



Artistic Notes

The ideas within **Merge** have culminated from a practice I've been exploring over the last six years; the premise being an investigation questioning the physical relationship and experience we encounter with the material world. I'm searching for vehicles for sculptural performance, how collaborations between disciplines can meet, and what language lies at the intersection of these meetings. The previous works I've created on this theme have been predominantly very carefully composed and constructed, whereas with **Merge** I was more interested in discovering the chaos, the danger and the absurdity that is inherent within this realm.

I was very much driven by how humans physically navigate ideas of material value, accumulation and acceleration in our rapidly developing world. I like to see the body as a sculptural vessel in itself – made up of so many delicious textures, it is a powerful example of how our bodies can reflect the

natural environment that we are born from. The body has the potential to transform and merge with its environment, which seems only natural given the fact that we literally consume our physical environment every day.

We are mobile, wobbling sacks of meat. Easily manipulated and equally manipulative. **Merge** was developed from these very primitive ideas, responding through the elements of body, sound and object. As a result, the dialogue between all the elements in the space became a dynamic system, that eventually shaped the work into what you will see here at Dance Massive.

I am so thrilled to share my first Australian-made work here at Arts House for Dance Massive. It's a project that has spanned over three years and has the footprints of many wonderful, generous artists and supporters.

Thanks for coming and enjoy the show!

Melanie Lane

Thank You

Melanie Lane would like to thank the following people for their support and contribution towards the creation of **Merge**: all at Lucy Guerin Inc, Lily Paskas, Lilian Steiner, Paea Leach, Rachael Osborne, Paula Levis, Dian McLeod, Chunky Move and Chris Clark.

Arts House

Arts House presents contemporary arts in programs encompassing performance, festivals, 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. Approximately half of this work is selected through an 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 the details below.

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ARTS HOUSE  **CITY OF MELBOURNE**

Presented by Arts House and Melanie Lane,
as part of Dance Massive 2015

Melanie Lane Merge

Arts House, Meat Market

Wed 18 – Sun 22 March 2015

50min, no interval

Merge has been supported by the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts, its arts funding and advisory body; Lucy Guerin Inc; Creative Victoria; and the City of Melbourne through Arts House.

artshouse.com.au
melanielane.info

Creative Team

Choreographer **Melanie Lane**
Performers **Antony Hamilton, Melanie Lane, Ashley McLellan, Sophia Ndaba**
Sound Composer **Chris Clark**
Lighting Designer **Matthew Adey – House of Vnholy**
Prop & Visual Design Collaborators **Bridie Lunney, Ash Keating**
Producer **Jessica Morris Payne**
Production Management **Megafun – Richard Dinnen**
Artistic Collaborators **Paea Leach, Lily Paskas, Rachael Osborne, Lilian Steiner**

Image Dian McLeod

Biographies

Melanie Lane

Choreographer/Performer

Born in Sydney, Melanie Lane graduated from WAAPA in 1999. In 2000 she travelled to Europe, working with companies and artists including Belgian dance company Arco Renz | Kobalt Works, Club Guy and Roni, Tino Sehgal and PVC. Since 2007 she has been artistic collaborator with Arco Renz | Kobalt Works for projects in Belgium, Germany, Norway, Indonesia, Vietnam and the Philippines.

As a choreographer, Melanie Lane has established a repertory of works, performing in international festivals including Tanz im August, Uzes Danse Festival, Spring Dance (Sydney), Festival Antigal and Tanz über Graben/HAU Berlin. Residencies include Schauspiel Leipzig, Dock 11 Berlin, Tanzwerkstatt Berlin, O Espaço do Tempo Montemor, Théâtre de Nîmes, Lucy Guerin Studios and Ausdance NSW.

During her time in Europe, Melanie Lane's practice included invitations to create a work for the *Looping Project*, a platform to support new work from six emerging European artists; to participate in *Monsoon*, an exchange between three European and three Indian artists; and to participate in *The Village/Tanznacht*, an exchange experiment with 25 Berlin choreographers. In 2014, she received a co-production prize from HAU – Hebbel am Ufer for her work, *Igor – hush hush*, and was commissioned by Schauspiel Leipzig to create her work, *Spacekraft*.

Having relocated to Melbourne, Melanie Lane continues to develop her work as well as conducting professional training, both locally and abroad. She has been a guest teacher for companies such as Carte Blanche Norway, Sasha Waltz and Guests, Chunky Move, Bangarra Dance Theatre, PVC, Tanztheater Bielefeld, Danish Dance Theatre and Nordwest/Tanzcompagnie Oldenburg. As a performer, she has worked with Antony Hamilton on *Black Project 1* and *Drift*; and is Resident Director at Lucy Guerin Inc for 2015.

Biographies

Antony Hamilton

Performer

Antony Hamilton is a Melbourne-based performer and choreographer. As a dancer, he has worked with Chunky Move under Gideon Obarzanek, Lucy Guerin Inc and Australian Dance Theatre. As a choreographer he has created works for companies including Lyon Opera Ballet, Chunky Move, Australian Dance Theatre and Dancenorth. His own works include *Blazeblue Oneline*, *Drift*, *Black Project 1 & 2* and **MEETING**. Notable commissions include *Keep Everything* for Chunky Move and *Black Project 3* for Lyon Opera Ballet. He was inaugural recipient of the Russell Page Fellowship in 2004, the Tanja Liedtke Fellowship in 2009, an Australia Council Creative Australia Fellowship in 2012 and a Sidney Myer Creative Fellowship in 2014. He was also inaugural guest dance curator for the National Gallery of Victoria's *Melbourne NOW* program in 2013.

