

Presented by Arts House

Assembly Operation Speak Percussion

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Image: Damian Stephens @ DDT

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Tue 5 – Sat 9 Sep, 2017
7.30pm
45 mins

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artshouse.com.au

Creative Team

Composer/Director

Eugene Ughetti

Designer/Dramaturge

Clare Britton

Video Artist

Cyrus Tang

Ceramicist/Visual Artist

Jia Jia Chen

Sound Designer

Nick Roux

Lighting Designer/Production

Manager

Richard Dinnen (Megafun)

Lighting & Video Operator

Ben Howlett (Megafun)

Production Carpenter

Matt Scott (Megafun)

Performers

Kaylie Melville, Matthias

Schack-Arnott, Eugene Ughetti

Producer

Michaela Coventry

Artist Statement

What is Assembly Operation?

Assembly Operation uses objects in performance to connect a multitude of interrelated ideas. These objects are simultaneously musical, visual and theatrical.

Printed on the one Yuan note is a scene from the West Lake in Hangzhou, China called *Three pools reflecting the moon*. Within this scene there is a body of water, a bridge and three ceramic stupas (pagodas).

Some of *Assembly Operation's* broad themes include mass production, value and the motifs of Chinese culture on the one Yuan note. I was particularly interested to create a performance work which would address the inherent tensions within ideas. I also wanted to form non-didactic interconnections between disparate elements and to allow the audience to discover layers of meaning.

One story referenced in *Assembly Operation* comes from a mass produced toy keyboard I bought in a Chinese market. This keyboard forms the entire sonic material of the final section of the work and is also the store of a series of spoken children's stories. Part of this story, translated below, is heard as the audience enters the space:

"...A puppy was carrying a piece of meat across a bridge when suddenly he saw his reflection in the water and thought it was another doggy. Soon he wanted to snatch the bigger piece of meat from the mouth of the reflection, so with a big 'woof woof' he charged at the reflection, and the result was that the meat in his own mouth fell into the water..."

— Eugene Ughetti

Eugene Ughetti

Composer/Director/Performer

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Eugene Ughetti is the founding artistic director of Speak Percussion. His artistic output is primarily an exploration of the materiality of percussion, but his work could also engage with ideas like drum aged rum, supersonic performance or the percussive military. Eugene is known for tackling complex and ambitious art music projects whether as director, composer, performer or conductor.

He has worked with some of the world's guiding lights in new music including Pierre Boulez, Steve Reich and John Zorn.

Eugene has given solo performances at MaerzMusik (Berlin), Roulette (New York), Lucerne Festival (Switzerland), SIPFest (Jakarta), National Museum (Singapore) among others.

Eugene has worked as percussion soloist, composer and conductor with professional Symphony Orchestras.

He won the inaugural Sidney Myer Creative Fellowship (2012), MCA/Freedman Fellowship for Classical Music (2011), Best Music Melbourne Fringe (2012) and various Art Music Awards for his work with Speak Percussion including Excellence in Experimental Music (2016).

Clare Britton

Designer/Dramaturge

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Clare Britton is an artist who works across visual art, design and performance. Clare has an active freelance practice and has collaborated with writers, sound artists, choreographers and video artists to make original work consistently since 2000. From 2003 – 14 Clare was Co-Artistic Director of My Darling Patricia collaborating on the company's process and acclaimed body of work. Clare holds a Masters of Studio Art from Sydney College of the Arts for which she was a finalist

for Sydney University's Edmund Barton Graduate Medal. Clare tutors in the School of Design at the University of Technology, Sydney. A recent recipient of the Sidney Myer Creative Fellowship, Clare is a PhD candidate researching the Cooks River and artworks that move through landscapes at Sydney College of the Arts, University of Sydney.

Cyrus Tang

Video Artist

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Cyrus Tang is a multi-disciplinary artist whose practice centres on sentiments of nostalgia, disappearance and longing. Her work examines the paradox of reconstructing ephemeral mental images and sensations in permanent materials.

