

Presented by Arts House as
part of Dance Massive

Deep Sea Dances

Rebecca Jensen

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Image: Eliza Dyball

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Wed 22 – Sun 26 Mar, 8.15pm
90 mins
Warnings: Nudity

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Creative Team

Rebecca Jensen

Choreographer/ Dancer

Natalie Abbott, Sarah Aiken,

Annabelle Balharry,

Amanda Betlehem, Deanne

Butterworth, Ellen Davies,

Arabella Frahn-Starkie,

Hillary Goldsmith, Milo Hyde,

Leah Landau, Claire Leske,

Jo Lloyd, Cam MacLachlan,

Brooke Powers, Emily

Ranford, Emily Robinson

Collaborating Dancers

Matthew Adey

Production Design

Marco Cher Gibbard,

Rebecca Jensen

Sound



Artist Statement

“To sense this world of waters known to the creatures of the sea we must shed our human perceptions of length and breadth and time and place, and enter vicariously into a universe of all-pervading water.”

— *Rachel Carson, Undersea*

“People have always been good at imagining the end of the world, which is much easier to picture than the strange sidelong paths of change in a world without end.”

— *Rebecca Solnit, Hope in the Dark*

Deep Sea Dances came from a desire to create a space to share practice and build new language with my peers, balancing theoretical with social with practical. I wanted to initiate a project that’s public outcome remains in transition, is improvised, exposes labor, speeds and complexities of change, the non-linear nature of history and the care and power in the collective. Together we navigate new choreographic systems of fluid geometries and evaporating formations, constructed from shared understandings of reimagined pasts and potential futures. In watching I ask you to consider the potential for our own forms of language and collective organization and to look closely at the systems at work.

Ubiquitously used as an analogy for something we don’t understand in literature, pop culture and performance, the undersea and its inhabitants occupy the horror of HP Lovecraft’s SF Call of Chthulu, Doris Humphrey’s dance work, *Water Studies*, Electronic music duo Drexciya and Donna Haraway’s, *Tentacular Thinking*. The deep sea signifies paradox, terror, hope and potential, largely un-discovered it is inhabited by our ancestors whom we shared paths with until relatively recently, as we moved towards the beach and they moved towards the blackness of primeval night in which the ocean came into being.

Deep Sea Dances falls somewhere between fiction and reality, its location is un-pinnable. It imagines a Whale Fall, its large carcass sinking to the bottom of the ocean amongst a never-ending rain of disintegrating particles. Once whole and living, this mass decomposes, transformed into multiple narratives, nourishing alien ecosystems in a complex rhizome with no beginning and no known end.

— *Rebecca Jensen*

Rebecca Jensen

Choreographer/ Dancer

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Rebecca Jensen was born in Aotearoa and is now based in Melbourne working as a dancer choreographer and teacher. Since graduation from the VCA, she has been performing for some of Australia's hottest choreographers: Jo Lloyd, Lee Serle, Atlanta Eke, Sandra Parker, Natalie Abbott, Sarah Aiken, Chloe Chignell, Luke George, Brooke Stamp, Balletlab as well as making her own work. The increasing speed in which information travels, loses meaning, is censored, erased, replicated and remixed, drives her ongoing fascination with the fleshy labor and indescribable transmission of dance.

Choreography has been presented at Next Wave Festival and Dance Massive with Sarah Aiken (*OVERWORLD* 2014); Supercell Festival Brisbane with Sarah Aiken (*Underworld* 2017) Gertrude Contemporary at Spring 1883, *Room 301 Windsor Hotel*; Kier Choreographic Award 2016 Finalist (*Explorer*); Melbourne Fringe (*POSE BAND 2015*); Lucy Guerin's Pieces for Small Spaces. She is a founding member of ongoing project *Deep Soulful Sweats*.

Rebecca was a recipient of DanceWEB Europe scholarship 2015.

Natalie Abbott

Collaborating Dancer

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Natalie Abbott is an Australian performance maker/ choreographer. She has self-produced and toured her work throughout Australia and the world including; YuNG + OPN 2015 Taipei Arts Festival + Arts House; MAXIMUM, Next Wave 2014, Performance Space, Avignon OFF, Dancehouse Dance Massive 2015, PICA, La Boite; PHYSICAL FRACTALS, NW 2012, PACT, AH Dance Massive 2013.

