



Lucy Guerin Inc and Belvoir

Conversation Piece

Arts House, Meat Market

Tue 19 – Sun 24 Mar

70 minutes

CAST/CREATIVE

Choreographer/Director: **Lucy Guerin**

Performers: **Megan Holloway, Stephanie Lake, Alisdair Macindoe, Byron Perry, Katherine Tonkin, Matthew Whittet**

Set & Costume Designer: **Robert Cousins**

Lighting Designer: **Damien Cooper**

Sound Designer/Composer: **Robin Fox**

Production Manager: **Chris Mercer**

Stage Manager: **Philippa Wright**

Sound Engineer: **Michael Toisuta**

Music Credits

Nick Cave and The Bad Seeds, 'Mercy Seat'
The Cure, 'A Forest'

Cathy Dennis & Robert Davis, 'Come Into My World'

Lou Reed, 'I Found a Reason'

lucyguerininc.com

belvoir.com.au

Conversation Piece is a Lucy Guerin Inc and Belvoir co-production, which has been supported by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body; Belvoir; and the City of Melbourne through Arts House

Image: **Brett Boardman**

Artistic Notes

Conversation Piece was born from an exploration with three dancers and three actors. It grew out of my desire to examine the unique modes of communication delivered by these very different performing art forms, but also to shift into

a territory where they both transcend these boundaries, to create a form of theatre that can bring language and physicality into closer proximity.

There is no brief for the eight-minute conversation that initiates this work. The dancers just walk on stage and say whatever occurs to them in that moment. It is completely different every night and becomes the transient script for that show, mediated and transformed by the ubiquitous iPhone, which both reduces and enlarges the world.

Lucy Guerin

Biographies

Lucy Guerin
Choreographer/Director

Lucy Guerin graduated from the Centre for Performing Arts in Adelaide in 1982 before joining Dance Exchange and then Danceworks. She moved to New York in 1989 for seven years, working with Tere O'Connor Dance, the Bebe Miller Company and Sara Rudner. In 2002 she established Lucy Guerin Inc in Melbourne to support the development, creation and touring of new works. She has toured her work to Europe, Asia and North America as well as many of Australia's major festivals and venues. She has been commissioned by Chunky Move, Dance Works Rotterdam, Ricochet (UK) and Mikhail Baryshnikov's White Oak Dance Project (USA), and in 2013 will create a work for the Lyon Opera Ballet.

Megan Holloway
Performer

Since graduating from WAAPA Megan Holloway has appeared in Belvoir's *Peter Pan*, *Conversation Piece* (Belvoir/Lucy Guerin Inc) and *Neighbourhood Watch*; and in 2011 was part of the B Street ensemble. Other theatre credits include *Heartbreak Hotel* (Griffin); *The Swimming Club* (Black Swan/Melbourne Theatre Company); *Autobahn* (Pantsguys/Adelaide Fringe); *Blessed Are the Wild* (NIDA); and *Dirtyland* (New Theatre). Film credits include *Taking Stock*, and P J Hogan's feature, *Mental*.

Stephanie Lake
Performer

After graduating from the VCA, Stephanie Lake began working with Lucy Guerin, Chunky Move and BalletLab, and has performed internationally for the past 13 years. An award-winning choreographer with commissions from companies including Sydney Dance Company and Chunky Move, she has made several large-scale public dance works involving nearly 1,000 participants. She is currently Honorary Resident Director of Lucy Guerin Inc and recipient of the Peggy Van Praagh Choreographic Fellowship.

Alisdair Macindoe
Performer

Dancer and choreographer Alisdair Macindoe has performed extensively throughout Australia, the USA, Korea and Canada. In 2012 he performed in Lucy Guerin Inc's *Untrained* and *Conversation*

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Piece, Antony Hamilton's *Keep Everything* and Gideon Obarzanek's *Assembly*, earning him a Green Room Award nomination for his year's work. This year he is working with Lucy Guerin, Byron Perry and Stephanie Lake, and developing his own solo work.

Byron Perry Performer

Byron Perry has toured extensively, developing and performing roles with Douglas Wright, Leigh Warren, Chunky Move, Paul Selwyn Norton, Lucy Guerin Inc, BalletLab, DV8 Physical Theatre, Force Majeure, Antony Hamilton Projects and KAGE Physical Theatre. In 2006 he received an Australian Dance Award for Outstanding Performance by a Male Dancer and won the Green Room Award for Best Male Dancer for his year's work. In 2011 he received a Harold Mitchell Fellowship for professional development in direction and choreography.

Katherine Tonkin Performer

A graduate of WAAPA, Katherine Tonkin's credits include *The Histrionic* and *Baal* (STC/Malthouse Theatre); *Cloud Nine* and *Apocalypse Bear Trilogy* (MTC); *OT: Chronicles of the Old Testament* (Malthouse Theatre); *The Eisteddfod* (Stuck Pigs Squealing/Malthouse Theatre, Downstairs Belvoir); *Gilgamesh* (Uncle Semolina & Friends/MIAF/Sydney Opera House/London, Beijing, Shanghai); *Smashed* (Griffin Independent); and *3XSisters* (The Hayloft Project). Screen credits include *Macbeth*, *City Homicide*, *Neighbours*, *Blue Heelers*, *Snake Tales*, *Kick*, and various short films.

