

ARTS HOUSE

Arts House is a City of Melbourne contemporary arts initiative which offers producing and presentation support, funding, brokers international and national opportunities for artists, hosts and partners festivals and other agencies, provides creative development residencies and commissions, develops and realises new artistic work.

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. The 2008 program, *Beyond Bread and Circus*, celebrates artists who are questioning artistic boundaries and challenging all of us to think and see in new ways.

Beyond Bread and Circus continues a commitment to contemporary arts practices which question our values and preconceptions. In a complex global context, Arts House in 2008 reflects a growing dissatisfaction with short term cultural, social and political fixes and the fleeting emptiness of high availability entertainment.

TEAM LEADER Sue Beal
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR Steven Richardson
ASSOCIATE PRODUCER Kate Ben-Tovim
PROGRAM PRODUCER Jude Gun
ARTISTIC ADMINISTRATOR Sarah Ernst
PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR Adrian Aderhold
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VENUE AND OPERATIONS MANAGER Mike Mullins
CREATIVE SPACES PROJECT COORDINATOR Eleni Arbus
ADMINISTRATOR Genine Romagnoli
SPECIAL PROJECTS ADMINISTRATOR Sarah Caufield
PROGRAM SUPPORT Deanna Smart

Arts House
Arts House, North Melbourne Town Hall
521 Queensberry Street
North Melbourne 3051
www.artshouse.com.au

ARTS HOUSE

ARTS VICTORIA



Living
the Arts

MOBILE STATES:TOURING CONTEMPORARY PERFORMANCE, AUSTRALIA

Mobile States is a consortium of Australia's major independent contemporary performance presenters: ArtsHouse, Melbourne; Brisbane Powerhouse; Performance Space, Sydney; Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts; Salamanca Arts Centre, Hobart; and tour producer Performing Lines.

It was established to provide touring opportunities for small companies and independent artists in contemporary practice, and enable audiences across the country to experience performance works from outside their home towns.

Mobile States is a national touring initiative of the Australia Council, supported by its Theatre and Dance Boards and its Inter-Arts Office. Since 2004, Mobile States has toured many of Australia's most significant performance makers: Branch Nebula's *Paradise City* (2008), Back to Back's *small metal objects* and Lucy Guerin Inc.'s *Love Me* (2007); Tanja Liedtke's *Twelfth Floor* and version 1.0's *The Wages of Spin* (2006); de Quincey Co's *Nerve 9* and Chamber Made's *Phobia* (2005); and Jenny Kemp's *Still Angela* (2004).

PERFORMING LINES

www.performinglines.org.au
administration@performinglines.org.au
5/245 Chalmers Street Redfern NSW 2016 | 02 9319 0066
Performing Lines develops, produces and tours new Australian performance nationally and internationally — across genres including physical theatre, circus, dance, indigenous and intercultural arts, music theatre, hybrid work, and text-based theatre.

GENERAL MANAGER Wendy Blacklock AM
PRODUCER Harley Stumm
PRODUCER Fenn Gordon
ASSOCIATE PRODUCER Kar Chalmers
OFFICE MANAGER Hannah Sanders
ACCOUNTS Linda Luke

Performing Lines is assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body.

