

Crackers n Dip with Chase n Toey

Carly Sheppard & Josh Twee

Presented by
Arts House

7pm, Wed 18 Sat 21 Jul
& Wed 25 – Sat 28 Jul
5pm, Sun 22 Jul –
Sun 29 Jul
60 mins
\$30 / \$20 / \$15

Warning: Adult
concepts & language,
smoking and nudity



Creative Team

**Original Concept,
Devisor, Choreographer
& Performer**
Carly Sheppard
**Devisor, Choreographer
& Performer**
Josh Twee
Sound Designer
Daniel Nixon

Artist Statement

The seeds of this show were sown with the character of Chase, whose first real outing was in my work, *White Face*, in 2014. I've used Chase over the years to explore identity, class and racial politics in Australia, from my own perspective and life experiences. I'm interested in pseudo-spirituality, pseudo-ceremony, and what happens when cultural practices are lost – what is built through that loss, and why. When something's lost it's usually because the context, the language, the place, has been ripped away from it – but what happens in that vacuum, that new context, one that's rooted in multi-faceted oppression that plays out over generations? I played around with the idea of an almost-delirious state that happens when people have their agency taken away and are disenfranchised. What do we put in its place to find meaning and survival? What new stories do we tell each other about our lives and our purpose?

Chase's stories are drawn from experiences from my family's history, which are wildly blown out of proportion in some ways, and in other ways are completely diminished so that it's not too traumatic as well. Toey has got his own stories. What they share is the sense of assimilation that they've grown up with or are a result of: the extreme whitening that happens to people who either come to Australia, as Josh Twee's family did, or who are Indigenous to Australia, like my family. To me the idea of empire is like a construction site: people, practices,

cultures, are removed from one place and just shoved into another...through war, invasion, force – survival. I see Chase and Toey as the rubble that's left over from that; forgotten, demonised, shamed, in a way. I wanted to find the heart of that idea – because that's my family, that's my life.

Chase and Toey's relationship is bigger than just this show. It contains many complexities: the intellect, the oppression, the sense of loss and the sense of companionship and love and intelligent survival – which is built as a result of, and in defiance of, the absolute pressure of these epic realities that are forced to fit into an oppressive space. This show is a kind of suspended world, as you're invited into their house.

Come hungry, we're gonna feed ya.

— *Carly Sheppard*

Biographies

Carly Sheppard

Original Concept, Devisor,
Choreographer & Performer

Carly Sheppard is an emerging cross-disciplinary performance artist whose work negotiates across dance and theatre performance, sculpture, drawing, voice and installation. Often these forms feature interchangeably within a single work, housed within the foundation of the body moving.

Carly's work predominantly explores the experience of being a part of the Indigenous diaspora of Australia; intersecting identities and the navigation of trans-generational inheritances, exploring the borders of ownership and autonomy, and the mapping of these shifting spaces and their interaction with changing social and cultural environments.

Josh Twee

Devisor, Choreographer & Performer

Joshua Twee completed his BFA Dance in 2015 and is an emerging cross disciplinary performance artists whose ever-expanding practice has negotiated across dance, theatre, dance film, puppetry, fencing and stage combat. His works frequently incorporate and exhibit media from different disciplines culminating most recently in live/social/indigenous dance, acting and dance films.

Joshua's work predominantly explores social dance, connections with nature of self and its relationships with world. Currently conceptualizing his art through primal movement improvisation and set choreography including; contemporary dance, hip-hop, martial arts, vocal sound and physical theatre. Joshua is consistently intrigued, challenging the idea of "I" and observing the nature of "Am", creating our precarious inner worlds into interactively tangible, subjective experiences.

Daniel Nixon

Sound Designer

Daniel Nixon is a composer, sound designer and multi instrumentalist. He has performed with the MSO, Orchestra Victoria, John Farnham, Yothu Yindi, Sebina Meyer, Mikko Frank and many others. He has written and recorded multiple albums and worked extensively as a session player and programmer. He has scored and designed numerous films, games, ads and plays including work with Flashgun Films, Cascade Films, Little Ones Theatre, Red Stitch Actors Theatre, American Girl, Universal Television, Disney Pictures, Melbourne Theatre Company, Queensland Theatre, Dirty Pretty Theatre, Griffin Theatre Company, Ensemble Theatre, Madman Entertainment, NBCU, ABC, Netflix and Farmhand films.

Thank You

Jack Sheppard for knowing this, seeing it, and being in the room. Daniel Nixon for being a fuckin champion. Rinske Ginsberg for the important feedback Arts House team for all of it! My daughter Asha Randall Sheppard for her beautiful artwork and her patience during my 'long gigs'. Alana Innes for holding the fort, for being a sounding board, and being the best Mum in the world.

The development of *Crackers n Dip with Chase n Toey* was supported by Arts House in partnership with Sydney Opera House presents.

Arts House, as a key program of the City of Melbourne, is Melbourne's contemporary centre for performance and interactive artforms. We support new and diverse ways to make and experience art which is participatory and experiential, interdisciplinary and trans-disciplinary, curated through a balance of provocation, responsiveness and collaboration with artists and audiences.

For more information, please contact us on the details below.

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Bookings:
artshouse.com.au or
(03) 9322 3720

Arts House respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land, the Boon Wurrung and Woiwurrung (Wurundjeri) peoples of the Kulin Nation and pays respect to their Elders, past and present. For the Kulin Nation, Melbourne has always been an important meeting place for events of social, educational, sporting and cultural significance. Today we are proud to say that Melbourne is a significant gathering place for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

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