In 2004 she completed her Honours degree in Fine Arts at the Victorian College of the Arts, Melbourne and then received her Master of Fine Arts (Research) at Monash University, Melbourne, in 2009. Tang has been awarded numerous residency programmes including the Helsinki International Artist Program in 2013; The National Art Studio in South Korea in 2012; Cité International des Arts, Paris, in 2009; and The Banff Centre, Canada, in 2008. As well as being finalist in numerous art awards and prizes, she is the recipient of the 'Highly Commended Award' of the Sunshine Coast Art Prize 2016; an Asia Link Residency Programme in 2012; a Skills and Arts Development Grant in 2011 and New Work Grant in 2009, both through from the Australian Council for the Arts; the George Mora Foundation Fellowship 2008; the Theodor Urback Encouragement Award 2004; and The National Gallery of Victoria Trustee Award in 2003.

Jia Jia Chen

Ceramicist/Visual Artist

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Jia Jia Chen is a Melbourne based ceramicist. Born in Nanjing, China, she immigrated to Australia with her parents at the age of three. Since graduating from a Bachelor of Fine Arts Ceramics, RMIT, she has been dividing her time between her sculptural and handcrafted design practice whilst undertaking a diverse range of commission work.

She enjoys the ceramic mediums tactile nature and its infinite visual and auditory possibilities. Engaging in the exploration of its material potentials through both conventional and experimental processes and techniques.

Her Chinese heritage has been a principal influence pervading her work and practice, and she is fascinated by the historical and cultural significance of the material. Acknowledging the complex history of economic and cultural exchange, whilst alluding to the personal histories, relationships and associated tensions and connections.

Nick Roux

Sound Designer

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Nick Roux is an artist working in sound and video. As a composer and/or system designer for live performance he has worked with Luke George, Tristan Meecham, Chunky Move, Aphids, Nicola Gunn, Sisters Grimm, Speak Percussion, Antony Hamilton Projects, Lucy Guerin Inc, Ashley Dyer, Torque Show, Dance North, Tanja Beer, Tamara Saulwick, All The Queens Men, TasDance, Gabrielle Nankivell, J.R. Brennan and Arts House.

Together with real-time motion graphics developer Frieder Weiss, Nick designed and programmed the large scale real-time video graphics system for KING KONG the musical. Nick has also created video works for gallery installation, Global Creatures, Chunky Move, Take That, Draculas, Mercedes Benz, NYID, Yellow Wheel and Next Wave Festival.

His short film *HOMEMADE* was selected for Flickerfest International Short Film Festival in 2009, and *THE PALINDROMIST* a short dance film was selected for Cinedans Dance film Festival in the Netherlands in 2011.

Richard Dinnen

Lighting Designer/Production Manager

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Richard Dinnen's work in technical design and production management spans 26 years for companies based in Australia and the UK. He works regularly for Kay and Mclean Productions, most recently as consulting production manager for the Australian premier of North by Northwest. Other productions include *Talking Heads*, *Waiting for Godot* and *The Graduate*. Richard has worked as production manager for West End season of *Trainspotting*, Arena Theatre Company, Playbox Theatre Company, Andrew Kay & Associates, ICA, Chunky Move, Lucy Guerin Inc and Malthouse Theatre.

He has worked extensively in large scale outdoor events including the M2006 Commonwealth Games Opening and Closing Ceremonies – River, Australian Technical Director for Stade De France's *Ben Hur Stadium Spectacular*, AAMI Park Stadium Opening and the 2015 Pacific Games in Papua New Guinea.

Alongside his production work, Richard regularly undertakes lighting designs for theatre and spectacle, designs include *Spook* (Malthouse Theatre), *Game Girl* (Arena), *Outlookers* (Arena), *Charitable Intent* (Melbourne Festival), *Lust* (Colour Clinic UK) and *Salt Creek Murders* (Mainstreet Theatre Company), *A wave and Waves* (Speak Percussion), *Multimodal* (Lee Serle), and *ANICCA* (Mathias Schack-Arnett).

His technical design and direction work spans festivals, theatre and interactive installations.

Biographies

Kaylie Melville

Performer

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Melbourne-based percussionist Kaylie Melville is a soloist and chamber musician dedicated to contemporary music performance. Noted for her “extraordinary ability to impart a sense of musicality to even the smallest gestures” (Partial Durations).

Kaylie is a core artist with Speak Percussion, a co-director of the chamber ensemble Rubiks Collective and frequently works with leading Australian ensembles and orchestras. In addition to performance, her practice incorporates improvising, directing, curating and education.

