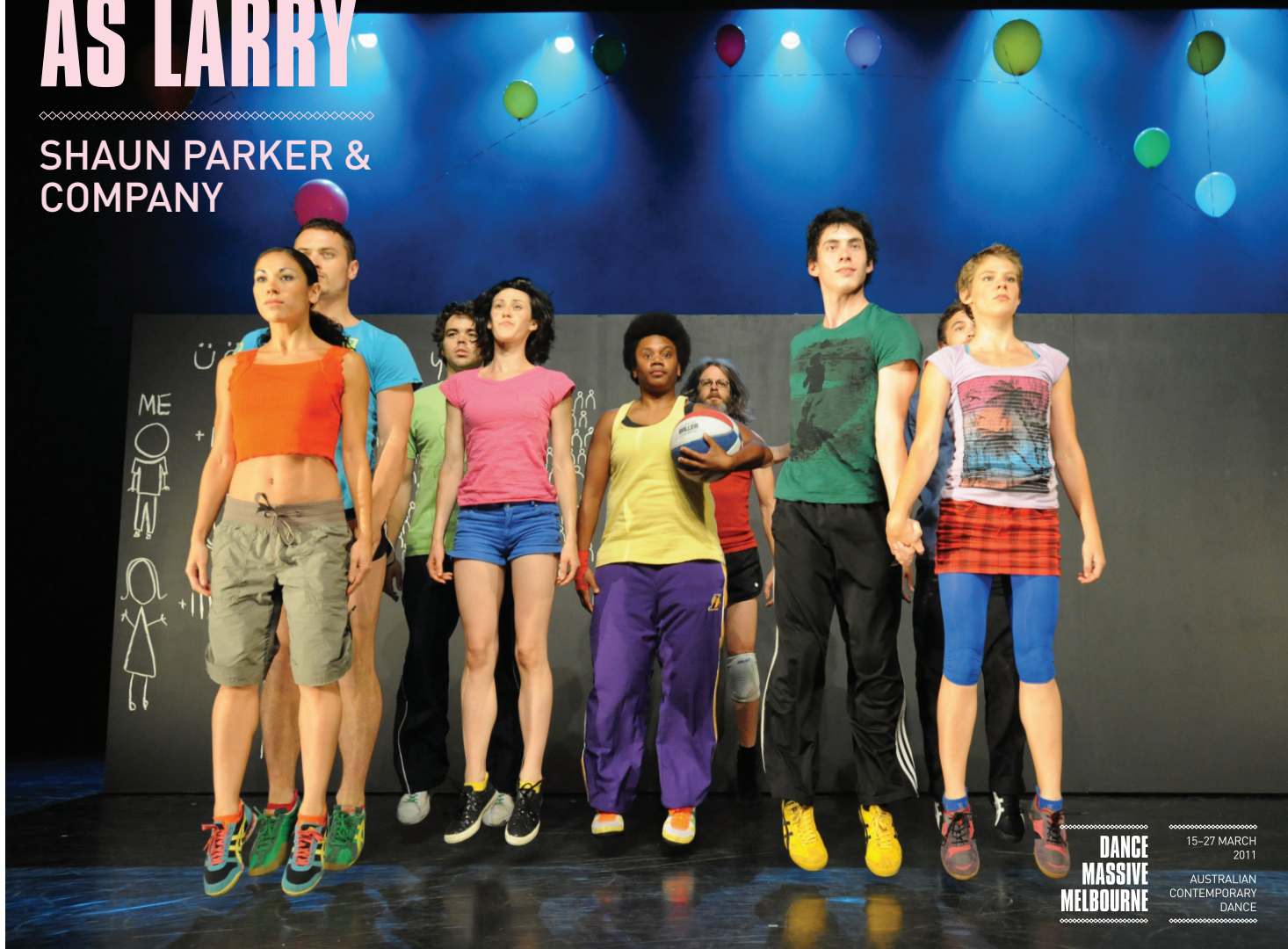


HAPPY AS LARRY

SHAUN PARKER & COMPANY



DANCE
MASSIVE
MELBOURNE

15-27 MARCH
2011

AUSTRALIAN
CONTEMPORARY
DANCE

ARTS HOUSE

ARTS HOUSE
NORTH MELBOURNE
TOWN HALL
TUE 22 - WED 23 MARCH

"HAPPY AS LARRY IS BRILLIANTLY CHOREOGRAPHED, FLAWLESSLY AND JOYOUSLY PERFORMED, AND THOROUGHLY ENTERTAINING FROM START TO FINISH. I LITERALLY SAT ON THE EDGE OF MY SEAT."
Australian Stage

CHOREOGRAPHER'S NOTES

The impetus for this work came from my thoughts on happiness. I had become startlingly aware that people around me were perplexed by the elusive nature of happiness. This quandary also seemed to generate extremes. Was this search for happiness an unhealthy preoccupation, or had it been completely forgotten? For some, perhaps, all connection with happiness was seemingly lost or had become distorted. Do we know how to be happy anymore?

I had studied the *Enneagram* for many years, consulting with my kinesiologist Kim O'Brien (herself a student with Claudio Naranjo), and I immediately drew a connection: how do the different personalities found within the *Enneagram* inhabit the idea of happiness?

The *Enneagram* maps nine distinct but interrelated personality traits. Oscar Ichazo and Chilean psychiatrist Claudio Naranjo integrated the basic *Enneagram* system of personality with modern psychological knowledge. These types

are The Perfectionist, The Seducer, The Performer, The Tragic Romantic, The Observer, The Devil's Advocate, The Optimist, The Boss and The Mediator. These nine characterological points offered an insight into the human preoccupation with happiness.

