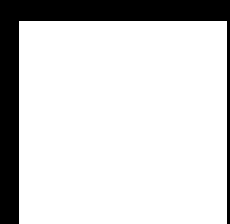


Presented by Arts House for
Festival of Live Art
\$10 entry to Melbourne City Baths
Tickets – artshouse.com.au

8pm – late, Sat 17 Mar
Warning:
Coarse language, haze effects,
strobe lighting, loud music and loud
effects, violence

Meg Wilson
Concept/ Lead Artist
Emma Valente
Dramaturge
Ashton Malcolm
Performer - Role of commentator
Josephine Were
Performer - Role of umpire
Dana Miltins
Performer - Role of nemesis
Kialea-Nadine Williams
Choreographer

Belinda Gehlert
Composer/Music Producer
Alexander Ramsay
Lighting Designer
Jennifer Greer Holmes
Atmospheric Controller
Stephanie Lyall
**Project-Intergrated Creative
Marketing**
Gemma Beale
Administrative Coordinator



SQUASH!

Meg Wilson



SQUASH! has evolved through a series of performative installations that explore the fine line between success and failure, with particular regard to women scrutinised in the public eye. I have come to use sport as an environment and brutally honest agitator for anxiety, vulnerability, constructs of fairness and heightened awareness of the space that a female body occupies. Blurring the boundaries between healthy competition, conceited grandeur and deceptive behaviours, this is a fiery showdown that lays all bare for public consumption.

Ricocheting off all four walls for one night only, *SQUASH!* is a grand tournament spectacular – a series of exhibition(ist) squash matches between WILSON and her public challengers. Contestants struggle in a bizarre cavort of politeness, tension and aggression within a confined space.

Ego is critical fuel for a competitive edge. The line between confidence and arrogance is as narrow as the line between success and failure. I am

interested in the creation of, and manifestations of ego, power relations, entitlement and discriminatory intolerance for inappropriate behaviour. Arrogance, aggression, violence and dogged determination are undoubtedly masculine-associated qualities. Society still has issues with women openly admitting they strive for positions of power or overtly pursuing extreme aspirations. Whilst male leaders are permitted complex personalities, powerful women are often summed up by undermining hard-ass stereotypes and are repeatedly dissected and dismissed.

The game of squash is one of enduring attrition. The winner is survivor of sustained attack and pressure. WILSON is a woman and an athlete. She is ego, aggression and macho-ism in a female body. Under constant scrutiny and pressure, her boundaries, dignity and mental and physical limitations will be persistently pushed during this four-hour event. Fast-paced and unapologetically violent, *SQUASH!* is driven by an egotistical single-mindedness and self-aggrandising purpose: to win at ANY cost.