artshouse.com.au

Created & Performed by:

Daniel Kok & Luke George

Producers:

Alison Halit & Tang Fu Kuen

Lighting Design:

Matthew Adey/House of Vnholy

Dramaturgy:

Fu Kuen Tang

Technical Stage Manager:

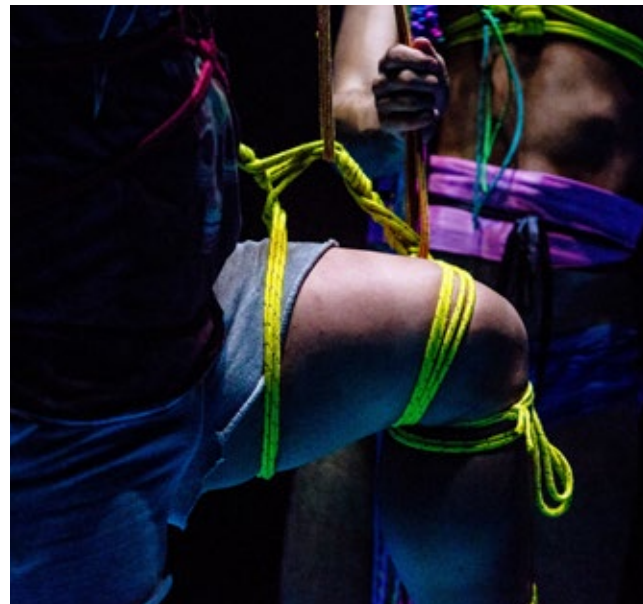
Gene Hedley

Commissioned by:

Campbelltown Arts Centre

AsiaTOPA Arts House season

Image: Chris Frape



In order to unravel shared lines of connection, to suspend tension and to unleash collective desires, Daniel and Luke look to macramé, sailors' knots, Chinese knots and rope bondage to weave together an interactive experience of collectivity.

We were 'match-made' by Campbelltown Arts Centre (CAC) through a two-week artistic exchange program in Sydney in August 2014. Discovering a good working chemistry between us, we then agreed to work towards a collaborative dance creation involving rope. The decision to test and work with the material rope came intuitively through our discussion around spectatorship, collectivity and participation in performance. Inspired by the arranged 'blind date', we shared with each other our personal experiences in love, sex and dating, as well as dancing in clubs over the years. Other relevant interests included Daniel's training in pole dance and Luke's practice in massage. All these interests converge at the question of the dancer and the crowd and audience's desire for each other.

Our investigations in rope obliged us to appreciate the physical properties of rope, the aesthetics of knots, and the precariousness of the relationship between bodies when connected and bound by rope. More importantly, we were both concerned with how working with rope could help us rediscover our respective physical practices in dance. 'As we move with our ropes, we hope to make visible multiple lines of tension and friction, to arrive at a heightened shared experience, and a greater awareness of what it means to be in communion.'

"Bunny" is a nickname given to the person being tied in rope bondage. Conventionally, the bunny is a submissive female of petite stature, while the rigger (the person doing the tying) is usually a dominant heterosexual male. We are not interested in the clichés of BDSM but seek alternative ways of relating and performing by 'queering' rope play. In this work, we wish to reconfigure the aesthetics and sexual politics in the power play of bondage. Simply put, we ask ourselves this question: What if everyone (in the theatre) is a Bunny?

Daniel Kok

Title

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Daniel Kok is an alumnus of BA (Honours) Fine Art & Critical Theory at Goldsmiths College (London), MA (Distinction) Solo/Dance/Authorship (SODA) at the Inter-University Centre for Dance (HZT, Berlin), and the Advanced Performance and Scenography Studies (APASS) in Brussels. From 2005 to 2010, he was Associate Artist at The Substation (Singapore). In 2008, he received the Young Artist Award from National Arts Council (Singapore).

His performance work deals with the relational politics in spectatorship and audienceship. *Q&A* (2009), *Planet Romeo* (2011), *Cheerleader of Europe* (2014), *ALPHA* (2014), *PIIGS* (2015) and *Bunny* (2016) have been presented across Asia, Europe, Australia, and the USA. Kok is currently researching queerness and a notion of trans-individuality.