As a passionate advocate of new music Kaylie has performed in the world premieres of major Australian works, including Kate Neal’s *Semaphore* (Arts House 2015) and as the percussion soloist in Jack Symond’s *Double Purity* double concerto (BIFEM 2016). Her festival appearances include the Metropolis New Music Festival, Bendigo International Festival of Exploratory Music, Melbourne Festival, Adelaide Cabaret Festival, Salihara Festival (IND), Bang on a Can Summer Festival (US) and the Percussive Arts Society’s International Convention (US).

Matthias Schack-Arnott

Performer

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Matthias Schack-Arnott is a Melbourne based percussive artist working in contemporary classical and experimental music as a performer, composer and improviser. Described by The Guardian as ‘sonically and visually exquisite’, Matthias’ solo work explores unique approaches to percussive performance, often involving the development of new instrumental set-ups built in collaboration with architects, engineers and technicians. At the age of 21 Matthias was invited to be the Artistic Associate of Speak Percussion. As an interpreter, collaborator and improviser Matthias has worked with a diverse range of musicians including Steve Reich, John Zorn,

Michael Pisaro, Tony Buck, The Necks, Chris Corsano, Ingar Zach, Oren Ambarchi & Liza Lim. In 2017 Matthias collaborated with choreographer Antony Hamilton on the duo work *They Want New Language* for LA COMÈTE (France).

Matthias has won the 2016 Melbourne Prize for Music ‘Development Award’ and the 2014 Green Room Awards ‘Outstanding Work by an Emerging Artist’.

Michaela Coventry

Producer

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Michaela Coventry has been working in the arts for the past 20 years across all art forms. Prior to joining Speak Percussion in 2015 she was the General Manager of Megafun, where she produced such programs as the National Gallery of Victoria’s *Melbourne Now* Dance Program, curated by Antony Hamilton; and the Melbourne Town Hall WW1 Commemoration, directed by Andrew Bleby and Paul Grabowsky; as well as producing the choreographer Lee Serle.

From 2006 to 2012 Michaela was the Executive Producer of the Australian contemporary dance company Lucy Guerin Inc. Other career highlights include being the Manager of Marrugeku and Stalker, the Project Coordinator of Performance Space in Sydney; as well as working with artists and companies including The Fondue Set, Sam James, Julie-Anne Long and Wendy Houston, Gail Priest, PACT Theatre, Zen Zen Zo, Urban Theatre Projects and Brink. She holds a BA Hons from Flinders University in South Australia.

Michaela currently sits on the City of Yarra Arts Advisory Panel, the M.E.S.S Advisory Panel and on the board of New Music Network.



Eugene Ughetti



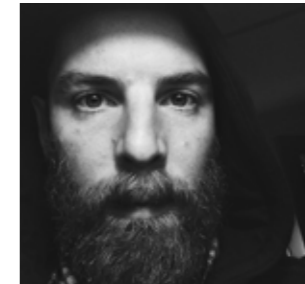
Clare Britton



Cyrus Tang



Jia Jia Chen



Nick Roux



Richard Dinnen



Kaylie Melville



Matthias Schack-Arnott



Michaela Coventry

Thank You



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Commissioned by the 2015/2016 Speak NOW Donors: John Arcaro, Henrietta Beal, Ottavia Beal, Fiona Beckwith, Ruth Bruten, Anna Camara, Tadesz Chwasta, Roma Genevieve Turnbull Coulter, Hazel Coventry-Burless, Robin Fox, Peter and Debra Griffiths, Lucy Guerin, Rose Hartshorne and Bella Milne, Andrew Hillier, Lawrence Harvey, Kate Kerin, Shelley Lasica, Liza Lim, Penelope Manwaring, Peter McCoy, Owen McKern, Maree McEvoy and Fran Haarsma, Adrian Meade, Kaylie Melville, Duane Merchant, Meg Morris, Peter Neville, Ian Parsons, Timothy Phillips, Gary Rothville, Gerri Savage, Andrew & Karin Schack-Arnott, Matthias Schack-Arnott, Brad Spolding, Belinda Sweeney, Elizabeth Tupper and John Morgan, Pascal Ughetti, Rochelle Ughetti, Mary Vallentine, Stephen Whately, Kai Woods, Anonymous x 4

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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Bookings:
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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.

**SPEAK
PERCUSSION**

