

Presented by Arts House as
part of Dance Massive

Deepspace

James Batchelor

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Image: Charles Tambiah

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Mon 20 Mar,
5pm, 6pm, 7pm, 8pm
40 mins

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artshouse.com.au

Creative Team

James Batchelor
Concept, Choreographer,
Performer
Chloe Chignell
Performer
Morgan Hickinbotham
Sound Designer
Annalise Rees
Visual Artist
Rose Connors Dance
Lighting Design



Artist Statement

Deepspace is our response in movement, sound and installation to a two-month expedition studying active volcanoes in the Southern Ocean.

From January - February 2016, Australia's Marine National Facility, the research vessel *Investigator*, transported a team of 60 scientists, students, artists and ship's crew to Heard and McDonald Islands. The purpose of the voyage was to test a hypothesis, specifically that fluids cooling active undersea volcanoes transport iron into the ocean, iron that phytoplankton need to metabolize. Phytoplankton are important because they produce about half of the oxygen in Earth's atmosphere; in other words, they are responsible for every other breath we take.

Floating on the ocean's surface in one of the most isolated places on Earth, science and art processes converged with surprising synergies. It was a particularly unique and inspiring space to study and research the body in movement. On a constantly moving platform, simply searching for stillness and stability was a task in itself. It was truly a relentless project, for two-months at sea, it demanded extreme patience and flexibility to meet the myriad of challenges that existed in such harsh environments. The isolation,

confinement and repetitiveness of our daily experience prompted a profoundly unique approach to space and time. From this unfamiliarity, we developed a particular sensitivity to the body. Starting from sensation, the body became a heightened arrival and departure point for information.

Deepspace is a search for a model, a form in which space-time can be embodied and transfigured. It is locked in an endless exchange between the corporeal and metaphysical, the massive and infinitesimal, the known and unknown. It is about curiosity and our participation in the universe, what drives us as humans to explore and interpret what we find.

— *James Batchelor*

James Batchelor

Concept, Choreographer, Performer

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James Batchelor is a multidisciplinary artist working internationally. His mission is to make work that inspires curiosity, to shift assumptions, widen awareness and create possibility. He strives to find ways that dance can be a conversation, collaboration and exchange with other disciplines and communities. His work is particular in how it responds to context, from conception to presentation; it strongly considers how a performance exists within a specific space and time.

James' projects have been presented by major festivals, companies and venues around the world in theatres, galleries, museums and public contexts. In 2017 he is undertaking projects in Canberra, Hobart, Melbourne, Italy, Luxembourg and Paris and premiering new works for Dance Massive and Chunky Move.

Rose Connors

Lighting Designer

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Rose Connors is an arts practitioner with experience across all areas of production, specialising in design and production management. In her design work she creates performance environments that engage with both those onstage and those viewing.

Rose's work treats space & light as another performer, an element that directs viewers and forms the final shape of the work. She is interested in the way in which live performance is viewed and experienced. Her current explorations examine improvised visuals for live performance, choreography created in response to set & lighting installations and contrasting dance styles in united environments.

Rose has been a recipient of an Artstart Grant, an Ian Potter Cultural Trust Grant, is an alumni from the Malthouse Besen Family Artist Program and the Victorian College of the Arts (Bachelor of Production). She has collaborated with numerous artists including choreographers, Shelley Lasica, Sandra Parker, Deanne Butterworth, and Nat Cursio.

Morgan Hickinbotham

Sound Designer

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Morgan Hickinbotham produces work within the fields of experimental composition, music production/sound design, photography, video art and film.

Morgan is interested in creatively manipulating sound and image through exploring and expanding on minor imperfections or mistakes inherent in artistic experimentation.

Morgan endeavours to incorporate different elements of the aforementioned disciplines into one another to develop greater depth in his work to create a different vision which challenges conventional perspectives. An interdisciplinary approach is fundamental to Morgan's artistic practice and he achieves this through integrating traditional technical concepts of composition into new media and digital processes to create a more engaging and multi-faceted experience.

Using music composition in conjunction with moving image and choreography, Morgan creates an immersive environment through the depth and intricacy provided by a multidisciplinary artistic practice.

Chloe Chignell

Performer

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Chloe Chignell is a dancer and choreographer. In 2016 she created *Deep Shine* commissioned by the Keir Choreographic Award premiering in Melbourne and toured to Awaji Art Festival (Japan). She undertook a residency at DOCH (Stockholm) creating *Touch(ed)* which was performed at DOCH and PAF (France).

As a dancer Chloe has worked for Atlanta Eke, Marten Spangberg, Ellen Söderhult, Aphids, Leah Landau, Gry Tingskog and James Batchelor. She has also performed in works by Becky Hilton, Shian Law, Rebecca Jensen, Adriano Wilfred Jensen, Renae Shadler and Amelia McQueen. She has performed around Australia; in Melbourne, Sydney, and Tasmania (MONA), as well as internationally in France (Performing Arts Forum), Vienna (Impulz Tanz Festival), Stockholm (Index) and Uppsala (Kottinspektionen).

Chloe is Editor in Chief of *This Container* magazine alongside Ellen Söderhult, developed in Stockholm August 2016.

Annalise Rees

Visual Artist

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Annalise Rees is a visual artist currently living in Tasmania. Annalise has exhibited across Australia and been an artist in residence in Tokyo, New Delhi, Sydney, Hill End and Darwin.

Annalise's work is informed by historical practices of exploration, navigation and cartography. With a particular focus on the maritime environment, Annalise has recently been investigating how physical and metaphorical manifestations of the unknown drive searching and enquiry for both artist and explorer alike.



James Batchelor



Rose Connors



Morgan Hickinbotham



Chloe Chignell



Annalise Rees



Thank You



Arts House, Professor Mike Coffin,
Amber McCartney, Annalise Rees,
Chloe Chignell, Morgan Hickinbotham,
Rose Connors, Caitlin Dear.

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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**DANCE
MASSIVE**



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