



Tim Darbyshire

# More or Less Concrete

**Arts House,  
North Melbourne Town Hall**

**Wed 20 – Sun 24 March**  
50 minutes

## Cast/Creative

Choreographer: **Tim Darbyshire**

Performers: **Sophia Cowen,**

**Tim Darbyshire, Josh Mu**

Sound Designer: **Jem Savage**

Lighting Designer: **Ben (Bosco) Shaw,**  
**Bluebottle**

Dramaturge/Sound Theorist:  
**Thembi Soddell**

Costume Designer: **Rebecca Agnew**

Production Management: **Bluebottle**

Auspiced by: **Moriarty's Project**

Consultant Producer: **Alison Halit**

Lighting Operator: **Nick Wallan**

**timdarbyshire.blogspot.com**

**More or Less Concrete** has been developed and supported through Centre National de Danse Contemporaine (France); the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts, its arts funding and advisory body; Sweet and Tender Collaborations; Victoria University – Solo Residency Program; Dancehouse – Housemate Residency; Arts Victoria; Chunky Move's Maximised program; Lucy Guerin Inc – Space Residency; Open Archive Residency and the City of Melbourne through Arts House

Image: **James Brown**

## Artistic Notes

**More or Less Concrete** is an analytical performance work, centred on introverted and contained bodies that observe and listen. Through the act of listening they produce 'audible movements' as they pass through cyclical patterns, transcend thought, and embody meditative states. The bodies are abstracted as they transform between human, animal, monster, machine, and 'other'. The choreography oscillates and suspends between recognisable 'concrete' realities and ambiguous or surrealistic states. This dichotomy is further enhanced through the colour blue, which permeates the work. Blue creates space where receding and ephemeral qualities contrast the concrete harshness of the physical. A long tunnel-like space creates tension as the performers proceed through space and observers' perceptions constantly shift.

*Tim Darbyshire*

## Biographies

**Tim Darbyshire**

**Choreographer/Performer**

Tim Darbyshire works as both a choreographer and performer. He creates unique perceptual experiences by working within particular collaborative frameworks specific to each project. Continuously searching for influences from diverse artistic mediums, he questions how abstract ideas can be translated through movement and the body outside of traditional dance vocabulary. He employs sound design, set and lighting design, visual installations and theory to articulate his projects. His works create tension between humorous and melancholic states, exploring ambiguous grey areas in between.

Tim Darbyshire graduated in Dance at Queensland University of Technology in 2003. His education has continued through programs including DanceWEB (as scholarship recipient in 2006 and 2009), Formation d'artiste chorégraphique at Centre Nationale de Danse Contemporaine (France 2006–07) and Victoria University's Solo Residency program (2008). In Europe he has engaged in various projects with choreographers including Vera Mantero,



# DANCE MASSIVE AT ARTS HOUSE

Emmanuelle Huyhn, Nuno Bizarro, Shelley Senter, Meg Stuart, David Wampach, Marianne Baillot, Antonio Julio, Christine de Schmedt and Eszter Salamon.

Since returning to Australia Tim Darbyshire has focused on the development of his projects through residencies at Dancehouse (Housemate Residency, 2009), Lucy Guerin Inc and Chunky Move. In 2012 he premiered **More or Less Concrete** at Arts House. In 2013 he presents **More or Less Concrete** as part of Dance Massive, and will undertake an Asialink Residency in China, where he will undertake professional development and research for his new project, *Stampede the Stampede*.

## **Sophia Cowen** **Performer**

Sophia Cowen gained a BA in Dance Choreography from the School for New Dance Development (Amsterdam, 2003), after initially obtaining dance qualifications from the Northern Rivers Conservatorium for the Arts (NSW, 1996). She has worked as a dancer/performer for various artists and companies, with credits including: in Northern NSW, NORPA's *The Cars that Ate Paris* (1995), *Temptations* (1996) and *Out of Order* (1999); improvised dance and music performances with Janis Claxton (1996–98); Cathy Henkil's *Even Breathing* (winner BBFF, 1997); and Byron Bay Theatre Company's dance collaboration *The Christian Brothers* (1995). In the Netherlands she has worked in performances and installations including: Helen Grogan's *Alice Twice. Alice Twice.* (Mulderport Theatre, 2002); and Martin Butler's *Lee 101 Project* (Mediamatic Supermarkt, 2002) and *Bob Project* (Cement Festival, 2003). Since moving to Melbourne she has performed with choreographer Paul Romano in *Grad Lab* (2005) and in Shaun McLeod's *The Weight of the Thing Left its Mark* (2009 and 2011). She currently teaches dance at Deakin University and is also undertaking academic study at Latrobe University.

