

ARTS HOUSE &
TIM DARBYSHIRE PRESENT

TIM DARBYSHIRE

MORE OR LESS CONCRETE

ARTS HOUSE

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NORTH MELBOURNE TOWN HALL

WED 18 – SUN 22 APR 2012

DURATION: 50 minutes

CAST/CREATIVE

Choreographer/Director: **Tim Darbyshire**

Performers: **Sophia Cowen,**
Tim Darbyshire, Matthew Day

Sound Designer: **Jem Savage**

Original Sound Concept: **Myles Mumford**

Sound Theorist/Dramaturge:
Thembi Soddell

Lighting and Set Designer:
Ben (Bosco) Shaw, for Bluebottle 3

Costume Designer: **Rebecca Agnew**

Performance Understudy: **Tom Davies**

timdarbyshire.blogspot.com

More or Less Concrete has been developed and supported through Centre National de Danse Contemporaine (France), Sweet and Tender Collaborations, Victoria University, Dancehouse's Housemate Residency program, Arts Victoria, Chunky Move's Maximised program, Lucy Guerin Inc., Open Archive, Arts House and City of Melbourne.

Image: **James Brown**

ARTISTIC NOTE

I have investigated links between human movement and sound since my initial pursuits in tap dance and swimming as a child. Here the sonic is symbiotically connected to the physical. The urge to create audible movement was later erased to meet the sensibilities of classical ballet and 'contemporary' dance training and again revitalised when I lived in the French town of Angers. In this town cobbled streets and old stone cathedrals resonated with the sounds of shoes walking on pavements, metallic street signs blowing in the wind and the echo of unrecognisable dialogue. These street sounds became representations of physical and sonic meeting points between natural and human-made

environments. Adopting this awareness, I continued to tune in to varying sonic terrains throughout travels and residencies in Portugal, Norway, France and Australia, where I have continued to experiment with performative environments depicting this curiosity.

More or Less Concrete questions how the body creates audible movement and how it remembers and re-appropriates these audible movements in new-found interactive environments. The analytical nature of the work serves to create an introverted and contained body – one that observes itself, whilst at the same time passing through cyclical patterns, transcending thought and embodying meditative states. The body is abstracted as it transforms between human, animal, monster, machine and 'other'. The choreography oscillates and suspends between recognisable 'concrete' realities and ambiguous or surrealistic states. This concept is further enhanced through the colour blue, which permeates the work. Blue creates space where receding and ephemeral qualities contrast the concrete harshness of physical elements.

BIOGRAPHIES

Tim Darbyshire

Choreographer/Director/Performer

Performer and maker Tim Darbyshire graduated from QUT with a Bachelor of Creative Industries (Dance) in 2003. His first independent performance, *Room Service*, was presented at Space 39 in Melbourne (2006). He also participated in the DanceWEB Scholarship Program (Impulstanz Festival, Vienna, 2006 and 2009) and Victoria University's Solo Residency Program (2008); and undertook extended training at Centre National de Danse Contemporaine (France, 2007).

Tim Darbyshire has worked in Europe within the framework of Sweet and Tender Collaborations. He has performed for European-based choreographers Vera Mantero, Emmanuelle Huyhn, Nuno Bizarro, David Wampach, Meg Stuart, Marianne Baillot and António Júlio for Companhia Instável, Eszter Salamon and Christine De Smedt; and for Australian artists Shelley Lasica, Phillip Adams and Agatha Gothe-Snape. His current, self-devised projects are *More or Less Concrete* and *Stampede the Stampede*.

Sophia Cowen

Performer

Sophia Cowen holds a BA in Dance and Choreography from the School for New Dance Development (Amsterdam, 2003), having also studied at the Northern Rivers Conservatorium for the Arts (NSW, 1996). She has performed for artists and companies including the NORPA dance theatre, Janis Claxton and Cathy Henkil in northern NSW, Helen Grogan and Martin Butler in the Netherlands, and Shaun McLeod and Tim Darbyshire in Melbourne, where she continues to study and teaches dance.