Happy As Larry is about happiness, unhappiness and everything in between.

Shaun Parker

Image: **Branco Gacia**

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SHAUN PARKER AND COMPANY

‘Shaun Parker’s ‘dance’ hit is so cutting edge it actually wanders off the edge of any single-word definition...’ The Daily Telegraph

Dance Massive marks the first engagement for Shaun Parker and Company’s inaugural year of operation. **Happy as Larry** was created through the Australian Major Festivals Initiative, with 2010 seasons presented by Sydney Festival, Perth Festival, Brisbane Festival and the New Zealand International Arts Festival. In September, **Happy as Larry** will tour the United Kingdom to nine venues, including Sadlers Wells, via the UK’s Dance Touring Partnerships (DTP) network. Other projects include *The Yard*, a self devised work created with western Sydney school children drawing inspiration from William Golding’s *Lord of the Flies* about life in an Australian school yard, several international commissions and further development of new work *AM I*, an investigation surrounding racism, identity and what it means to be Australian.

THE TEAM

Director/Choreographer: **Shaun Parker**
Dramaturg: **Veronica Neave**
Musical Director: **Nick Wales**
Composers: **Nick Wales, Bree van Reyk**
Production Design: **Adam Gardnir**
Lighting Design: **Luiz Pampolha**
Sound Consultant: **Kevin Davidson**
Performers: **Anton, Jana Castillo, Matt Cornell, Dean Cross, Robbie Curtis, Ghenoa Gela, Marnie Palomares, Joshua Thompson, Miranda Wheen**
Understudies: **Darcy Andrews, Melanie Palomares, Adam Synott**
Secondments: **Morgan Barry, Mikaila Roe**
Production Manager: **Miles Thomas**
Stage Manager: **Natasha James**
Producer: **Narelle Lewis**
Executive Producer Shaun Parker & Company: **Olivia Ansell**

PRODUCTION CREDITS

Marnie Palomares’ sound world solo features ‘Journey of a Single Star’ composed by **Timothy Constable**
Musical score performed by **Nick Wales** and **Bree van Reyk**
Solo violin on ‘Basketball’ performed by **Veronique Serret**
Electric Bass performed by **Dave Symes**
Recorded at Horus and Deloris, Sydney
Soundtrack album available through Sandcastle Studios / itunes
Set construction by **Mitch Alcorn**

BIOGRAPHIES

SHAUN PARKER – Director/Choreographer

Shaun Parker has worked as a choreographer, dancer, physical theatre performer and counter-tenor over the last 17 years. A graduate of VCA, his performance credits include work with

Meryl Tankard ADT, Kate Champion, Sydney Theatre Company, Chunky Move, The Song Company, State Theatre Company (of SA), Compagnie ALIAS (Switzerland), Meredith Monk (New York) and Sasha Waltz (Berlin).

Shaun’s self devised physical theatre and dance works have toured to Germany, Asia, New Zealand and across Australia. Previous works include *This Show Is About People*, presented by Melbourne International Festival 2007 and Sydney Festival 2008, nominated for four Green Room Awards and winner of the Australian Dance Award for Best Independent Production; *Divine Harmonies* (Tasdance), *My Little Garden* (Barossa International Music Festival), *Blue Love* (Sydney Opera House), *VAMP* (Meow Meow & Malthouse Theatre), *Love Instalment* (Sydney Dance Company), *Tenebrae III* (The Song Company) and the award winning short films *The Love Trilogy* and *NO*.

His awards include the Queen’s Trust Award, the Emerging Artist of the Year Award and the Robert Helpmann Scholarship 2006 to develop his work in singing, directing and choreography.

Shaun was a featured artist at 2008’s Association of Performing Arts Presenters Conference (APAP) in New York, and at the Australian Performing Arts Market in Adelaide in 2008 and 2010.

NICK WALES & BREE VAN REYK – Co Composers

Nick & Bree began their musical collaboration in 2004 as members of the critically acclaimed musical ensemble CODA. In 2008 they composed & performed the score for Shaun Parker’s *Love Instalment* for Sydney Dance Company & they have also worked together on a number of film & television projects.

Nick collaborated with Shaun in his 2007 work *This Show Is About People*. He was musical director & co-composer for the Vivid Festival’s Firewater event, is a founding member of CODA & has created countless scores for theatre, film & television.

Bree has recently composed & performed for Bell Shakespeare’s *King Lear* directed by Marion Potts. Her performance career includes collaborations with Synergy Percussion, Holly Throsby, Darren Hanlon & The Rebel Astronauts.

ON HAPPINESS

‘Happiness is our most singular human pursuit. It is seemingly so conditional, randomly regulated by external influences. Through the theatrical glasses of objectivity we see how absurd, futile, complex and perplexing our efforts are to hold onto something that is so elusive yet is as available to us as the air we breathe.’

Veronica Neave, Dramaturg

THANK YOU

Thanks to Lindy Hume at Sydney Festival, Noel Staunton at Brisbane Festival, Shelagh Magadza at Perth Festival and Lissa Twomey at New Zealand Festival for believing in the vision of my work. To my amazing performer/collaborators, and creative team who are fundamental to the creation of the final production, their creative minds driving the vision alongside my own. I would also like to thank Olivia Ansell, Narelle Lewis, the production and technical staff, and my newly formed company and board who have been incredibly supportive. Tanja Farman for leading the way in 2010... And many thanks to Marguerite Pepper who helped guide and produce the original tours of **Happy as Larry**.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Shaun Parker & Company is resident in the Seymour Centre’s Arts Bunker, proudly supported by the City of Sydney

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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.