

DANCE MASSIVE

Welcome to the first Dance Massive.

Currently in Australia there are around 50 dance companies and more than 200 choreographers investigating a range of techniques, culturally diverse forms, contexts and media.

Dance Massive is designed to celebrate this diverse culture by presenting many of these exhilarating works, artists and companies in what is arguably the creative epicentre of contemporary dance in Australia.

This collection of work is a visually spectacular series of sensory and physical experiences that range in style and scope, from the energetic and playful to the contemplative and intimate. Enjoy this first edition of Dance Massive.

Dance Massive is an initiative of Arts House, Malthouse Theatre and Dancehouse in conjunction with Ausdance Victoria and with the support of the Australia Council for the Arts and Arts Victoria.

DANCENORTH

www.dancenorth.com.au | info@dancenorth.com.au
07 47722549 | PO Box 1645 Townsville Qld 4810

Dancenorth is a dynamic contemporary dance-theatre ensemble company which has recently emerged from their home in North Queensland and has flourished into Australia's fastest growing dance company. The company's innovative productions have excited audiences locally, nationally and internationally.

Dancenorth is very proud to be co-producer of both Lawn and roadkill and to work with Brisbane Powerhouse and the members of Splintergroup in the development of Queensland art through these acclaimed works.

BRISBANE POWERHOUSE

www.brisbanepowerhouse.org | info@brisbanepowerhouse.org
119 Lamington Street, New Farm | PO Box 364, New Farm 4005
07 3358 8622 | Box Office 07 3358 8600

Brisbane Powerhouse is a contemporary performing and visual arts venue. The former power station has become a distinct landmark, both as a stunning industrial creation and as a hub for everything creative. Brisbane Powerhouse is a producer and presenter of works including theatre, music, comedy, film, visual arts, festivals and ideas.

Brisbane Powerhouse is an initiative of Brisbane City Council.

PERFORMING LINES

www.performinglines.org.au | enquiries@performinglines.org.au
02 9319 0066 | 5/245 Chalmers Street Redfern NSW 2016

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.

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

MOBILE STATES: TOURING CONTEMPORARY PERFORMANCE, AUSTRALIA

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

Mobile States 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 theatre board of the Australia Council. It has received support from the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body.

ARTS HOUSE

www.artshouse.com.au | artshouse@melbourne.vic.gov.au
03 9322 3719 | 521 Queensberry Street North Melbourne VIC 3051

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.

Arts House is a City of Melbourne contemporary arts initiative.

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.

Splintergroup: **LAWN**
Merlyn Theatre
at the C.U.B. Malthouse, 11 – 14 March

Tickets at **www.dancemassive.com.au**
or **(03) 9639 0096**

Celebrating
Australian
contemporary
dance

DANCE
MASSIVE
3–15 MARCH
2009

roadkill

Presented by Arts House and Mobile States

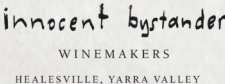


“Fuelled by a collective creativity and inventive stagecraft, it is dark, primitive and very exciting” – *Daily Express*

Arts House, Meat Market, 5 – 8 March 2009



Arts House is proudly supported by:



ARTS HOUSE





BACKGROUND

roadkill is the second work created by Splintergroup. After the success of *lawn*, we decided to try again and make a piece that dealt with a peculiarly Australian sensibility.

roadkill had its roots as a duo between Sarah-Jayne and Gavin begun in the Brisbane Powerhouse in 2005. We then introduced the third element, the freaky local, Grayson. He grew a beard and offered to help fix the car that was stranded next to a phone box that didn't work. *roadkill*, like *lawn*, deals with isolation and alienation but turned on its head. Instead of the claustrophobia of a Berlin apartment we attempted to create the agoraphobia of the Australian desert, rife with urban myths, backpacker murders and fear. At times we felt we were making a horror film spoken in dance language, an unlikely combination.

In making *roadkill* we worked again with Mark Howett for light, Michelle Ryan as rehearsal director and Andrew Ross as dramaturg. Luke Smiles came on board as the sound designer and composer. His background in sound effects and film helped feed a collective vision that was based in cinema language. We discussed different ways to make an edit onstage, how to physically do a wipe, a crossfade, a snap. We watched films and went driving off into the bush west of Townsville to park under the stars, turn off the lights and try to scare each other, while trying to imagine how to bring that massive expanse of emptiness back into the confines of the theatre.

PRODUCTION HISTORY

Splintergroup is a way of working, involving a spirit of collaboration between performers, designers and artists, resulting in a work that incorporates different visions into a single, unified production. Both *lawn* and *roadkill* were created with this method. Splintergroup is one of three companies-in-residence at Brisbane Powerhouse.

roadkill was produced by Brisbane Powerhouse and Dancenorth in association with Sasha Waltz and Guests (Berlin), and premiered in Townsville in June 2007. Its European premiere in October 2007 was at the Barbican Centre in London, before returning to Australia to Brisbane Powerhouse.

roadkill is toured by Performing Lines for Mobile States: Touring Contemporary Performance Australia.