Matthew Day

Performer

Matthew Day studied dance and performance at the University of Western Sydney (2003/2004) and at the VCA (2005) before collaborating with students at the SNDO, Netherlands (2006–08). He has undertaken residencies at Critical Path (2010), Lucy Guerin Inc. (2010), Chunky Move (2010), Legs on the Wall (2009), and the Bundanon Trust, where he worked with Deborah Hay on her Solo Commissioning Project (2009). He has been commissioned by Campbelltown Arts Centre (2010) and Lucy Guerin Inc. (2010). His work has been presented in Australia, the Netherlands, Belgium and Lithuania. In 2011 he presented *Thousands* at Melbourne's Dance Massive, and *Cannibal* at Sydney's PACT Theatre. His third solo work, *Intermission*, is currently in development.

Jem Savage

Sound Designer

Melbourne-based musician, producer and sound engineer, Jem Savage, has recorded and mixed many albums, including *Shreveport Stomp* (Browne/Hannaford/Anning), which received an ARIA nomination; and *The New Sheiks* (Leigh Barker), which took out the 2011 Graham Bell Award for Best Traditional Jazz Album. His interest in electronics and sound processing was nurtured while studying his Bachelor of Music at NMIT. He is currently undertaking Honours in Music Performance at the VCA.

Thembi Soddell

Sound Theorist/Dramaturge

Thembi Soddell is a sound artist and electroacoustic composer. Her volatile sonic worlds morph, shift, rupture and dis-rupture into filmic atmospheres with a distinctly disquieting edge. She creates work for recording, installation, live performance and concert presentation.

Thembi Soddell has a BA in Media Arts (2002) with Honours in Sound Art (2005) from RMIT, where she is now a PhD candidate. Her research is focused on the emotional and psychological potentials of sound in art, drawing from areas including psychology, musicology, philosophy, art, literature and film. She also assists in running Australian experimental music label, Cajid Media.

Ben (Bosco) Shaw

Lighting and Set Designer

Bosco Shaw has worked for companies and festivals in Australia and internationally, on projects ranging from independent works to major festival installations. His credits include work for companies including Australian Dance Theatre, STCSA, Adelaide Fringe, Assembly Rooms (Edinburgh Fringe), Adelaide Festival, Windmill Performing Arts, Leigh Warren and Dancers, and Dance North. As a lighting designer for Bluebottle his credits include WOMADelaide (2010, 2011), Restless Dance Theatre's *Beauty*, The Australian Ballet's *Halcyon*, ANAM/Eddie Perfect's *Songs from the Middle* and Antony Hamilton/Lyon Opera's *Black Project 3*.

Bluebottle 3

Bluebottle 3 Pty Ltd is a design/lighting, consultancy and project management company. Directors Ben Cobham and Andrew Livingston design in creative and unconventional ways for theatre, galleries, museums, installations, music, exhibitions and dance. Bluebottle aims to extend the possibilities of design and to integrate light and the surrounding environment across a range of projects.

Rebecca Agnew

Costume Designer

Rebecca Agnew is a New-Zealand born, Melbourne-based artist. Over the past ten years she has had an active career in solo and collaborative works across disciplines. Currently completing a research-based Masters Degree, she is concentrating on figurative works in stop-animations, works on paper, and costume design.

Tom Davies

Performance Understudy

Tom Davies has studied with Philippe Gaulier and performed in theatre and dance works for companies including De Quincey Co (*Run: A Performance Engine*, 2009; *FIVE Short Solos*, 2005; *Dictionary of Atmospheres*, 2005) and MTC (*Metamorphoses*, 2003); and with Tony Yap and Yumi Umiuare as part of Melbourne Festival (*In-Compatibility*, 2003). With Peter Fraser and Barry Laing he devised and performed *Together* at La Mama in 2010. In 2011 he performed his solo show *Home Stretch* at The Dog Theatre.

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 co-author their work. For more information, please contact us on (03) 9322 3720 or visit artshouse.com.au.

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Arts House is a City of Melbourne
contemporary arts initiative