THE BLACK LUNG THEATRE AND WHALING FIRM

Highly regarded and critically acclaimed, The Black Lung Theatre and Whaling Firm has received multiple awards including the 2006 Melbourne Fringe Festival Best Production Award and the 2007 Adelaide Fringe Festival Best Production Award. It has been nominated for ten Green Room Awards. Though many in the company are classically trained and continue to work in classical forms, they also use that knowledge and those abilities to dissect the notion of what is traditional.

Black Lung productions include Avast - A Musical Without Music, A Ramble Through the Wooded Glen, Rubeville, Hunting with the Colonel, Pimms, Avast and Avast II - The Welshman Cometh (Malthouse Theatre), Glasoon, And They Called Him Mr Glamour (Belvoir St Theatre) and I Feel Awful (Queensland Theatre Company/Brisbane Festival). The company has also been the recipient of the Best Venue and Adelaide Advertiser Festival Award for their 2007 residency in an abandoned building. They won Best Company and Best Director at the 2008 Arts Centre Short and Sweet Festival, and won the 2006 Melbourne Fringe Touring Grant.

LIURAI FO'ER

Liurai Fo'er – which translates as 'King of Rubbish' or 'King Bin' – is an independent performance and art company making work that relies on improvisation and creating new spaces. Working with found items, detritus and larger-scale rubbish (such as car wrecks, for example), Liurai Fo'er creates installations, street performances and large-scale works.

GALAXY

Galaxy was formed by Osme Gonsalves with Etson Caminha, on the cusp of Timorese independence. From their original headquarters in a bombed-out house in their hometown of Lospalos, Galaxy has risen from the trauma and chaos of the fight for independence to become one of the most well-respected bands in Timor-Leste. Gonsalves later handed over the role of manager and front man to Meli Dias Fernandes, who has since taken the outfit in an entirely new direction. A leader in contemporary Timorese music, Galaxy is adored by the country's mass of young people, and feared and misunderstood by Church leaders and elites

Band highlights include the Galaxy headliner show at the 2006 Darwin Festival; headlining Timor-Leste's 2005 New Year Concert at the country's Government Palace; winning Timor-Leste's Song of the Year; and performing at the 2004 East Timor Independence Celebrations Tour with the likes of Paul Kelly and Peter Garrett. When not in the studio or on tour, Galaxy members teach music and percussion and work as visual and tattoo artists.

THE ARTISTS WOULD LIKE TO THANK:

In Timor – Tony at Tiger Fuel; Glen and Jenny from Atauro Villas; Major Michael Stone, Sean, Ed, Tony and the entire team at the Creative Activities Unit, Office of the President; Barry, Lina, Micky, Mardy, Macy and UhOh at Barry's Eco Lodge; Ian Stewart from Toll Group; Lee and Ian from A1 Services; Iliwatu, Paulino, Tony, Autopsy and all of the artists from Arte Moris; ESilva Car Rentals; The Australian Embassy, Dili; MTCI – the Department of Tourism Timor-Leste; the community of Beloi. Atauro.

In Australia – Andrew Fraser, Bilha and Stuart Smith, Andrish St Clair, Brian Lipson, Darwin Festival, Arts House, Brisbane Festival, Adelaide Festival, Arts Victoria, Briony Jackson, Gemma Falconer, Lotte St Clair, Jack and Anya Tinnapple.