ARTSHOUSE & MOBILE STATES PRESENT



DANCENORTH

UNDERGROUND

BE TRANSPORTED

ARTSHOUSE 12—16 NOVEMBER

ARTS HOUSE

ARTS VICTORIA

Victoria
The Place To Be

City of Melbourne

Living
the Arts



MOBILESTATES
TOURING CONTEMPORARY PERFORMANCE, AUSTRALIA

Australian Council

Australian Government

Queensland Government

Arts Queensland

UNDERGROUND

Direction by Gavin Webber

CHOREOGRAPHY Gavin Webber & the dancers

ORIGINAL LIGHTING DESIGN Jo Currey

ADDITIONAL LIGHTING AND TOUR DESIGN

Bluebottle—Benjamin Cisterne

SOUND DESIGN Luke Smiles

COSTUME AND SCENIC CONSTRUCTION Sarah Jobling

REHEARSAL DIRECTOR Michelle Ryan

PRODUCTION MANAGER Liam Kennedy

STAGE MANAGER/OPERATOR Melanie Dyer

PERFORMERS Hsin-Ju Chiu, Kate Harman, Alice Hinde,

Kyle Page, Joshua Thomson, Charmene Yap

with thanks to

Sarah-Jayne Howard, Cam Paddle and Solon Ulbrich

DIRECTOR'S NOTES AND PRODUCTION HISTORY

Underground is a story of people falling through cracks in the concrete, slipping into dreams, alienated by the world they inhabit and finding their solace in the desperate reaches of total strangers. What responsibility do we owe each other and does it lessen when we are packed together in the stink of a subway platform? On our way home or off to work, we keep to ourselves and find comfort in small things, a mobile phone, a few abandoned pages of a newspaper, a packet of chips. We sit and try to avoid eye contact. We stand and find the smallest place in which to close our eyes and descend into vivid dreams and fantasies. Or we rub up against the leg of a stranger, finding some small relief in the touch of someone unfamiliar and hoping that they won't notice.

Underground has been developed in a number of stages. I started working on it at QUT in 2004 and four of the dancers in the present work were a part of that creation. When I started at Dancenorth in 2006 I was happy to be able to offer jobs to these dancers and it seemed a logical process to continue the work we had started together. Underground has changed dramatically with every incarnation and the dancers have been instrumental in that change. I have watched them develop at an incredible rate over the past two years and their physical power is an important aspect in a show concerned with risk and responsibility.

I wish to express my gratitude to Kyle, Hsin-Ju, Kate, Alice, Charmene and Josh for their input, their courage and their trust in one another. We made this piece together with the fantastic additions of Luke Smiles on sound, Jo Currey and Ben Cisterne on light, Sarah Jobling for costume and scenic construction, Michelle Ryan as rehearsal director, Liam Kennedy as production manager and Mel Dyer as stage manager. We are very proud to be able to tour this work around Australia as part of the Mobile States touring initiative.

DANCENORTH

Dancenorth is one of Australia's leading contemporary dance companies and is one of only two regionally based professional dance companies in Australia. Under the Artistic Directorship of Gavin Webber, the spirit of the company is one of collaboration and co-production, with our ensemble working alongside guest artists, designers and performers to inspire diversity and freshness whilst producing world-class contemporary dance.

With its home in the picturesque tropical north of Australia, Dancenorth balances a strong regional presence with a commitment to making art that tours the globe. Recognised by the Australia Council of the Arts as "one of Australia's outstanding arts organisations" and acclaimed by The Australian as "phenomenal masters of their art" we have a flourishing reputation as being at the forefront of cultural leadership.

Over the past 24 months the company has been in a rapid growth phase with its artistic direction being embraced by a whole new, younger audience whilst still retaining its core supporters. In the last two years, the company has toured to London, Berlin, Stuttgart, Heilbronn, Freiburg, Yokohama, Singapore, Brisbane, Perth, Sydney, Cairns, Charters Towers, Mackay, and Proserpine.

Gavin's choreographic style has a distinctive and dynamic technical vocabulary. Several of Dancenorth's works have been recognised worldwide and invited to open or perform at many prestigious destinations such as London's Barbican Centre and Tanzplattform Dance Festival in Stuttgart.

Gavin and the company have received numerous accolades, including five Helpmann award nominations and seven Dance Australia Critics Survey nominations, including "most interesting group or artists", "best new work" and "highlight of the year". Having showcased *roadkill* at the 8th Australian Performing Arts Market (APAM) and Underground at the Australian Dance Awards the company is set to embark on two national tours throughout 2008 and 2009.

BIOGRAPHIES



GAVIN WEBBER — DIRECTOR AND CHOREOGRAPHER

Worked with Meryl Tankard's Australian Dance Theatre from 1993–1998, then moved to Brussels and worked with Wim Vandekeybus and Ultima Vez for three years. Since his appointment as Artistic Director of Dancenorth in 2005, Gavin has created *nightcafe*, *gravity feed*, *underneath*,

Underground, *roadkill* and *Remember Me*. In this time, the company has toured to Germany, Yokohama, Singapore, London, Sydney Opera House, Perth Festival and throughout Queensland.

LUKE SMILES — SOUND DESIGN

Started dance training at the Miranda Kalgovas Ballet School, later completing a Bachelor of Dance at the Victorian College of the Arts. Apart from being a founding member of Chunky Move, he has also performed with Vis-a-Vis Dance Canberra, The One Extra Dance Company, Meryl Tankard's Australian Dance Theatre, Thwack and ADT.

Working under the name **motion laboratories**, Luke has composed music and sound design for Nederlands Dans Theatre, Chunky Move, Australian Dance Theatre, Western Australian Ballet, Dance Party Performance Group, Stompin, Ox, Tasdance and Dancenorth's productions of *Underground*, *roadkill* and *Remember Me*.

