

ARTS HOUSE IN ASSOCIATION WITH APHIDS PRESENTS

THRASHING WITHOUT LOOKING

MARTYN COUTTS, ELIZABETH DUNN,
TRISTAN MEECHAM, LARA THOMS,
WILLOH S. WEILAND



ARTS HOUSE

ARTS HOUSE
NORTH MELBOURNE TOWN HALL

WED 3 - SUN 7
AUGUST 2011

CAST AND CREATIVE

Creators: Martyn Coutts,
Elizabeth Dunn, Tristan Meecham,
Lara Thoms, Willoh S. Weiland
Producer: Thea Baumann, Aphids
Sound Designer: Alan Nguyen
Production Manager: Meg Hale
aphids.net

Thrashing Without Looking has been supported by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body; and was developed at Arts House with the support of a CultureLAB residency and then at Liveworks at Performance Space in 2010.
Images: Lucy Parakhina

"It provoked all sorts of thoughts about the modes of disembodied communication we engage in now - televisual, internet - how trust and agency are still called upon and how intense and liberating is the sense of touch... I didn't want to leave."

Fiona McGregor, *RealTime*

Warning: Full frontal nudity, strobe lighting, loud music or very loud effects

ARTS HOUSE

 CITY OF
MELBOURNE

 Australian Government

 Australia Council
for the Arts

 APHIDS

 MAD FISH

“A 3am ride through loneliness, frenzy, banality and cliché. A performance you can watch, create, perform and control. Thrashing Without Looking is an experiential work that combines performance with live cinema. It is a textured and disorienting journey that considers the agency of the audience in a mediated space.”

BIOGRAPHIES

Martyn Coutts, Creator

Interdisciplinary practitioner Martyn Coutts has been employed as a producer, video artist, performer, mentor, teacher, dramaturge, director and VJ. He works as Deadpan, a research and art collaboration with Willoh S. Weiland; and Wayfarer, with media artist and producer Kate Richards. He has worked on creative projects across Australia and received a Green Room award for his video design on *The Harry Harlow Project* (2009). In 2010 he directed *Visible City* for Melbourne Fringe Festival, bringing together 11 interdisciplinary artists to live and work in a single space, creating work for the streets of the city. He is a member of Field Theory and editor of live art resource blog lala (live art list Australia).

Elizabeth Dunn, Creator

Elizabeth Dunn is an interdisciplinary artist whose work meanders around people to inquire about who they are, what they do and how they feel. Using moving image, installation and performance, she often works collaboratively, and looks for ways to facilitate audience interaction. In 2008 she co-founded and directed the artist-run initiative Crate59 in Cairns. In 2010 she moved to Melbourne. She is currently a participant in Next Wave's Kickstart.

Tristan Meecham, Creator

Actor, producer, and artist Tristan Meecham works with the grand and the ridiculous. Most recently, he created the large-scale performance

event *Fun Run* for Next Wave, touring in 2011 to Darwin Festival. *Fight Dance Fight* will be presented in Melbourne later this year. His work has been seen at CarriageWorks, VCA, Arts House, Head Quarters, Queensland Art Gallery, Tiny Stadiums, Metro Arts, Palace Gallery and The Farm. He has studied at the VCA (Acting) and QUT (Visual Arts). He is a regular collaborator with performance company X:Machine.

Lara Thoms, Creator

Artist and curator Lara Thoms is inspired by the audience's role in contemporary arts. She has created solo and collaborative projects nationally and internationally. She took part in the MCA's *Primavera* exhibition (2009), and has recently exhibited at the Campbelltown Arts Centre. Her projects have been presented at the Australian Hybrid Arts Festival (Germany), Performance Space, Next Wave, Canberra Contemporary Art Space, Electrofringe Newcastle, the Media Arts Asia-Pacific Festival, AWESOME festival (Perth) and Melbourne's Arts Centre; and she curates the shorts works event, Night Time, at Performance Space.

Willoh S. Weiland, Creator

Artist, writer and curator Willoh S. Weiland has made work for Next Wave, the MCA, Sydney; the Centre for Contemporary Art in Glasgow; the Centre for Astrophysics and Supercomputing, Swinburne University; and for Deadpan in Beijing. Recent commissions include *Antidote* for STC's Rough Draft Development 2009 (Melbourne Fringe, nominated for six Green Room awards), *Underwhere* for Lucy Who Productions (APAM, Adelaide Fringe) and *The Outside* for Blood Policy. She is Artistic Director of Aphids, co-directs the art lab and presentation space Head Quarters, and is a member of Field Theory and the Greenroom panel for hybrid arts.

Alan Nguyen, Sound Designer

Alan Nguyen is a sound and video artist, musician, composer and filmmaker. He has performed his own work throughout Australia and in Japan and Europe; and has worked collaboratively across the genres of noise, minimalism, free improvisation, hip-hop, electronic and no-wave punk, performing at festivals including *This Is Not Art* and *Liquid Architecture*. He has composed music for theatre and film,

and has written and directed a short piece for television (ABC 1). He has worked as a Creative Head and Mentor for Brisbane Festival, mentoring young, emerging Queensland video artists. He currently lectures part-time at NMIT, specialising in digital illustration and animation.

Aphids

Aphids is an artist-led cultural organisation creating collaborations across artforms and borders. Aphids' projects sit at the nexus of contemporary music, performance, technology and site-specific practice. Aphids works collaboratively and internationally and has researched, developed and presented work across Australia, Asia, Europe, South Africa, Central America and the USA.

aphids.net

THANK YOU

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ARTS HOUSE

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Arts House is a City of Melbourne contemporary arts initiative. Each year Arts House presents a curated program of contemporary art featuring performances, exhibitions, live art, installations and cultural events.

Arts House operates as a multi-dimensional resource hub for artists: producing, programming, devising, supporting and funding. Work is presented across two sites: Arts House, North Melbourne Town Hall and Arts House, Meat Market.

Arts House values arts and culture that help create a world where people are actively engaged, aware and empowered to participate, politically and culturally, to make positive change.

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