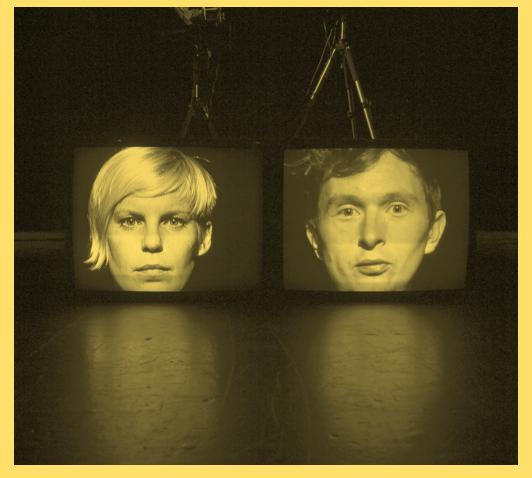
Slap Talk **Action Hero**

Image: Action Hero

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28 May, 11am - 5pm 6 Hours

Warning: Coarse language Audience are welcome to enter and leave at any time, early attendance is encouraged

Creative Team Artist Statement

Co-Artistic Director, Writer & Performer: Gemma Paintin Co-Artistic Director, Writer & Performer: James Stenhouse Text by Gemma Paintin & James Stenhouse, with the exception of:

0hr54

"the Horror..."
text from Apocalypse Now, 1979

1hr58

"You're Blowing It Son..."

adapted from a text by Nick Walker,
2012

4hr57

"Angels have visited me..." adapted from Robert Tilton, televangelist, 1989

4hr26

"I am going to dominate you..." adapted from texts by WWF wrestler Ultimate Warrior 5hr07

"Don't you want to hear your mind speak...?" adapted from a text by Marshall Applewhite, Heaven's Gate, 1996

5hr35

"There will be casualties..." adapted from Barack Obama speech to National Security Committee 23 May, 2013

5hr 39

"That we are in the midst of a crisis..." adapted from Barack Obama Inaugural address 21 Jan 2009 mythologies and ideas around the performance space as a site of competition and/or adversarial combat. It quickly expanded into a text that clashed together a series of binaries, placing world views, personal politics and identities in conflict with each other; scientific vs spiritual, male vs female, capitalism

Developed via residencies at BIOS in

Athens and China Plate's Dark Room,

Slap Talk began as a series of

vs communism.

experiments around sport and its

Slap Talk is a dialogic, discursive arena in which we playfully re-render, re-enact, radically reverse and relentlessly repeat the gestures, codes, images and rhetoric of popular culture. With Slap Talk we diligently avoid adopting a moral position; the piece only borrows the shapes of ideologies. It is a machine for manufacturing conflict and so it challenges our disposition towards singular authoritative narratives and

defined moral outcomes. Its ceaseless doubling of language and form reflects the simultaneity of our lived experience and the simulations, fabrications and performances that make up the world we live in. Slap Talk is a serious game and an unserious argument; a playful conflict and a grim amusement. Like the interstitial space between the two artists that form Action Hero, Slap Talk creates a space where multiple ideas and sensations can exist at once. It is both confrontational and equitable, entertaining and horrifying, intimate and distant, totally earnest and wholly unreal.

Image: Action Hero



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Gemma Paintin & James Stenhouse

Co-Artistic Directors & Performers

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Gemma Paintin and James Stenhouse live in Bristol, UK, and create interdisciplinary performances together under the name Action Hero. For more than a decade, they have worked almost exclusively with each other, and are committed to creating work together as part of a long form collaborative practice. Together they have toured to more than twenty five countries across 5 continents to critical and popular acclaim.

Their ongoing interests lie in the iconography of popular culture and its use; both as a weapon and as a shared cultural memory, and although their work manifests many different forms, the live experience is at the heart of everything they do.

Gemma & James won an Austin (Texas) Critic's Table Award in 2013; in 2016 they were shortlisted for the Anti Festival International Prize for Live Art for their contribution to the field. A book of six of their works was recently published by Oberon and they are visiting lecturers Central School of Speech and Drama.



ARTS House



Developed with the support of Caravan and BIOS, Athens. Slap Talk began in The Darkroom, China Plate's development space for writing and performance. Produced by Mel Scaffold for Theatre Bristol. Special thanks to Nick Walker.

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.

521 Queensberry Street North Melbourne VIC 3051 (03) 9322 3720

artshouse@melbourne.vic.gov.au artshouse.com.au

Bookings: artshouse.com.au or (03) 9322 3713

Arts House acknowledges the traditional land upon which we are located, of the Wurundjeri and Boon Wurrung people of the Kulin nation, and pay our respect to Elders both past and present and, through them, to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.