JO CURREY — LIGHTING DESIGN

Jo Currey is a Brisbane based freelance lighting designer. Jo has worked as lighting designer for the Queensland Theatre Company, LaBoite Theatre, Vulcana Women's Circus, Kooemba Jdarra, Sydney Opera House, Brisbane Festival, BITE: Barbican 05, Rotorua Arts Festival New Zealand, Queensland Conservatorium of Music, Out of the Box Festival, Brisbane Powerhouse and J LX Productions. Jo has also been Lighting Design Assistant to John Rayment for the Brisbane Festival (including the tour of *Winners* to Pompidou Centre, Paris) and the Opening Celebrations of the Cultural Precinct – Queensland Gallery of Modern Art and State Library.

BEN CISTERN — BLUEBOTTLE — ADDITIONAL LIGHTING DESIGN

Benjamin Cisterne is part of the team at Bluebottle 3 Pty Ltd (t/a Bluebottle) based in Melbourne.

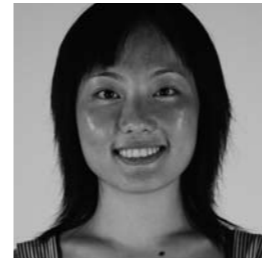
Through his body of work in design for dance, Benjamin and the Bluebottle team have developed a unique style and were this year pleased to receive the Green Room Award for Best Lighting Design for dance: (*Brindabella*, Balletlab).



MICHELLE RYAN — REHEARSAL DIRECTOR

Graduated from Brisbane College of Advanced Education (now QUT) and joined the Meryl Tankard Company in 1992. She worked as a performer/dancer for Tankard in Canberra and Adelaide for seven and a half years. Other projects include the Andrew Lloyd Webber West End musical *The Beautiful Game* and rehearsal

director for all Splintergroup works. Michelle joined Dancenorth in May 2005.



HSIN-JU CHIU — DANCER

Born in Taiwan, Hsin-Ju moved to Australia after being awarded a scholarship from Queensland University of Technology to study a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Dance) degree in 2003. During her time at QUT she performed in numerous works by national and international choreographers. In 2006 Hsin-Ju joined Dancenorth as part of her studies and graduated with a Masters of Fine Arts in 2007. Hsin-Ju became a full time company member in 2007.



KATE HARMAN — DANCER

Completed her dance training at the Queensland University of Technology, gaining an Associate Degree in Dance. She has worked for Chrissie Parrot, The Queensland Ballet, Suzannah West Dance Company in Cornwall and Company 44, London. Kate joined Dancenorth as a full time dancer in 2006. She co-choreographed *This you made of me* with Alice Hinde in 2007.



ALICE HINDE — DANCER

Originally from Sydney, Alice moved to Brisbane to study a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Dance) at the Queensland University of Technology. In 2005 she performed in the Malaysian Dance Festival in Kuala Lumpur and participated in a collaborative exchange project between Creative Industries Dance (QUT) and the Taipei National University of the Arts. Alice joined Dancenorth in 2006 and has also performed and choreographed with Kate Harman on their first professional work *This you made of me*.



KYLE PAGE — DANCER

Kyle has been a member of Dancenorth since 2005. He studied dance full time with Barbara Everson at the Australian Dance Performance Institute where he gained an Advanced Diploma of Arts (Dance/Dance Performance). Kyle has been involved in all Dancenorth productions under the directorship of Gavin Webber. He

also performed in the sold out season of Meryl Tankard's *Kaidan*, at the Sydney Opera House as part of the 2007 Sydney Festival.



JOSHUA THOMSON — DANCER

A 2005 Bachelor of Fine Arts (Dance) graduate of the Queensland University of Technology. In his final year, he was involved in the Expressions education program performing and teaching workshops in more than 70 schools. Joshua joined Tasdance in 2006 and performed in *The Earth Beneath Our Feet* and also worked

for The Queensland Opera and the Brisbane River Symphony. Joshua joined Dancenorth in 2007.



CHARMENE YAP — DANCER

Charmene completed a Bachelor of Arts in Dance at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts in 2006, receiving a Golden Key Society membership. She received a scholarship for the Taipeiidea Intensive in Taiwan and an Australia Council grant for her professional development in 2007. Charmene joined

Dancenorth for Underground in 2007 and has also worked for Tasdance; and Chunky Move, performing in their Sydney and Edinburgh Festival seasons.