ARTS HOUSE

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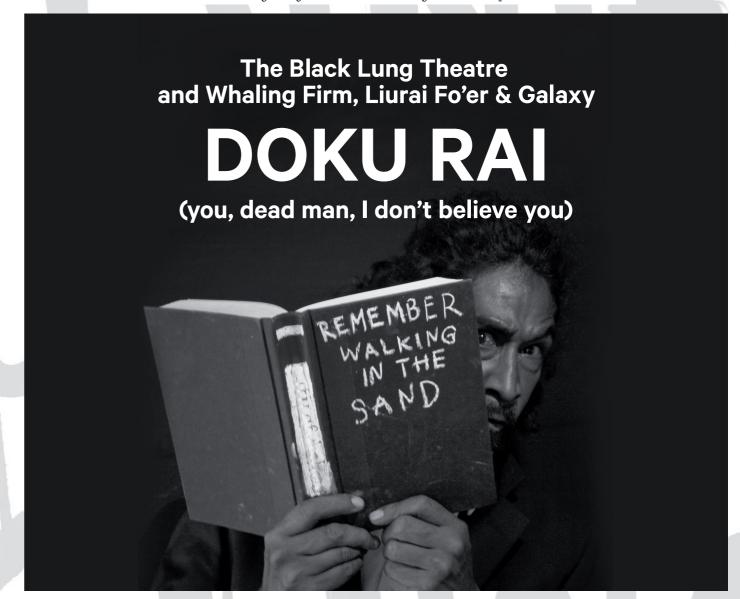
Arts House presents contemporary arts in programs encompassing performance, exhibitions, live art, residencies and other activities that nurture, support and stimulate cultural engagement. We value work in which artists at different stages of their careers, as well as our diverse audiences and communities, are actively involved in creating an imaginative, just and environmentally sustainable global society.

Arts House's programs include two curated public seasons of multidisciplinary work each year. From 2013, approximately half of this work will be selected through a new Expression of Interest process. We seek artists who are responding to the urgent issues of our time in imaginative and surprising ways, taking artistic risks and offering multiple ways for audiences to engage with or coauthor their work. For more information, please contact us on (03) 9322 3720 or visit artshouse.com.au.

ARTS HOUSE



Arts House is a City of Melbourne contemporary arts initiative



ARTS HOUSE

ARTS HOUSE, MEAT MARKET WED 29 AUG – SUN 2 SEP 2012 POST-SHOW Q&A: Thu 30 Aug

DURATION: 90 minutes

CAST/CREATIVE

Director/Designer: **Thomas M Wright**Lighting Designer: **Govin Ruben**

Video Sequencer: Amiel Courtin-Wilson

Translator: Elizabeth Adams
Producer: Alex Ben-Mayor
Technical Management and
System Design: The Rubix Cube

Production Manager: Emily O'Brien

Performers/Musicians: Liam Barton, Etson Caminha, Gareth Davies, Melchior Dias Fernandes, Osme Gonsalves, Thomas Henning, Laca Ribeiro, Vaczadenjo Wharton-Thomas

Assistant Video Sequencer: **Scott McCulloch**

VCA School of Performing Arts Production Secondments: Mimi Catterns, Lucie McMahon, Catharina Schurenberg, Leah Popple, Sally Tatterson

www.theblacklung.com

DOKU RAI has been assisted by the Australian Government's Major Festivals Initiative managed by the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body, in association with the Confederation of Australian International Arts Festivals; Adelaide Festival, Brisbane Festival, Darwin Festival, Stealth Agency, The Black Lung Theatre and the City of Melbourne through Arts House.

ABOUT THE PROJECT

In June 2012, Australian theatre company The Black Lung Theatre and Whaling Firm travelled to Timor-Leste to begin work on the country's first international contemporary theatre collaboration, with Timorese artists from Galaxy and Liurai Fo'er. The work was created over two months in a remote and abandoned colonial hotel on the island of Atauro, north of Dili.

No water. Random electricity. The constant threat of malaria.

This is the result.

















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PRODUCER'S NOTE

When Thomas Wright approached me back in 2009, he said he had found some new collaborators. They had the same kind of aesthetic, the same group dynamic, and most importantly, the same fire and drive when creating work. Oh, they just all happen to live in Timor – our closest international neighbour, but worlds away.

When we went for our first development in 2010, accompanied by Black Lung Co-Director Thomas Henning, I saw exactly what he had meant. There was an incredible connection with these Timorese artists – their art, the way they joked, their musical interests and references. Plus they were hungry to make work. Ravenous.

It has taken many trips since then but here we are, bringing the show back to Black Lung's home town. You can taste when something is going to be a unique production. This has distilled, bottled and packed it into Molotov cocktails. Enjoy.