Ashley McLellan

Performer

Ashley McLellan graduated from WAAPA in 2010, where she was awarded the Dance Theatre of WA Award (2008), the Leinster Award for Dance (2008) and the Hawaiian Award (2010). For four years she performed with the West Australian Ballet under Ivan Cavallari, as a member of the *corps de ballet*. She later studied at Photography Studies College in Melbourne.

As a freelance contemporary dancer, Ashley McLellan has worked with artists including Graeme Murphy, Marcia Haydee, Youri Vamos, Petr Zuska, Garry Stewart, Nana Bilus Abaffy, Tony Yap, Melanie Lane, Gregory Lorenzutti and Shaun Parker. She received the award for Outstanding Performance by a Female in Melbourne's Short and Sweet Festival, for her self-choreographed solo, *Other*, and received an Australia Council Artstart Grant (2014),

enabling her to participate and perform in festivals across Europe and Asia. In 2015 she joins Dancenorth as a dancer under the directorship of Kyle Page.

Sophia Ndaba

Performer

Sophia Ndaba graduated from the McDonald College of Performing Arts (2006) and WAAPA (2010). Her credits include *Supermodern – Dance of Distraction* (Anton); *Un Ballo in Maschera* (La Fura dels Baus/Opera Australia, 2013); *Big Dance in Small Chunks* (Dance Makers Collective); *Happy as Larry, Am I* and *Trolleys* (Shaun Parker and Company); and *Culminate* (Force Majeure). She has also collaborated on projects involving dance on film, including *City Girl* (Moth People), *WEBISODES* (Dance Makers Collective) and *Vivaldi's Travelator* (Virgin Australia/Australian Chamber Orchestra).

Chris Clark

Sound Composer

London-born Chris Clark is signed to the British indie label Warp Records, for which he has released eight albums and numerous EPs/singles. He performs his music live and has toured clubs and festivals extensively throughout Europe, Asia, Australia and the USA. He began collaborating with Melanie Lane in 2008, and they have since worked together on *HELD*, *Tilted Fawn*, *Shrine*, *Spacekraft* and **Merge**.

In 2011 Chris Clark collaborated as sound designer for location-based digital artists Blast Theory in Suffolk (UK) and for Saatchi & Saatchi's Cannes Lions *New Directors Showcase*. He has completed remixes for Massive Attack, Depeche Mode and Battles and has composed for two Hollywood feature films. He currently resides in Berlin, having released his eighth studio album, *Clark*.

Matthew Adey – House of Vnholy

Lighting Designer

Matthew Adey is a production designer and theatre artist from Melbourne. He works under the moniker House of Vnholy (HOV), specialising in the creation of live performance, set and lighting design, installation and sculpture. HOV investigates the distillation of the visual image, spatial and temporal relationships with a bold aesthetic approach and an open mind to collaboration and experimentation across a variety of disciplines. HOV's collaborations in dance include Shian Law's *Personal Mythologies* and *Body Obscure Object*, Natalie Abbott's *MAXIMUM*, Sarah Aiken's *Three Short Pieces*, Phantom Limb's and Luke George's *TRTH+FNTSY*, Jo Lloyd's *24 Hour Noise* and Helen Herbertson's *Bespoke*. HOV recently received the VCA Graduate Mentorship with BalletLab's Phillip Adams, for a new performance installation project, *MONO-*.

Bridie Lunney

Prop & Visual Design Collaborator

Bridie Lunney's practice acknowledges the body as a conduit between our emotional and psychological selves and the physical world. Performative and sculptural relationships suggest small rebellions in our prescribed choreography of the urban environment and the poetic mimicry of internal psychological spaces. Recent exhibitions include *There is a way, if we want, into everything* (MAF project space for Gertrude Contemporary); *The place where the fire is kept* (Phoenix foyer commission); *There are these moments* (Gertrude Contemporary, 2014); *Melbourne Now* (National Gallery of Victoria); *30 Ways with Time and Space* (Performance Space); *Propositions* with Torie Nimmervoll (Gertrude Contemporary, 2013);

and *Place of Assembly* (Melbourne Festival, 2012). She teaches at Monash Art, Design and Architecture, is the recipient of the John Fries Award and the Substation Exhibition Award 2014, and is a Gertrude Contemporary Resident Artist for 2013–15.

Ash Keating

Prop & Visual Design Collaborator

Visual artist Ash Keating has exhibited extensively in galleries and created numerous large-scale, site-responsive art projects in Australia and internationally since 2004. In February 2015 he undertook a major ephemeral painting project in Adelaide for the Contemporary Art Centre of South Australia, onto the glass windows of the Adelaide Festival Centre. Other recent and notable projects have been undertaken with institutions including RMIT University and Peter Elliot Architects (2014), National Gallery of Victoria (2013/14), Mildura Palimpsest Biennale (2013), Monash University Museum of Art (2012), Gertrude Contemporary (2012) and Artsonje Centre, Seoul, Korea (2011).

Ash Keating's three-screen video artwork, *West Park Proposition*, won the inaugural Guirguis New Art Prize (2013) and his 2011 video artwork, *A New Lifelong Landscape*, won the 2012 Substation Contemporary Art Prize.

