

DANCE MASSIVE

Welcome to the first Dance Massive.

Currently in Australia there are around 50 dance companies and more than 200 choreographers investigating a range of techniques, culturally diverse forms, contexts and media.

Dance Massive is designed to celebrate this diverse culture by presenting many of these exhilarating works, artists and companies in what is arguably the creative epicentre of contemporary dance in Australia.

This collection of work is a visually spectacular series of sensory and physical experiences that range in style and scope, from the energetic and playful to the contemplative and intimate. Enjoy this first edition of Dance Massive.

Dance Massive is an initiative of Arts House, Malthouse Theatre and Dancehouse in conjunction with Ausdance Victoria and with the support of the Australia Council for the Arts and Arts Victoria.

ARTS HOUSE

Arts House develops, produces and presents dynamic cultural experiences, which enable people to make meaningful connections on a local, national and international level.

Presented across two sites, Arts House, North Melbourne Town Hall and Arts House, Meat Market, the Arts House program values arts and culture that can help create a world where people are actively engaged, aware and willing to participate, politically and culturally, to make change.

Each year Arts House presents a curated program of contemporary art featuring performances, exhibitions, live art, installations and cultural events, which are programmed to inspire dynamic community engagement.

Arts House has made every effort to offer wheelchair and limited mobility access throughout the program. Please contact Arts House on 03 9322 3720 for further information.

Arts House is a City of Melbourne contemporary arts initiative.

Australia is home to the oldest living culture on earth. Respect and engagement with this ancient culture and its contemporary lineage continues to make a unique contribution to creativity in this place and inspire our collective consciousness and understanding. Arts House acknowledges and respects the customs and traditions of Indigenous Australians and their special relationship with the land. The artists and organisers respectfully acknowledge that this program takes place on the land of the traditional owners of the Kulin Nation.

Celebrating
Australian
contemporary
dance

DANCE
MASSIVE
3-15 MARCH
2009

INERT



Two performers.
Two viewers.
Love in two parts.

Arts House, North Melbourne Town Hall, 3 – 15 March



Helen Herbertson and Ben Cobham:
Morphia Series
at Arts House 10 - 15 March

Tickets at www.dancemassive.com.au
or (03) 9639 0096

Arts House is proudly supported by:

appetite
CATERING

innocent bystander
WINEMAKERS
HEALESVILLE, YARRA VALLEY

jasper.
HOTEL

ARTS HOUSE

LOOK
OUT



BACKGROUND

Inert has had a lengthy process of physical and conceptual development. In October 2001 I was in New York improvising with Sarah Shelton-Mann and Meg Stuart, and it was during this time that I began to consider a particular kind of audience-performer relationship that acted as one of several starting points for the project. *Inert* also reflects a continuing focus on facilitating collaborative processes. To this degree, I would like to acknowledge Shannon, David, Scott and Cormac. They have each brought to the project a highly developed and refined sense of artistry and understanding. *Inert* very much reflects their capacity to seek detailed conceptual, aesthetic and practical solutions to the various artistic demands and problems that have emerged throughout the project's development.

Since its premiere at Dancehouse in 2006, the film component of *Inert* has been presented in the UK and Europe. This season as part of Dance Massive represents our first chance to revisit the entire work, and to find out if we still like it!

Please feel free to contact me (se@skellis.net) after you've experienced *Inert*. I am curious to hear your thoughts.

Simon Ellis, March 2009

Publicity photographs by Natalie Cursio, www.natcursio.com.

Inert was originally developed and presented with the support of Arts Victoria, Dancehouse and the University of Northampton. These performances at Arts House as part of Dance Massive have been supported by the City of Melbourne.

www.skellis.net/Inert

BIOGRAPHIES & CREDITS

Simon Ellis

Simon is a New Zealand born independent artist whose practice has included site-specific investigations, screendance, writing, digital outcomes, black box works, and installation. His work *Gertrud* was a finalist in The Place Prize 2008 (London), and most recently he completed a new screen project, *Anamnesis*. After *Inert* at Dance Massive, Simon will present an early version of his new solo performance *Down for Springdance* at Utrecht in the Netherlands. Previous choreographies include *Full* (2001), *Lying* (2002), *Indelible* (2003), *Sleep. Wake. Dream* (2004), *Tight* (2006), *dad-project* (2006), *microflicks* (2006), *then/now* (2007), *Still/Live* (2007), *Them & Me* (2008) and *Tuesday* (2008). www.skellis.net

Shannon Bott

Shannon Bott is dance maker and performer, living in Melbourne. She is currently developing a new performance work, *Recovery*, with choreographer Natalie Cursio. Over the past two years Shannon has toured *The Drovers Wives* to the Shanghai and Beijing International Arts Festival with Steamworks Arts Productions, performed a return season of *With a Bullet* at the Victorian Arts Centre, created a short film for the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra in collaboration with The Song Room, and worked on the development of an installation and media performance work, *Crevice* with co-creators Simon Ellis, David Corbet and Cormac Lally.

David Corbet

David Corbet makes work in various disciplines including film, performance, music, dance and digital media. Much of this has been through, and informed by, an ongoing practice in performance improvisation and contact improvisation. He first started dancing with Felicity MacDonald before joining State of Flux Dance Company and meeting Jacob Lehrer, the other half of davidandjacob.com. Since then he has made work with many independent artists including Simon Ellis, Paul Roberts, Paul Romano, Shaun McLeod, Jillian Pearce, Rosalind Crisp, and Nicky Marr. He is currently working with Adelina Larsson on a new dance film and continues to develop davidandjacob.com whenever he can fit it in around studying medicine in Canberra at ANU.

Cormac Lally

Cormac is a Melbourne based cameraman and editor with over ten years experience in film and video. He has worked with several visual artists, choreographers and filmmakers to create art video installations, award winning performance videos and short films. Cormac has also taught extensively and is currently working for an online media company.

Scott Mitchell

Scott Mitchell's art practice focuses on modding, hacking, and DIY activities. As modes of production these activities are often marginalised within 'consumer society'. Through projects such as the *iPod Social Outreach Program* Scott uncovers the consumer agency at work within the act of consumption. These projects contribute to open information resources and seek to remake objects as public spaces. The projects privilege amateur practices and engage with gift economies. Project details can be found at openobject.org.

Choreography/Performance: Shannon Bott & Simon Ellis

Design: Scott Mitchell

Sound: David Corbet

Videography/Editing: Cormac Lally

Light: David Corbet, Simon Ellis & Gareth Hart

Construction: Alan Robertson

Screen Costumes: Marion Boyce

Operation: Gareth Hart & Cobie Orger

Text: Shannon Bott & Simon Ellis