



# PANTHER PLAYGROUND, A NEW WORLD ORDER

Arts House, Meat Market  
Thursday 13 – Saturday 15 August 2009

## SITE – INSIDE AND OUT

In the playground we remember the games we used to play, the worlds we imagined we would inhabit and the people we imagined we would be. With a childish sense of abandon, we attempt to go back to simpler times, a heroic place where we only exist for each other, and the world only exists for us.

'Anti Playground, a new world order' was originally commissioned as a site responsive tour of a children's playground as part of ANTI Contemporary Arts Festival in Kuopio, Finland. The research for this work was collected over many months in numerous playgrounds across Melbourne and Europe and it was then performed outside in the Uppo Nalle children's park. In this time we discovered that playgrounds are busy places; children play endlessly; enacting stories, encountering conquests and teetering on the edge of disaster. In the playground amongst the tumbling, falling, colliding narratives they are the heroes and this is their world.

For **Playground, a new world order** we have brought the playground inside to the cobble stoned floors of the Arts House, Meat Market. This is a place of fiction, summoned from our earliest memories of tyre castles, old wooden bridges and seas of tan bark. In bringing the playground into the world of the performance the work has taken on a new dimension. We cannot ask you to return to the playgrounds you once knew, you are different now, and so under these artificial lights, in this silent room together we will create another world with new beginnings and complex possibilities. In this world we have redefined the boundaries of the games we used to play and in changing the rules ever so slightly we are unravelling a heroic quest in an attempt to grab hold of the past while we rush into the future.

"Once more unto the breach dear friends..."

# ARTISTS

## **Panther, Madeleine Hodge and Sarah Rodigari - Creators**

**Panther** is a collaboration between Madeleine Hodge and Sarah Rodigari, who create work across performance, video and site based intervention, seeking to create a space for cultural enquiry, audience activation and social critique.

Most recently **Panther** presented, 'Together at end' as part of the End of the World Symposium at Headquarters in Melbourne and toured to the National Review of Live Art in Glasgow to present 'We will leave our pursuers with nothing but our capes'. In 2008 **Panther** presented 'Exercises in Happiness' at the Melbourne International Arts Festival, and 'Anti Playground, a new world order' at Performance Spaces' LiveWorks Festival in Sydney.

**Panther** toured to Europe and Asia in 2007, presenting work in Finland, the UK, Germany and Singapore. In October/November 2007 Panther were artist in residence at PACT Zollverein, Choreographic and Research Centre in Germany.

In 2004/2005 they produced and presented 'Strangers and Intimacy', an international exchange project between members of British performance group Reader (now fish and game, [www.fishandgame.org.uk](http://www.fishandgame.org.uk)), with outcomes in Melbourne at WEST SPACE and in Glasgow at the Centre for Contemporary Art.

This year **Panther** are in creative development at Arts House, Meat Market with 'The ravaged arcadia' collaborating with sound artist Michael Prior and video artist Timothy Webster. In October, **Panther** will collaborate with PVI Collective as the Agency for Collective Action and as part of the South Project's residency program in Indonesia.

## **Martin White - Dramaturge**

Martin has worked as a dramaturge, director, theatre-maker and film-maker. In 2007 Martin directed a clip for Plastic Palace Alice, 'Empire Falls' for their debut album, 'The Great Depression'. Martin has worked with: Rag Theatre, Rawcus, Trace Elements, Liminal, The Beautiful Losers, The Malthouse Theatre, Full Tilt at the Arts Centre and The Snuff Puppets. His work often traverses performance and film. In 2009 Martin has directed 'The Man in the Corridor', 'In the Great Big World', 'Tomorrow' and been in development with 'Fatherland' and 'And No More Shall We Part' both by Tom Hollway and 'The Suicide Show'.

## **Matthew Kneale - Playground Designer**

Matthew trained as a set and costume designer at the Victorian College of the Arts, graduating in 2005. He has designed for various companies, including the Border Project 'Trouble on Planet Earth' (2008), The State Opera Company of South Australia 'The Station and At The Statue of Venus' (2006) and Australian Dance Theatre 'Theatrical Trailer to Alien 5' (2008). In 2007 he began focusing on project directing and producing live performance in public space. An example of which is the 2008 Next Wave Festival project 'Kids Can Get Lost', which took place in a concrete floodway underneath the Tullamarine Freeway.

## **Adam Hardy - Lighting Designer**

Adam spends most of his time working for Bluebottle and the MCEC. In addition to lighting theatre he has a keen interest as a director of photography, set carpenter and costume maker. Whilst trying not to think about light, Adam immerses himself in the world of apple script, bash programming and rock climbing.

**Panther** are supported by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, it's arts funding and advisory body. **Playground, a new world order** was developed in the CultureLAB and supported by ANTI Festival Finland.

## **20 minutes**

**Warning:** This show requires active physical participation and may include running, climbing and hiding.

[www.pantherpanther.com](http://www.pantherpanther.com)

# THANKS

**Panther** would like to thank the many people, friends and family that made this work possible. We would especially like to thank Steven Richardson, Kara Ward, Tom Howie, Jim Stenson, Adrian Aderhold, Nate Evers, Bill Colby, Lexie Wood, Jude Gun, Sarah Ernst, Josh Cassidy, Jess Daly, Clare Flynn, Marie Spiros and Que and David. From the original development we would like to thank Gregg Whelan, Johanna Tuukannen, Maija Eranen, Cindy Rodriguez, Lalage Harries and all the lovely people of Finland.

# ARTS HOUSE

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

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. The presenters acknowledge and respect 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.

Arts House has made every effort to offer wheelchair and limited mobility access throughout the program. Please contact Arts House on 03 9322 3719 for further information.

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