

Presented by Arts House as
part of Dance Massive

Diversity

Marlaa Randall

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Image: Keith Deverell

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Women

Wed 22 – Sat 25 Mar, 8.45pm

Sun 26 Mar, 5pm

Men

Are invited from 9pm Wed – Sat,

or 5.15pm on Sun

55 mins

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Creative Team

Mariaa Randall

Producer/Artistic Director/
Choreographer

Henrietta Baird

Performer/Choreographer

Keith Deverell

Video/Sound/Projection Artist

Ngioka Bunda - Heath

Performer/Choreographer

Jenny Hector

Lighting Designer

Damienne Pradier

Associate Producer



Artist Statement

Diversity started as a means to share the many different ways in which Aboriginal languages, movement, paint up and stories differ depending on whose country you are on. It emerged as a short dance film as part of my Masters in Animateruing degree at VCA. It captured four dancers, Jacob Boehme, Carly Sheppard, Nikki Ashby and myself all from different countries and all moving in different ways. In such a simple form, diversity is present through movement.

From this realisation came the desire to expand the visibility of such a concept and to share it with as many people as possible. The stage seemed the most obvious of places to present this idea.

This led to two creative developments through Arts House's program, CultureLAB in 2015 and 2016. At the end of the 2016 development *Diversity* began to materialise into a showcase of dance, language, and visual art made up of powder, paint and projection. The creative developments of the work have dared to ask *'When you live away from home and reside in the city, on someone else's land. Does it change your relationship to country?'*

Now in 2017, as a new dance work, the reply is simple. *'We carry country in our bodies wherever we go through our language, movement, bloodline, stories, memories, connection to place, designs of paint up and humour.'*

The season of *Diversity* is dedicated with much love, respect and strength to Annette Olive and Lorraine Baird.

— *Mariaa Randall*

Mariaa Randall

Producer/Artistic Director/Choreographer

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Mariaa Randall is a Bundjalung and Yaegl woman from the Far North Coast of NSW.

She is a graduate of NAISDA Dance College and has attained a Graduate Diploma in Performance Creation and a Master in Animateuring (by Research) at the Victorian College of the Arts (VCA) in Melbourne.

Her recent works include *HA LF*; a solo performance, *Painting the Dance*; a danced installation and *Poetry in Motion* that was created with 2nd year dance students at VCA.

From 2014-2016, Mariaa worked as choreographer on Jacob Boheme's *Blood on the Dance Floor*. *Blood* premiered at Art House, North Melbourne to a sell out season in June 2016.

In 2016, Mariaa artistically directed Ilbjerri Theatre Company's *Tanderrum*. *Tanderrum* is the official opening and Welcome to Country ceremony by the First Peoples to the Melbourne Festival.

Mariaa continues to teach, dance and make movement with others as an independent artist.

Henrietta Baird

Performer/Choreographer

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Henrietta Baird is from the Kukuyalanji people in Far North Queensland, and now resides in Sydney. She is a 2005 graduate of NAISDA Dance College holding a Diploma in Dance degree. She has performed in *My Right Foot Your Right Foot*, by Vicki Van-Hout.

Henrietta uses the research of native bush plants from her country to explore movement based on the methods of collecting, preparing and applying techniques, whilst telling stories through dance. Henrietta performed in the 2016 production of the play *'Stolen'* at the Riverside theatre in Parramatta.

Henrietta has worked with The Song Room since 2015, as part of the Western Sydney Deadly Arts programs. When not performing Henrietta conducts learning tours based on native bush plants and materials, weaving, developing, and creating dance movement at the Royal Botanic Gardens in Sydney.

Ngioka Bunda-Heath

Performer/Choreographer

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Ngioka Bunda-Heath is Wakka Wakka, Ngugi from Queensland through her mother and Biripi from NSW through her father.

She is a graduate of the Aboriginal Centre of the Performing Arts' Diploma in the Performing Arts (Dance) degree. In 2015, Ngioka became the first Aboriginal women to graduate with a Bachelor of Fine Arts Dance from the Victorian Collage of the Arts.

Outside of her studies Ngioka participated in secondments with Sydney Dance Company and Bangarra Dance Theatre. She was involved in the creative rehearsal process with Rosetta Cook as part of the Queensland Music Festival and with Expressions Dance Company for their performance of R&J with Natalie Weir.