## **Josh Mu** **Performer**

Josh Mu has worked with a wide variety of choreographers and directors, collaborating and performing both nationally and internationally. A graduate of WAAPA, his career has led him to perform dance as well as physical theatre for many independent dance projects, major contemporary dance companies and theatre companies. Individuals and companies he has collaborated with include Move, Fit2Break, The Ninth Floor, STEPS, Perth Theatre Company, Holly Carter, Aimee Smith, Buzz

Dance Theatre Company, Ong Yong Lock, Patrice Smith, Tracks Dance Theatre Company, Katrina Lazaroff, Sue Peacock, Chrissie Parrott (Jambird), Alice Lee Holland, Gavin Webber, Sydney Theatre Company, Antony Hamilton Projects, Shaun Parker & Company, Kate Champion (Force Majeure) and Gideon Obarzanek (Chunky Move).

Josh Mu has been an ArtsNT scholarship recipient and an AusdanceWA award winner for Outstanding Performance. He has recently been involved in the creation of new works with Shaun Parker & Company, Gideon Obarzanek with Sydney Theatre Company, Style Impressions Krew's 10-year Anniversary Show; and Garry Stewart's *The Boy Castaways*; and has recently created and performed his own work, *United*.

## **Jem Savage** **Sound Designer**

Melbourne-based musician, producer and sound engineer, Jem Savage, has recorded and mixed many albums, including *Shreveport Stomp* (Browne/Hannaford/Anning), which received an ARIA nomination; and *The New Sheiks* (Leigh Barker), which took out the 2011 Graham Bell Award for Best Traditional Jazz Album. His interest in electronics and sound processing was nurtured while studying his Bachelor of Music at NMIT. He is currently undertaking Honours in Music Performance at the VCA.

## **Ben (Bosco) Shaw** **Lighting Designer**

Bosco Shaw has worked for companies and festivals in Australia and internationally, on projects ranging from independent works to major festival installations. His credits include work for companies including Australian Dance Theatre, STCSA, Adelaide Fringe, Assembly Rooms (Edinburgh Fringe), Adelaide Festival, Windmill Performing Arts, Leigh Warren and Dancers, and Dance North. As a lighting designer for Bluebottle his credits include WOMAdelaide (2010, 2011), Restless Dance Theatre's *Beauty*, The Australian Ballet's *Halcyon*, ANAM/Eddie Perfect's *Songs from the Middle* and Antony Hamilton/Lyon Opera's *Black Project 3*.

## **Thembi Soddell** **Dramaturge/Sound Theorist**

Thembi Soddell is a sound artist and electroacoustic composer. Her volatile sonic worlds morph, shift, rupture and dis-rupture into filmic atmospheres with a distinctly disquieting edge. She creates work for recording, installation, live performance and concert presentation.

Thembi Soddell has a BA in Media Arts (2002) with Honours in Sound Art (2005) from RMIT, where she is now a PhD candidate. Her research is focused on the emotional and psychological potentials of sound in art, drawing from areas including psychology, musicology, philosophy, art, literature and film. She also assists in running Australian experimental music label, Cajid Media.

## **Rebecca Agnew** **Costume Designer**

Rebecca Agnew is a New-Zealand born, Melbourne-based artist. Over the past ten years she has had an active career in solo and collaborative works across disciplines. Currently completing a research-based Masters Degree, she is concentrating on figurative works in stop-animations, works on paper, and costume design.

## Arts House

artshouse.com.au  
artshouse@melbourne.vic.gov.au  
(03) 9322 3720  
521 Queensberry Street  
North Melbourne VIC 3051

Arts House presents contemporary arts in programs encompassing performance, exhibitions, 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. From 2013, approximately half of this work will be selected through a new 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 (03) 9322 3720 or visit artshouse.com.au.

**ARTS HOUSE**



Arts House is a City of Melbourne contemporary arts initiative