Matthew Whittet Performer

Matthew Whittet's theatre performances include *School Dance* (writer/performer), *The Wonderful World of Dissocia*, *Metamorphosis*, *Endgame* and *Fireface* (STC); *Conversation Piece*, *The Book of Everything*, *The Threepenny Opera*, *The Underpants*, *King Ubu* and *As You Like It* (Belvoir); *Hamlet* and *King Lear* (Bell Shakespeare); and *Moving Target* and *The Ham Funeral* (Malthouse Theatre). His writing includes *Old Man* (Belvoir), *Harbinger* (Brink) and *Fugitive* (Windmill Theatre). Film credits include *The Great Gatsby*, *Sleeping Beauty* and *Moulin Rouge!*. He is a 2013–14 Sidney Myer Creative Fellow.

Robert Cousins Set & Costume Designer

Robert Cousins has designed for theatre, dance, opera and film. His credits include *Cloudstreet*, *Waiting for Godot*, *The Threepenny Opera*, *Gulpilil*, *A Midsummer*

Night's Dream, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*, *Babyteeth*, *Strange Interlude*, *Peter Pan* and *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* (Belvoir); *Julius Caesar*, *The Season at Sarsaparilla*, *The War of the Roses* and *Under Milkwood* (STC); *The Eternity Man* (Almeida); *Weather* (Lucy Guerin Inc); *Moving Target* (Malthouse Theatre); and films *Candy*, *Romulus*, *My Father* and *Balibo*. He wrote *25 Belvoir Street* and is currently designing the *Ring Cycle* for Opera Australia.

Damien Cooper Lighting Designer

Damien Cooper's theatre credits include *Exit the King* on Broadway starring Geoffrey Rush; *Keating! The Musical*; *Summer of the Seventeenth Doll* (Belvoir); and *The Lost Echo*, *Tot Mom* and *Riflemind* (STC). Opera credits include *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Houston Grand Opera/Canadian Opera Company/Lyric Opera of Chicago); *Chorus!* (Houston Grand Opera); *Peter Grimes* (Opera Australia/Houston Grand Opera). Dance credits include *The Australian Ballet's Swan Lake* (New York, London, Paris and Tokyo) and *Romeo and Juliet*. He has won three Sydney Theatre Awards and a Green Room Award.

Robin Fox Sound Designer/Composer

Robin Fox works across audible and visible arts. Over the past five years his work has featured in over 50 cities and festivals worldwide. Recent projects include the photography exhibition *Proof of Concept* (CCP, Melbourne); *Interior Design*, a research project with the Bionic Ear Institute, composing for cochlear implant wearers; a commission to build a giant interactive theremin for the City of Melbourne; and an exhibition at GOMA, Brisbane. He also works with choreographers including Gideon Obarzanek, Antony Hamilton, Lucy Guerin and Stephanie Lake.

Lucy Guerin Inc

Lucy Guerin Inc was established in Melbourne in 2002 to create and tour new dance works. The company is dedicated to challenging and extending the art of contemporary dance. New productions are generated through an experimental approach that may involve voice, video, sound, text and industrial design as well as Guerin's lucid physical structures. Lucy Guerin Inc has been a major influence on the identity of Australian dance, stemming from the company's research into choreographic practice supported through several initiatives including *Pieces for Small Spaces*, *First Run*, *Hotbed*, Artists in Residence and Secondments.

In 2013 Lucy Guerin Inc has been supported by the Australia Council for the Arts, Arts Victoria, City of Melbourne, Besen Family Foundation and the Sidney Myer Fund.

Artistic Director: **Lucy Guerin** ♦ Interim Executive Producer: **Annette Vieuxseux** ♦ Assistant Producer: **Laura Levitus** ♦ Board: **Chloe Munro** (Chair), **Elly Bloom**, **Robin Fox**, **Lucy Guerin**, **Peter McCoy**, **Sarah Miller**, **Lorae Nicholson**, **Cory Parfett**

Thank You

To Angharad Wynne-Jones and all at Arts House/City of Melbourne; Ralph Myers, Simon Stone, Eamon Flack and all at Belvoir; Michaela Coventry, Gary Rothville, Chris Mercer, Philippa Wright, Michael Toisuta, Damien Cooper, Robert Cousins, Robin Fox, Alison Bell, Harriet Ritchie, Rennie McDougall and all the performers for their talented and generous contribution to this work.

Arts House

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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. From 2013, approximately half of this work will be selected through a new 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 (03) 9322 3720 or visit artshouse.com.au.

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Arts House is a City of Melbourne contemporary arts initiative