In 2015, Natalie was an artist in the Marina Abramovic Residency, She performed at the Venice Biennale with Young Boys Dancing Group and in Zurich as part of Body and Freedom. Natalie also performed with Xavier Le Roy and Scarlet Yu in Temporary Title.

In 2017, Natalie is DANCEHOUSE HOUSEMATE where she will present a new work, BEYOND SPECTALCE and work with the producers to program a series of workshops and events that bring the dance and art communities together. She will make a new work on the second year students at VCA and the YELLOW WHEEL dance company.

Sarah Aiken

Collaborating Dancer

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Sarah Aiken is a Melbourne based performer, choreographer and teacher originally from Bellingen NSW. Through solo and collaborative practice, Sarah's work investigates roles of audience, performer, subject and object, employing repurposed materials, large objects, sound, light & theatrical illusion to distort & manipulate perspectives. Sarah has presented work for Dance Massive, Dancehouse (Housemate Resident), Next Wave, Keir Choreographic Awards (2014, 2016), Les Plateaux de la Briqueterie, Paris, Pieces for Small Spaces and EDC Solo Festival of Dance as well as a range of collaborative and interdisciplinary projects across music, live art, film, photography and visual arts.

Annabelle Balharry

Collaborating Dancer

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Annabelle Balharry is currently completing her final year as a student of Osteopathy at RMIT. Since graduating VCA, 2009, Annabelle has worked often with Atlanta Eke (Miss Universal, Wetware), Emily Robinson (An Alternate route), Rebecca Jensen (Pose Band) & Sarah Aiken (Deep Soulful Sweats), Carlee Mellow (Without Pretence), Sandra Parker, numerous music videos, music and arts festivals and shown her own work at Dance House and Melbourne Fringe festival.

Amanda Betlehem

Collaborating Dancer

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Amanda Betlehem is an artist working with choreography, dance and performance to probe beyond the consolidation of the known, and is predominantly concerned with the conceptual, perceptual, experiential and political expansion of the body.

Her work has been presented in various contexts, recently Speculative Subject for Metanoia's 2016 Live Works program and choreography the music video, *Anyway* by Slum Sociable.

In 2014 Amanda completed a Post Graduate Diploma in Performance Creation at the Victorian College of the Arts and was the recipient of an Arts Victoria Creative Scholarship. She holds a Bachelor of Creative Arts (Dance) (Deakin University, 2011).

Deanne Butterworth

Collaborating Dancer

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Deanne Butterworth is a dancer and choreographer. Over a twenty year period Deanne has worked with many artists and choreographers including Phillip Adams Balletlab, Tim Darbyshire, Maria Hassabi, Rebecca Jensen, Shelley Lasica, Shian Law, Jo Lloyd, Sandra Parker, Lee Serle and Brooke Stamp.

Her interests lie in the transfer of information and ideas from one body to another, the creation of energies, systems, languages and understanding developed in isolation and within groups of people. Her work is often responsive to the space in which it is shown and can involve still images, sound, music, text and video. Deanne studied at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (BA dance, 1993) and is a studio artist at Gertrude Contemporary (2017-2019).

Ellen Davies

Collaborating Dancer

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Ellen Davies is an independent contemporary dancer. Ellen works with artists including Shelley Lasica, Phillip Adams, Atlanta Eke, Rebecca Jensen, Brooke Stamp, Chloe Chignell, Alice Heyward, Justene Williams, Rebecca Hilton, and Shian Law. In 2015 Ellen worked as a facilitator on *Project 30* – Marina Abramović, with Kaldor Public Art Projects. In this same year she was recipient of an ArtStart grant from the Australia Council for the Arts. In 2017 Ellen received a studio residency at Lucy Guerin Inc to develop a new work, *Power Series* with collaborator Megan Payne. Ellen has contributed choreographic writing to online publication This Container.

Arabella Fran-Starkie

Collaborating Dancer

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Arabella Fran-Starkie recently graduated from the Victorian College of the Arts where she studied Dance. Prior to Arabella's training at the VCA she danced with Yellow Wheel Youth Ensemble. In 2014 she presented her first choreographic work, *Choose Your Own Adventure* as part of the Melbourne Fringe Festival. In July 2016, alongside artist Emma Collard, she exhibited the first public presentation of a cross-disciplinary collaborative project at Kings Artist-Run Initiative. The project investigated how the human body can blend into a landscape of artificial materials and direct the viewing experience.

