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North Melbourne
Town Hall

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Enfold
Ria Soemardjo,
Jade Dewi Tyas Tunggal
& Paula van Beek

Image: Paula van Beek

Arts House



Season 1

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Tue 5 – Sun 10 July 2016

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Artist's Notes

Together, Ria, Paula and I first engaged audiences with ritual performance in the dance and music installation, *Opal Vapour* in 2010. Following this experience our pervading motivation was to create a contemporary ritual that has minimal environmental impact and can respond to different sites. After gathering in Point Lonsdale it became clear that our thinking and feeling about rising oceans and displacement of marginal communities would be the impetus for *Enfold*. In an initial intensive residency in Fairfield at Powerhouse Youth Theatre, we explored migration and shorelines, whilst exchanging ideas with local artists about Australia's ever present narrative of relocation, settlement and seeking asylum. The support of Arts House and the opportunity to premier a new work at the Performing Climates Conference, has given *Enfold* the perfect context to continue in our discovery.

Our ongoing work is a process of both feeling and thinking together in balance. We are concerned with philosophy and practices that deal in the exchange of energy. When living things are opened to the energy source we can borrow energy. The energy is borrowed and not taken. This is an important principle because taking without giving creates an imbalance. It is more in balance with nature to borrow, because borrowing creates a natural cycle.

As artists we trade imagination and intention through long distance collaboration and short intensive residencies. An evolving meditation and body voice practice enables us to recognise energy through feeling. Alone and together we experiment with an ancient way of seeing. The possibility of microscopic human realms having interlocking connections with the macrocosmic universe intrigues and moves us. This exchange of energy, the process of giving and receiving, is applied not only in meditation but also in traditional healing, honouring of ancestors, the relationship between people and nature and importantly in artistic expression. It is a way of relating to all things, to the entire world, both seen and unseen, both felt and beyond our normal senses.

Closely observing water and gravity we have become more mindful of what is washed up with thought or feeling, and what is washed away with action or inaction. *Enfold* is a shared journey with a sense of searching: for belonging, for transcendence, for centering, for meaning and connection.

Jade Dewi Tyas Tunggal

Artistic Credits

Direction, Choreography & Performance:
Jade Dewi Tyas Tunggal
Music, Textiles & Performance:
Ria Soemardjo
Dramaturgy:
Paula van Beek
Design Consultation:
Ilka White
Producer:
Mandy Field
Performance Support:
Janette Hoe

Biographies

Jade Dewi Tyas Tunggal

Jade is an Australian Javanese dancer, choreographer and teacher. Since graduating from New World School of Arts Florida University (Bachelor of Dance Honours) and VCA Melbourne University (Master of Choreography High Distinction), Jade has pursued diverse experiences to develop her dance making, drawing inspiration from choreographic and somatic practices, travel, architecture, film and music.

Her work explores the intersections of art with ecology, identity, spirituality and different cosmologies, interarts collaboration in cultural practice and performance as collective memory. Australia Council for the Arts, Arts NSW, Regional Arts NSW, Arts Queensland, Creative Victoria and Ian Potter Trust Fund have all supported Jade to develop her practice and create new work. International residencies include USA (2001), Austria (2006), Iceland, France, Spain (2010), India (2012) Indonesia (2004, 2012, 2014) and participation in interdisciplinary arts research projects 'Navigators' (2006) and '*Time: Place: Space_Nomad*' (2014).

Performance credits include her work with HERMESenseble, My Darling Patricia, Mirramu Dance Company, Houlihan & Dancers, The Bodycartography Project and original works by Bebe Miller, Ana Vitoria, Doug Varone, Ronald K Brown, Bernadette Warlong, Jason Pitt, Gideon Obarzanek, Stephen Page, Martin del Amo and Albert David amongst others. Cultural exchanges include projects with Anangu elders of Pitjantjara Lands (2003), Javanese elders/artists of Yogyakarta Keraton (2003), Batak elders of Sumatra (2004), Wik elders of Arrukun (2006) Barkindji artists of Wilcannia (2009) and Yolngu elders/artists of Yirrkala (2012).

Jade's recent choreographic work includes: *Mantle* (2014), *Kiss Slap* (2013), *Avantika* (2013), *Opal Vapour* (2012), *6/7 Empty* (2011), *All to Get Her* (2011), *When a Friend Succeeds* (2010) and *Clouds of Ash and Glass* (2013).

jadedewi.com

Ria Soemardjo

Ria is a vocalist, musician, composer and teacher. Born in Melbourne of Australian/Indonesian descent, she draws on her deep respect for the Javanese musical tradition in her original compositions and soundscapes. Her distinct, haunting vocal style also reflects an eclectic range of influences, and she has recorded with a diverse range of ensembles – across genres – including contemporary and trad-world, to jazz and improvisation.

Ria has performed internationally in a range of projects incorporating contemporary dance, theatre and installations. In 2012 her work with internationally acclaimed dancer Ros Warby and cellist Helen Mountfort, Tower Suites, won a Green Room award for music composition and performance. Recently, Ria had released *Blueprint*, the second album of original music with her trio Fine Blue Thread featuring tabla, cello, viola and voice.

Ria's fascination for exploring voice and the body has led her to train as an Alexander Technique teacher and she shares her unique vocal training approach through private sessions and workshops. Currently Ria is the only Australian female exponent of the Javanese classical vocal style. She has trained in central Java and continues to perform regularly with gamelan groups around Australia.

riavoice.com

Paula van Beek

Paula is an independent artist dedicated to creating original image-driven performative works. Her work investigates self, identity, locality and alternative narrative structures with a focus on feminine experiences. As a current research candidate at RMIT School of Art her research is centered on self-surveillance and the social media obsession with the selfie. Paula has a Bachelor of Arts from Victoria University, Wellington, NZ and a Graduate Diploma in Animateuring from VCA, Melbourne. Paula's unique expertise in creating original work has been forged over 15 years of professional experience.

Paula is passionate about sharing her skills in performance making. She teaches ensemble acting and devising skills workshops for the VCA Foundation program. She teaches 'Make with Light' workshops for dancers and designers focusing on integrating image, light and shadow. She also runs the solo self-devising project 'Lifepaths' for Verve Studios and uses her dramaturgical knowledge to act as an outside eye and mentor for emerging artists. As part of the *Opal Vapour* project she co-facilitated (with Ria and Jade) workshops on interdisciplinary practice and intercultural ritual across Australia.

paulavanbeek.com

Thank You

We are hugely grateful to Arts House, Angharad Wynne-Jones, Jackie Johnston and the entire team. Thank you to Karen Therese and the team at Powerhouse Youth Theatre for supporting the first development of *Enfold* in 2015. Finally, thank you to our family, friends and colleagues.

Enfold has been supported by the Australian Government through Australia Council, its arts funding body; and Arts NSW.

Arts House

Arts House is a program of the City of Melbourne and our home is North Melbourne Town Hall. We support new and diverse ways to make and experience art providing a nexus for cultural expression and social connection in a city environment.

Arts House develops work that is contemporary, experimental and participatory.

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

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Image: Courtesy of the artists