After graduating VCA, Ngioka was a traineeship in Bangarra Dance Theatre's Youth Education Rekindling Program. She has been teaching in remote communities all around Australia with the Indigenous Hip Hop Projects. She has also performed in New Caledonia, Banff in Canada and in the World Dance Alliance in France.

Keith Deverell

Video/Sound/Projection Artist

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Keith Deverell is a Melbourne based video artist who also has a professional background in installation design and data visualisation.

Keith's video installations have been installed in both the Melbourne Laneways Commission, 2009, and the Melbourne International Arts Festival, 2010. In 2011 Keith's work *The Hawker's Song*, made in collaboration with Sue McCauley and two Cambodian artists Srey Bandol and Meas Sekorn, was acquired by the Singapore Art Museum (SAM) and was included in the SAM and Centre Pompidou exhibition, Video, An Art, A History, Videos from the Centre Pompidou and SAM collections.

Recently Keith has been working on ultra slow motion portraits of local musicians that where displayed between bands during the Sugar Mountain Music Festival in 2012 and 2013 in Melbourne. As a designer and programmer Keith has a Master of Design from RMIT University and was employed as an Associate Researcher at the Australian Centre for Interaction Design (ACID).

Jenny Hector

Lighting Designer

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Jenny Hector's designs are driven by her collaborations and the space they find themselves in. Both her set and lighting designs for Ilbjerri Theatre Company produced *Blood on the Dance Floor* and Jodee Mundy's *Imagined Touch* were part of this years Sydney Festival, having both premiered as part of the 2016 Arts House season.

2016 also saw Jenny design the lighting for Sandra Parker's *Small Details*, *Aphids Howl* for Festival of Live Art, *Another Other* produced by Chamber Made Opera and *Funeral Party* for Dark MOFO.

Previously she travelled with Madeleine Flynn and Tim Humphrey to light their work *Gauge* at Brighton Festival 2015 (UK); co-designed the set and lighting for Tim Darbyshire's *Stampede The Stampede* for Dance Massive 2015 and lit the premier of Jo Lloyd's *Confusion For Three* at Arts House.

Jenny has received two Green Room Awards and is a current member of the Green Room Awards Dance Panel.

Damienne Pradier

Associate Producer

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Damienne Pradier is a Melbourne based producer/curator who has a professional visual arts background as a jewellery maker and painter.

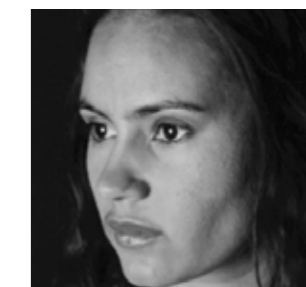
The many roles she has undertaken over the years have led her to various locations throughout Australia.

Her role as Gallery Manager and Administration Officer for Desart saw her curate various exhibitions that included the first ever exhibition of Prisoners work from Prisons located in Alice Springs. As Curator, of the extensive Aboriginal Art Collection housed at the Aboriginal Medical Service in Redfern, she organised various exhibitions and maintained the items in the collection over a 3 year period. Recently, Damienne has worked on ABC's new series *Redfern Now* as casting assistant and produced Ilbjerri Theatre Company's *Tanderrum*.

Damienne is currently producing two Documentaries, a short film and three projects for Yirramboi First Nations Festival and is Associate Producer of Mariaa Randalls' new dance work, *Diversity*.



Mariaa Randall



Henrietta Baird



Ngioka Bunda - Heath



Jenny Hector



Thank You



To the many people who have been part of *Divercity*, you have been vital in the evolution of this work. To Henrietta, Keith, Waiata, Ngioka, Jen, Damienne, you are amazing.

To Angharad, Deanna, Josh, Tony, Luke, Blair, you mob are awesome. To Simon, Mimm, Leuli, Fipe and Glen, thank you for opening up your homes to me. To the Australian Cultural Fund donors, much love and respect for your generosity and support. To Trent Nelson, thank you for your support. It is forever appreciated. Love you.

The *Divercity* season is supported by Arts House through the City of Melbourne, Creative Partnerships Australia through the Australian Cultural Fund and the Victorian Government through Creative Victoria.

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**