Milo Hyde

Collaborating Dancer

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Milo Hyde is a non-binary Trans-femme artist based in Melbourne. In 2015, they graduated from the Victorian College of the Arts with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance, and have since worked with collaborator Cam McLachlan on various projects, including award winning *HardQueer DeathPony* (you've had worse things in your mouth), which premiered in Melbourne Fringe Festival 2016. *HardQueer DeathPony* has since been commissioned for development by Phillip Adams' BalletLab and was presented in Midsumma Festival 2017. Milo and Cam were also commissioned by Lucy Guerin Inc. to premier *Eternal Birthing* (Constantly Crowning) // *Cyborg and Goddesses* as part of Lucy Guerin Inc's Pieces For Small Spaces 2016. Milo Has worked as a performer and dancer with/for Cam McLachlan, Catherine Ryan and Amy Spiers, Nana Bilus Abaffy, Shian Law, Chloe Chignell, Geoffrey Watson, Rebecca Jensen, Benjamin Hancock, James Andrews, and Lee Serle.

Hillary Goldsmith

Collaborating Dancer

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Hillary Goldsmith graduated from the Victorian College of the Arts (VCA) in 2016 with a Bachelor in Fine Arts (Dance). Whilst at VCA, Hillary performed works by Sandra Parker, Feng Feng Wang, Emma Riches, Mariaa Randall, Olivia Macpherson, Stephanie Lake, and Prue Lang, and was chosen to represent VCA at the M1 CONTACT Contemporary Dance Festival in Singapore in 2015. Hillary has performed in works by Rebecca Jensen (*Pose Band*, Melbourne Fringe Festival, 2015), (*Deep Sea Dances*, Dance Massive 2017) and Emma Riches (*Nothing is Everything is Permitted*, Melbourne Fringe Festival, 2016).

Leah Landau

Collaborating Dancer

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Leah Landau is a choreographer and dancer based in Melbourne, working nationally and internationally. Her works have been presented by Lucy Guerin Inc, Dancehouse, PAF Performing Arts Forum France, Darebin Arts Speakeasy Program, PACT centre for emerging artists and KINGS ARI among others. Leah co-produces Dance Speaks, a lecture/performance series for dance artists in Melbourne and Sydney at bars, galleries and performance spaces.

Cam MacLaghlan

Collaborating Dancer

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Cam MacLaghlan is a non-binary transfemme artist, currently based in Melbourne. They have received a BFA in Dance from the VCA (2015). In 2016, they were a recipient of Performance spaces Stephen Cummins Bequest residency, presented their work *HardQueer DeathPony* in Fringe, where it won the inaugural Temperance Hall award, presented a work in Lucy Guerin Inc's Pieces For Small Spaces Program and traveled to Europe on an Ian Potter Cultural Trust scholarship. This year, they presented *HardQueer DeathPony* in Midsummer with the support of BalletLab, have received a DanceWEB scholarship, are producing a festival - *Size Doesn't Matter*, and performing in Dance Massive for Rebecca Jensen and Shian Law.

Brooke Powers

Collaborating Dancer

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Brooke Powers is a DJ who has earned a reputation of delivering high energy uplifting sets, rooted in old-school garage house, and expanding through acid, disco and techno. The last year saw Brooke headline at a large amount of clubs and parties in Melbourne, culminating in a late night performance at Golden Plains this year.

As a dancer, Brooke Graduated from the Victorian College of the Arts in 2012 and has had the pleasure of working with a wide variety of choreographer including Phillip Adams, Rebecca Jensen, Shian Law and Emily Robinson.

Claire Leske

Collaborating Dancer

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Claire Leske graduated from the Victorian College of the Arts in 2014 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Dance). Claire is a recipient of the 2015 NSW Young Regional Artist Scholarship and The Ian Potter Cultural Trust (2016), and is a member of Prue Lang's PLANT research lab. Claire has worked with Sarah Aiken – Keir Choreographic Award, Isabelle Schad and Laurent Goldring – Venice Biennale, Eliza Zuppini – OpenFLR, Florence, Sarah Aiken and Rebecca Jensen *Underworld* – Supercell Dance Festival and Brianna Kell.