As a pole dancer, he won the SG Pole Challenge (2012) and represented Singapore at the International Pole Championships (IPC, 2013). He also identifies as a bondage practitioner and Thai masseur.

Luke George

Title

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Luke George is a Melbourne based artist who was raised in Tasmania. George creates new performance work locally and internationally/culturally, through experimental creative processes with collaborating artists. His works *Lifesize* (2008), *Now Now Now* (2010), *Not About Face* (2013), *Erotic Dance* (2016) and *Bunny* (2016) have been presented extensively throughout Australia, and internationally in France, Germany, Norway, Netherlands, Japan, Singapore, and U.S.A.

Since receiving his B.A. from the Victorian College of the Arts, George has collaborated and performed in the works of many acclaimed dance and theatre companies, queer clubs, music and social justice projects. George was recipient of Melbourne Fringe Awards (1999, 2013), Asialink Residency (2005), Russell Page Fellowship (2007), Greenroom Award for Best Male Dancer (2011), and commissions: Sydney Opera House (2006), Keir Foundation (2008), Lucy Guerin Inc (2010), Phantom Limbs (2013), Chocolate Factory Theater (2014), Phillip Adams Balletlab (2015) and Campbelltown Arts Centre (2016). George is also a massage therapist and practitioner of Kinbaku (rope bondage).

Tang Fu Kuen

Title

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Tang Fu Kuen is a Bangkok based Independent Dramaturg, Producer and Curator; Fu Kuen is also a cultural worker in contemporary performance and visual fields, working in Asia and Europe. He was the sole curator of the Singapore pavilion at the 53rd Venice Biennale. He has worked in the Singapore Arts Festival, Indonesian Dance Festival, In Transit Festival (Berlin), Bangkok Fringe Festival and Colombo Dance Platform.

Alison Halit

Title

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Alison Halit is a producer and curator who regularly premieres and tours performances by leading Australian artists working in the realm of experimental practice. Internationally she has toured such artists to Denmark, The Netherlands, The United Kingdom and Wales, Ireland, Slovenia, Canada, The United States, Portugal, Norway, France, Lithuania, Singapore, Japan and Germany. She has forthcoming tours to Theatre der Welt Festival (Hamburg), TBA Festival P.I.C.A (Portland), Lonely in the Rain (Kuopio), and a mini Australian Focus travelling to In Extremis Festival, Theatre Garonne (Toulouse) March 2017. She has been the Producer of Luke George and Collaborators since late 2011, and works for Tim Darbyshire, Melanie Jame Wolf, Prue Lang and Shian Law. She is the International Producer of APHIDS and is a consultant producer for Luke Jaaniste and THE RABBLE among others. Alison is currently co-curating a 'New Australian Contemporary Stage Focus' at Usine C in Montreal.

Matthew Adey / House of Vnholy

Title

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House of Vnholy (pronounced Unholy) is an experimental theatre and production house based in Melbourne, led by designer Matthew Adey. HOV specialize in the creation of live performance, set and lighting design, installation and sculpture. HOV investigates the spectacle of the visual image in the theatrical context. Inspired by 19th century gothic literature, HOV is interested in the exchange and experimentation of the physical embodiment of text and gothic thematics and the subversion of contemporary spectacle through multi-disciplinary art-form.

Gene Hedley

Title

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Gene Hedley is a production manager and technician based in Melbourne. He has worked on a variety of productions, events and festivals including White Night, the Pacific Games and The Spaghetti Western Orchestra. Most recently he has been building an amusement park on Phillip Island and production managing for Melbourne Festival.



Thank You



Carrillo Ganter. Vallejo Gantner. Kiri Morocombe. Michael Dagostino. Emma Saunders. Ausdance Vic. Aimee Lee. Tristan Meecham. Joel Godfredson. Connor Sibly. Rosemary Hinde. Stephen Armstrong/AsiaTOPA. Josh Wright/Arts House.

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