BIOGRAPHIES & CREDITS

Sarah-Jayne Howard: Performer & Choreographer

Sarah-Jayne has created and performed roles with leading choreographers in Australia and New Zealand, touring throughout Europe, Asia, Canada and the US, including Meryl Tankard, Gideon Oberzanek (Chunky Move), Garry Stewart (ADT), Kate Champion, Douglas Wright, Michael Parmenter and Gavin Webber (Dancenorth). Sarah-Jayne was the choreographic assistant and guest dancer with Dancenorth's new work *Remember Me* and recently choreographed *Stitch* for the Q.U.T graduating year. In 2002 she was one of three finalists chosen worldwide for the inaugural Rolex Mentor and Protégé Arts Initiative and received the 2007 Laureate Award, New Zealand's most prestigious arts award.

Grayson Millwood: Performer & Choreographer

Grayson worked for Meryl Tankard's Australian Dance Theatre for three years before leaving for Europe in 1995. Since then, he has been working for many different choreographers/directors including: Joachim Schloemer, Benoit Lachambre, Constanza Macras, Nasser Martin-Gousett, Luc Dunberry, Eve Sussman and the Rufus corporation. In 1999 he moved to Berlin to join Sasha Waltz and Guests, with whom he still enjoys a continual working relationship. His work includes choreography for the Grand Theatre de Geneve, the piece *Edgar* in collaboration with Claudia de Serpa Soares, and *lawn*, *Underground*, *Food Chain* and *roadkill* with Splintergroup.

Gavin Webber: Performer & Choreographer

Gavin worked with Meryl Tankard's Australian Dance Theatre from 1993 to 1998, then moved to Brussels and worked with Wim Vandekeybus and Ultima Vez for three years. In 2001 he returned to Australia to teach and created *lawn* with Splintergroup. From 2005 to 2009 he was Artistic Director of Dancenorth and created *Nightcafe*, *gravity feed*, *underneath*, *Underground*, *roadkill* and *Remember Me*. He divides his time between Europe and Australia and has most recently created a new work called *Food Chain* in collaboration with Grayson Millwood and the Physical Virus Collective in Freiburg and Heidelberg, Germany.

Michelle Ryan: Rehearsal Director

Michelle joined the Meryl Tankard Company in 1992 and worked as a performer/dancer in Canberra and Adelaide (MTADT) for seven and a half years. She continued to work with Tankard as her assistant on the Andrew Lloyd Webber West End musical *The Beautiful Game*, and remounted works in Portugal and Sweden. As a member of Splintergroup she has been rehearsal director for all productions. Michelle joined Dancenorth in May 2005.

Luke Smiles / motion laboratories: Compositition & Sound Design

The introduction of a Commodore 64 computer into the family home in the early 80s began Luke's fascination with computers and music. Having had no formal musical training but instead yielding to a keen interest in how things work, Luke has developed a unique rapport among choreographers in the development of music for dance. His approach to music and his background as a dancer have enabled him to collaborate with choreographers through a shared understanding of each other's discipline. Working under his business name *motion laboratories* Luke has composed and produced soundtracks for many Australian and International companies such as: Australian Dance Theatre, Bare Bones Dance Company, Chunky Move, Dancenorth, Nederlands Dans Theatre, Ox, Rambert Dance Company, Splintergroup, Stompin, Tasdance, & West Australian Ballet.

Andrew Ross: Dramaturg

Prior to taking up the position of Director of Brisbane Powerhouse in 2003, Andrew was Artistic Director of Black Swan Theatre in Perth. As a director, his productions have included *The Dreamers* and *No Sugar* by Jack Davis, *Sistergirl* by Sally Morgan, *Bran Nue Dae* and *Corrugation Road* by Jimmy Chi and two novels by Randolph Snow, *Tourmaline* and *The Merry Go Round in the Sea* which he adapted for the stage with Dickon Oxenburg. Andrew's productions have toured to the UK and Canada. He studied theatre in the UK on a British Council Program and was an Australia-Indonesia Merdeka fellow. Andrew has taught theatre at the Victorian College of the Arts and the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts where he was an Adjunct Associate Professor.

Mark Howett: Lighting Designer

Mark Howett's career in theatre began in 1979 as a lighting technician. He quickly progressed to the role of lighting designer and later to set and vision designer. He has designed for many Australian and international theatre, film, dance, and opera companies. He has won a Helpmann Award for *Cloudstreet* and a Greenroom Award for *For the Love of three Oranges*. Mark has also worked as a cinematographer and lighting and vision designer with the Australian Arts Orchestra and designed for Australian Ballet and Bangarra. In Germany Mark designed lighting for Constanza Macras, Sasha Waltz and Guests, and Köln Schauspielhaus. Recent work includes designs for the UK touring productions of *Evita*, *Joseph and his Technicoloured Coat* and *Blood Brothers* for Bill Kenwright Productions.

Benjamin Cisterne, 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 last year pleased to receive the Green Room Award for Best Lighting Design for dance: (*Brindabella*, Balletlab).

Choreographed and Performed by Gavin Webber, Grayson

Millwood, Sarah-Jayne Howard

Rehearsal Director: Michelle Ryan

Composition and Sound Design: Luke Smiles / motion laboratories

Dramaturg: Andrew Ross

Lighting Designer: Mark Howett

Additional Lighting Design: Bluebottle – Benjamin Cisterne

Production Manager: Stuart van Locker

Stage Manager: Melanie Dyer

roadkill

Choreographed by splintergroup

Produced by Brisbane Powerhouse and Dancenorth

Toured by Performing Lines for Mobile States: Touring

Contemporary Performance, Australia