

DISAGREEABLE OBJECT

MICHELLE HEAVEN

DANCE
MASSIVE
MELBOURNE

15-27 MARCH
2011
AUSTRALIAN
CONTEMPORARY
DANCE



ARTS HOUSE

ARTS HOUSE
MEAT MARKET

WED 16 – SAT 19
MARCH

“BIZARRE,
MACABRE, HILARIOUS.”

Hilary Crampton, *The Age*

An interest in film, particularly old and silent films, has influenced the creation of this work. As a child I spent time with my grandparents watching the likes of The 3 Stoogers, Laurel and Hardy, Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers not to mention Looney Tunes cartoons and a number of Westerns. This period of observation has left a significant impression. The transference of filmic impressions into the live work is reflected in the manipulation of time, scale, rhythm and colour with particular attention to the smallest of details.

“... the shifting from stillness to movement will always have relevance for a human being, not only as an action but as a philosophical, moral statement. It's embedded in the human condition.”

Bill Viola, *Conversation*, Lewis Hyde and Bill Viola, Exhibition Catalogue, 1997.

Image: Pea drawing by **Carlo Golin**

THE TEAM

Choreographer & Performer:

Michelle Heaven

Collaborator & Performer: **Brian Lucas**

Collaborator & Design:

Bluebottle, Ben Cobham

Composer: **Bill McDonald**

Production and Operation:

Bluebottle, Frog Peck and James Russell

Costume Design: **Louise McCarthy**

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Australia Council
OF THE ARTS

BIOGRAPHIES

Michelle Heaven graduated from the Victorian College of the Arts with a Bachelor of Dance in 1992 and Masters of Dance Performance in 2000. She has made extensive contributions as a performer and collaborator to both live theatre and film, working nationally and internationally with numerous prominent Australian choreographers and directors. In addition to creating her own work, Michelle has choreographed and worked as a movement consultant for a broad range of artists including dancers, actors, musicians and puppeteers.

Michelle is a recipient of The Dame Peggy Van Praagh Choreographic Scholarship, The Australian Post Graduate Award (Industry) Scholarship and Victorian Green Room Award in the category of 'Female Dancer'. She is a 2007/08 SCOPE participant and was nominated for a Helpmann Award in 2007 for her role in the award winning *Tense Dave*, (Chunky Move) and again in 2009 for her performance in *Two Faced Bastard*. In 2009 *Disagreeable Object* was nominated for an Australian Dance Award and Victorian Green Room Award.

Brian Lucas is a Brisbane-based performer, choreographer, director and writer. Trained in both dance and theatre, he has a national reputation for creating and performing provocative, powerful and intelligent works that bridge the divide between the two forms.

In addition to his substantial solo practice, Brian has worked with many of Australia's most well-known performance makers including Chunky Move, Finucane + Smith, La Boite Theatre, Michelle Heaven, KAGE Theatre, Chamber Made Opera, Circa, Dance North, Queensland Ballet, Queensland Theatre Company, QL2 Centre for Youth Dance and Expressions Dance Company.

In 2010, Brian presented a critically acclaimed sell-out season of his latest solo piece *Performance Anxiety* at Brisbane Powerhouse, performed in sell-out seasons at La Mama and Brisbane Powerhouse with Finucane + Smith, and directed an acclaimed production of *The Chairs* for La Boite Theatre. He has also facilitated the Soft Landing mentoring programme at QL2, and performed in Finucane and Smith's acclaimed *Carnival of Mysteries* at the 2010 Melbourne Festival.

In over 20 years as a professional musician **Bill McDonald** has toured and/or recorded with many top musicians and songwriters including: Paul Kelly, Michelle Shocked, Michael Hutchence, Stephen Cummings, Neneh Cherry, David McComb, Archie Roach, Lisa Miller, Edwyn Collins and many others. He has also worked with many top producers including Tchad Blake (Tom Waits), Dave Allen (the Cure), Booga Bear and Johnny Dollar (Massive Attack), Nick Launay (Midnight Oil). In 2007 he composed the music for the TV show *Choir of Hard Knocks*.

As well as Rock and Pop music, Bill also has experience in Experimental Music and Improvised sounds and has performed and/or recorded with artists as diverse as: Philip Brophy, David Chesworth, Paul Schutze, David Brown, Paul Grabowsky and Ollie Olsen. Bill has an ongoing working relationship choreographer Michelle Heaven.

Bluebottle is a design consultancy and project management company, specialising in lighting, set and installations. The company has been designing in creative unconventional ways in dance, theatre, galleries, museums, installations, music and exhibitions since 1992. As a team Bluebottle are interested in extending the possibilities of design and the integration of light and the surrounding environment. The company draws upon the experience of talented staff to produce the finest outcome for any project undertaken - they love a challenge. Bluebottle has won many awards for their designs, including the John Truscott Award for Excellence in Design.

For **disagreeable object** the design and production team includes Ben Cobham, Frog Peck, James Russell and Julia Knibbs (on Secondment from the Victorian College of the Arts).

A graduate of NIDA, **Louise McCarthy** has designed extensively for theatre, film and television.

For the Griffin Theatre Co: *Angela's Kitchen*. For MTC: *Blue/Orange*, *Birthrights*, *A Single Act* and *Cruel and Tender*. For DV8: *Can we Afford This?* (costume). For Darwin Theatre Company: *Tracy*. For Chamber Made Opera: *The Two Executioners* (costume). For Melbourne Workers Theatre: *Fever*. For kickhouse theatre: *Grace Among the Christians*,

St. Rose of Lima and *Fun and Games with the Oresteia*. For Anthill Theatre: *The Chairs* and *Strategy for Two Hams*. For the Meryl Tankard Dance Company: *VX18504*. For Strange Fruit: *Absolute Pearl* (costume).

Costume credits for film include: *Blessed*, *Road to Nhill*, *Life*, *Serenades*, *The Forest and Harry's War*. For television: *Offspring*, *Dead Gorgeous*, *Kick*, *Poziers*, *Queen Kat*, *Carmel* and *St. Jude* and *Secret Bridesmaid's Business*.

THANK YOU

Moriarty's Project, Gabby Rose, Paul Summers, Frog and Krista, Carlo Golin, Roddis Thomson, Michaela French, Alan Robertson, Nancy Black, Trish Jones, Shirley Mckechnie, Chunky Move, Edna Reinhardt, Heather and Alan Cobham, Melbourne Theatre Company, Bluebottle, Patricia Cashman, Kaori Fujimoto, Anna Read, Steve and Miro.

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.



STEREOSCOPIC

BILLY COWIE

MON 14 – SAT 19 MARCH

Arts House
North Melbourne Town Hall &
Meat Market

FREE



DANCE ON FILM

REELDANCE

WED 16 – SAT 19 &
WED 23 – SAT 26 MARCH

Arts House
North Melbourne Town Hall

FREE