Alex Ben-Mayor

BIOGRAPHIES

Liam Barton Performer/Musician

Liam Barton is a musician, painter and The Black Lung Theatre and Whaling Firm's resident sound designer and composer. He has composed and directed the musical content of I Feel Awful, Avast II – The Welshman Cometh, Barton's Fat Neck, Glasoon, A Ramble Through the Wooded Glen, Rubeville, Avast, The Plague Cycle and And They Called Him Mr Glamour.

Independent of The Black Lung, he has held several exhibitions and releases music under the name Leagues.

Alex Ben-Mayor Producer

Alex Ben-Mayor trained as a dramaturge at the Malthouse Theatre and has previously worked as a producer for Performing Lines, Brown's Mart Arts and the Darwin Festival. He has toured internationally as both performer and creative engineer with outdoor performance company Well, and has reviewed performance for *RealTime* magazine. His stage writing was a finalist in the USA's STAGE international science/art script competition in 2007, and won

a Northern Territory literary award in 2011. In 2012 he undertook an Asialink arts management residency with the Creative Activities Unit of the Office of the President in Timor-Leste; where he also set up the development of **DOKU RAI**.

Etson CaminhaPerformer/Musician

Etson Caminha is a founding member of Galaxy and is also one of Timor-Leste's most respected tattoo artists. He is a professional drummer and bass player in Galaxy, a djembe teacher and multi-instrumentalist, and a senior visual artist at Arte Moris. He also directs the musical junk ensemble, '?'.

Amiel Courtin-Wilson Video Sequencer

Amiel Courtin-Wilson has directed work for Opera Australia, Chunky Move, and music artists including The Avalanches and Mix Master Mike. His films have screened at the National Gallery of Victoria and the Art Gallery of New South Wales. His feature documentary Bastardy won the Best Documentary Jury Prize at the 2009 Film Critics Circle of Australia Awards and Best Documentary at the ATOM Awards; The Age Critics Award at Melbourne International Film Festival; and was nominated for three Australian Film Institute (AFI) Awards. His debut dramatic feature film Hail had its international premiere in competition at the Venice Film Festival (Orrizonti, 2011) and has screened at festivals around the world including those of Rotterdam, Istanbul, Karlovy Vary and Munich. Hail will be released across Australia in late 2012.

Gareth Davies

Deviser/Performer

Gareth Davies is a founding member of The Black Lung and has performed in the company's Avast, Avast II – The Welshman Cometh (a co-production with Malthouse Theatre), Rubeville, Sugar, I Feel Awful (a co-production with Queensland Theatre Company) and And They Called Him Mr Glamour (a co-production with Belvoir St Theatre), which he also wrote. Also for Belvoir, he performed in The Seagull and As You Like It; and Midsummer Night's Dream for Belvoir Downstairs. With Charlie Garber he co-wrote and performed Masterclass as part of the Imperial Panda Festival. He has also worked with Melbourne's The Hayloft Project in 3xSisters, The Suicide and The Only Child, for which he was nominated for Best Supporting Actor at the Sydney Theatre Awards.

Melchior Dias Fernandes Devisor/Performer

Meli Dias Fernandes is a musician, painter and the current front man, lead singer and songwriter for Galaxy. He was a guest at the 2006 Darwin and Sydney Writers' Festivals, where he presented both fiction and non-fiction works. He has worked as event manager for D-Tour, the Darwin–Dili music exchange, and has previously performed with Galaxy twice at the Darwin Festival, at the World Music Festival in Sines, Portugal, and in Bandung, Indonesia; as well as all over Timor-Leste. He has a degree in fine arts and writing from Taman Siswa Jogjakarta, Indonesia.