Jo Lloyd

Collaborating Dancer

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Jo Lloyd is an influential Melbourne dance artist working with choreography as a social encounter, revealing behaviour over particular durations and circumstances. A dance graduate of the Victorian College of the Arts, over the past 15 years Jo has presented her work in gallery spaces and theatres in Japan, New York, Hong Kong, and locally in Dance Massive, the Biennale of Sydney, Live Works, Dark MOFO and Next Wave. Recent projects include; *Confusion for Three*, Arts House (2015), *All Our Dreams Come True* created with Deanne Butterworth for BUS Projects (2016) and *Mermermer* created with Nicola Gunn for Chunky Move's Next Move commission (2016 - Green Room nomination for Female Performer).

Jo has performed in the works of choreographers Gideon Obarzanek (Chunky Move), Shelley Lasica, Sandra Parker, Prue Lang, Shian Law and Ros Warby.

Emily Ranford

Collaborating Dancer

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Emily Ranford is an Australian dancer and choreographer working between Melbourne and Berlin. A graduate of the VCA, she has worked with many choreographers in Melbourne and Sydney. In 2012 she was named dancer to watch in Dance Australia for her performance in Shian Law's *Body Obscure Object*.

In 2013 she received the danceWEB Scholarship for ImpulsTanz in Vienna. She performed in a principle role with Opera Australia (2014) and Royal Opera London (2016). Emily was awarded the Ian Potter Cultural Trust travel grant in 2014, and since then she has collaborated with artists including Julian Weber, Rebecca Jensen, Rasmus Olme, Alexandra Pirici, Costa/Schiatl, Felix Ott, Diego Agullo and Dmitry Paranyushkin. She has presented her choreographic work in Melbourne, Berlin and France at Conduit Arts, Ada Studio, 3AM Flutgraben, Performing Arts Forum and Tatwerk.

Emily Jane Robinson

Collaborating Dancer

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Emily Jane Robinson is a Dance maker and performer.

Matthew Adey
Production Design
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Matthew Adey is a production designer and theatre artist from Melbourne, Victoria. He works under the moniker House of Vnholy specialising in the creation of live performance, set and lighting design, installation and sculpture. Adey graduated from VCA with a Bachelor of Fine Arts - Theatre Production in 2011. HOV debuted his first performance art installation *MONO*- in Melbourne and Adelaide to sold out seasons and premiered a new work *HOMME* with Rebecca Jensen at Darebin Arts as part of the 2015 Melbourne Fringe.

Design collaborations include Phillip Adams, Jo Lloyd and Nicola Gunn, Atlanta Eke, Shian Law, Natalie Abbott, Sarah Aiken, Melanie Lane, Lilian Steiner, Chunky Move, Matthew Lutton & Malthouse Theatre, Red Stitch Actors Theatre, MKA and Elbow Room.

Marco Cher-Gibbard
Production Design
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Marco Cher-Gibbard is an artist working with sound. His practice often incorporates software design and live process, which can be seen in his practice as an improviser and in his involvement within performance contexts. He is a diverse and constant collaborator working across a spectrum of projects (performance, installation, composition, improvisation, community and design) who explores the world, context and social relations through the medium of sound.

Marco has performed across Australia and internationally including France, Japan, Indonesia, Korea and Taiwan. 2016 sound designs included Back to Back Theatre’s Lady Eats Apple as part of the Melbourne Festival 2016 and Shian Law’s *Epic Theatre*, for Sydney Dance Company. Other recent achievements include a greenroom award for composition and sound design with David Chisholm for *I am a Miracle* (Malthouse Theatre), and sound designs for Chunky Move, Ridiculusmus, Zoe Scoglio and Samara Hersch.



Special thanks to Baden Hitchcock and Tim Darbyshire who fed the process. Sound help from Andrew Wilson, Daniel Arnott and Michael McNab. Initial explorations and idea with Lz Dunn and the POSE BAND team.

I respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the Land upon which this event is taking place on and where I live and work, the Boonwurung and Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation.

Arts House, as a key program of the City of Melbourne, is Melbourne's contemporary centre for performance and interactive artforms. We support new and diverse ways to make and experience art which is participatory and experiential, interdisciplinary and trans-disciplinary, curated through a balance of provocation, responsiveness and collaboration with artists and audiences.

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

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