

# DANCE MARATHON

BLUEMOUTH INC.

DANCE  
MASSIVE  
MELBOURNE

15-27 MARCH  
2011  
AUSTRALIAN  
CONTEMPORARY  
DANCE

## ARTS HOUSE

ARTS HOUSE  
MEAT MARKET

SAT 26 MARCH

"TO SAY THAT DANCE MARATHON BREAKS DOWN THE FOURTH WALL – THE IMAGINARY WALL THAT SEPARATES THE AUDIENCE FROM THE PERFORMANCE IN A TRADITIONAL THEATRE – IS AN UNDERSTATEMENT. IT ELIMINATES IT..." *Vancouver Sun*

### COLLECTIVE NOTES

Dance Marathon emerged from a desire to explore themes of endurance and audience involvement inspired by the dance marathons of Depression-Era North America.

In our initial creation period we identified seven themes that we have continued to explore as essential preoccupations for the piece: endurance, competition, elimination, hope, loneliness, degradation and intimacy. What is most significant

to us about these themes is how relevant they are to the current public appetite for "reality TV" shows such as Survivor, American/Canadian Idol and So You Think You Can Dance?

In making this performance, our goal was to contrast elements of these heavily mediated forms with the competition itself. The dance marathon serves as a larger metaphor for the many aspects of life, which seem to be challenges of physical and emotional endurance.

Ultimately for bluemouth inc., the single most exciting challenge of this project is the exploration of richer, more integrated levels of performer/audience interaction by blurring boundaries, challenging categories and testing thresholds.

WHAT LEVEL OF EXPERIENCE  
ARE YOU COMMITTED TO HAVING?

[www.bluemouth.com](http://www.bluemouth.com)

Image: Nancy Paiva

ARTS HOUSE

**M** CITY OF  
MELBOURNE

TEN  
DAYS



Canada Council  
for the Arts

Conseil des Arts  
du Canada

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## BLUEMOUTH INC.

Formed in 1998, bluemouth inc. is a Canadian not-for-profit performance collective that creates original, dynamic and immersive performance events for audiences in alternative spaces

bluemouth inc. is five artists trained in various disciplines, brought together by a common vision of sharing their different experiences and forging a new language.

Their goal is to reach beyond the boundaries of conventional performance practice to create site-specific interdisciplinary art that leads audiences and artists alike into new forms of play.

bluemouth works in collaboration with a number of like-minded associate artists who share our dedicated to innovation in performance, both through our rigorous commitment to a collaborative and creator-performer based process.

## THE COLLECTIVE

### PERFORMER/CREATORS

Lady Jane-Singer/Exit Interviewer:

**Ciara Adams**

Lil' Stevie O'Connell-Contestant:

**Stephen O'Connell**

Referee: **Clayton Dean Smith**

Mistress of Ceremonies: **Cass Bugge**

Ramona Snjezana Knezevic-Contestant:

**Lucy Simic**

Video Artist: **Cameron Davis**

### MUSICIANS

Guitar: **Steve Charles**

Keyboards: **Peter Lubulwa**

Trumpet: **Eugene Ball**

Saxophone: **Carlo Barbaro**

### DANCERS

Aleksandra Gizzatullina, Alice Hollands, Alison Shirley, Amandine Evans, Bron Batten, Dominique Musico, Fiona DiBerardino, Jessie McKinlay, Lieve De Clercq, Jeanette Lefrandt, Louise Lambert, Paula Roberts, Rebecca Lee, Renata Gizzatullina, Rhannon Ferris, Tennille Chambers, Anna Hamilton, Avril McQueen

Special guest star: **Kitty Bang**

Collaborators: **Elijah Brown,**

**Sandrine Lafond, Daniel Pettrow**

Dramaturg: **Bruce Barton**

Sound Composition and Arrangement:

**Ciara Adams and Richard Windeyer**

Film and Video: **Cam Davis, Stephen**

**O'Connell, Douglas O'Connell**

Choreography: **bluemouth inc.,**

**Elijah Brown and Sandrine Lafond**

Text: **bluemouth inc.**

Light and Set Design: **David Duclos**

Stage Manager: **Billy Hiscoke**

Company Liaison: **Chris Reynolds**

Assistant Stage Manager: **Nick Wollan**

on secondment from the Faculty of VCA,

Production Course

Costume Consultant: **Nina Okens,**

**Rachel Jones**

## REFERENCES AND SOURCE MATERIAL

**Books:** They Shoot Horses, Don't They?- Horace McCoy, The Origin of Species- Charles Darwin, Les Fleures du Mal- Charles Baudelaires

**Films:** They Shoot Horses, Don't They? -Sydney Pollack, Band of Outsiders-Jean-Luc Godard, Une Femme Est Une Femme- Jean-Luc Godard, Shoot the Piano Player- Francois Truffaut, Le Bal-Ettore Scola, The Wizard of Oz-Victor Fleming

**Music:** Jedan Dan Zivota by Miso Kovak, Ne Me Quitte Pas by Jacques Brel, Murder on the Dancefloor by Gregg Alexander and Sophie Ellis-Bextor, All the World is Green by Tom Waits, Dance Me To the End of Time by Leonard Cohen.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND THANK YOUS

**Dance Marathon** was created and presented in 2009 through a commission from Fresh Ground new works, Harbourfront Centre's national commissioning programme. We would especially like to thank World Stage artistic director Tina Rasmussen and Laura Nanni of Harbourfront Centre for their dedication in realizing this project. We would also like to thank Place des Arts Montréal, Programming Director

Michel Gagnon, and Koby Rogers Hall for their support of this production through a four-week residency in August of 2008. Volcano Theatre Company, The Theatre Centre, Native Earth Performing Arts, Theatre Gargantua, Latvian House

## SPECIAL THANKS

Mark Adams, Franco Boni, Maria Flavia Litvin, Angela Rawlings, Byron Wong Byron Wong and The Metropolitan Hotel for donating first prize!

bluemouth inc. is: Ciara Adams, Stephen O'Connell, Sabrina Reeves, Lucy Simic, Richard Windeyer

## ARTS HOUSE

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Arts House is a City of Melbourne contemporary arts initiative. Each year Arts House presents a curated program of contemporary art featuring performances, exhibitions, live art, installations and cultural events.

Arts House operates as a multi-dimensional resource hub for artists: producing, programming, devising, supporting and funding. Work is presented across two sites: Arts House, North Melbourne Town Hall and Arts House, Meat Market.

Arts House values arts and culture that help create a world where people are actively engaged, aware and empowered to participate, politically and culturally, to make positive change.



## MALMÖ

### TORQUE SHOW

WED 13 – SAT 17 APRIL

Arts House  
North Melbourne Town Hall

\$25 – \$30



## AFRICA

### MY DARLING PATRICIA

WED 27 – SAT 30 APRIL

Arts House  
Meat Market

\$25 – \$30