Osme Gonsalves Deviser/Performer

Osme Gonsalves is a sculptor, actor, singer and painter from the Lospalos region of Timor-Leste; and was a guerrilla fighter during the period of Timorese resistance during Indonesian occupation. He played the role of Ximinez in the film *Balibo* and recently finished time on set playing a priest for Timor-Leste's first feature film, *A Guerra Da Beatriz (Beatriz's War)*. He is Director and founder of Liurai Fo'er and was also a founding member of Galaxy. Renowned as one of the foremost sculptors in Timor, his work can be seen around Dili, including at the entrance to José Ramos Horta's private residence.

Thomas Henning

Deviser/Performer

Thomas Henning is Co-Artistic Director of The Black Lung Theatre and Whaling Firm. He has written and directed several of the company's works, including *Glasoon* (2009), *Rubeville* (2006–07) and *Avast* (2004–08). He has collaborated on writing and direction as well as performing in various other productions including *A Ramble Through the Wooded Glen* (2007), *Sugar* (2007) and *Avast II* – *The Welshman Cometh.*

Other credits include performance and collaboration on the writing of productions with The Hayloft Project, including 3xSisters (2009), The Only Child (2009) and Thyestes (2010-12). He has recently worked on scripts for Malthouse Theatre (Henningsaga) and Sydney Theatre Company (The Fall of Appleyard College). Awards for his work include Best Production at the Adelaide and Melbourne Fringe festivals (Rubeville); Best Independent Production at the Sydney Theatre Awards (The Only Child); and Best Ensemble, Best Production and Best Adaptation at the Green Room Awards (Thyestes).

Emily O'Brien Production Manager

Emily O'Brien has worked extensively in production and project management. Her projects and clients have included Spicks & Specktacular – The Finale, Peepshow Inc., MOF, the Commonwealth Games Cultural Festival, Token Events, Melbourne Festival, Westside Circus, the Eleventh Hour, Comedy@Trades, KAGE, BalletLab, All Tomorrow's Parties, Film Victoria, Boogie Festival, Feel Presents, Melbourne Workers Theatre, Easy Tiger, Federation Square, Polyglot Theatre, Arena Theatre Company, Next Wave Festival, The Other Film Festival and A.R.A.B.

Laca Ribeiro

Deviser/Performer

Laca Ribeiro is a biologist, sculptor, performer, dancer and singer from the Lospalos region of Timor-Leste. He is a lecturer in Herpetology at the National University of Timor-Leste; and a snake specialist who has discovered three new species on the islands of Timor. He also performs regularly with members of Galaxy at traditional cultural events.

Govin Ruben

Lighting Designer

Govin Ruben would like to thank Luke Hails and Kay Wengierek for inspiring him in the field of lighting design. He is also a founding member of The Rubix Cube, a Melbourne-based company designed to foster collaboration and increase the professional development of artists, designers and technical theatre practitioners in Australia.

Vaczadenjo Wharton-Thomas Deviser/Performer

Miles/Vaczadenjo/Wazzadeeno Wharton-Thomas goes inconveniently by many names and inconveniences. His performances include *The Very Yellow Dog* (LIFT, 2001); *Mercury Fur* (Theatreworks, Griffin, 2007); *Fake Porno* (LUPA arts, Brisbane Powerhouse, 2009); *Caravan of Doom* (Melbourne, Brisbane, Sydney and Adelaide Fringe festivals – co-founder and performer); and for The Black Lung Theatre and Whaling Firm, *Glasoon* (2009) and *I Feel Awful* (at Queensland Theatre Company, 2010).

Thomas M WrightDirector/Designer

Thomas Wright is co-founder and Co-Artistic Director of The Black Lung Theatre and Whaling Firm. He has created productions including Avast II - The Welshman Cometh at the Malthouse, A Ramble Through the Wooded Glen and Pimms; and performed as an actor in Avast, among others. He wrote and directed I Feel Awful for Queensland Theatre Company/ Brisbane Festival and designed and directed Gareth Davies's production And They Called Him Mr Glamour for Belyoir St Theatre. He has featured in lead roles for Melbourne Theatre Company, Sydney Theatre Company and Malthouse Theatre; in the films Balibo and Van Diemen's Land; and in the forthcoming Jane Campion series, Top of the Lake.