

Thank You

The artists would like to thank Dr Ben Sessa, Michael and Annie Mithoefer, Brad Burge, MAPS, Virgil Huston, Steve Macdonald and Lee Hayward of Save our Soldier for sharing their experience and knowledge. Thanks also to Catherine Siddall for recording the half-speed de-tuned piano rendition of Satie's *3 Gymnopédies*; Ben Pettit Wade and members of Hijinx Theatre who helped us start the making process; Angharad Wynne-Jones, Olivia Anderson and all at Arts House; Arena Theatre Company for the space and letting us nick the corflute panels; Justin Green, set builder to the stars; Dr Richard Talbot and students at the University of Salford, for their facilitation and contributions to the material; Pdraig Confrey and James Monaghan from Sheepknuckle, whose technological fearlessness helped us keep going despite being on different continents; Patrizia Paolini, for welcoming us to her kitchen table top; Pdraig for snapping the box shot; our wonderfully generous and encouraging Kickstarter campaign backers and video contributors; and our families for their inspiration, understanding and love.

ridiculumus.com

More at Arts House

Antechamber Productions
EDMUND. THE BEGINNING
Tue 10 – Sun 22 November



Festival of Live Art
2 – 13 March



Bookings:

artshouse.com.au or (03) 9322 3713

Arts House

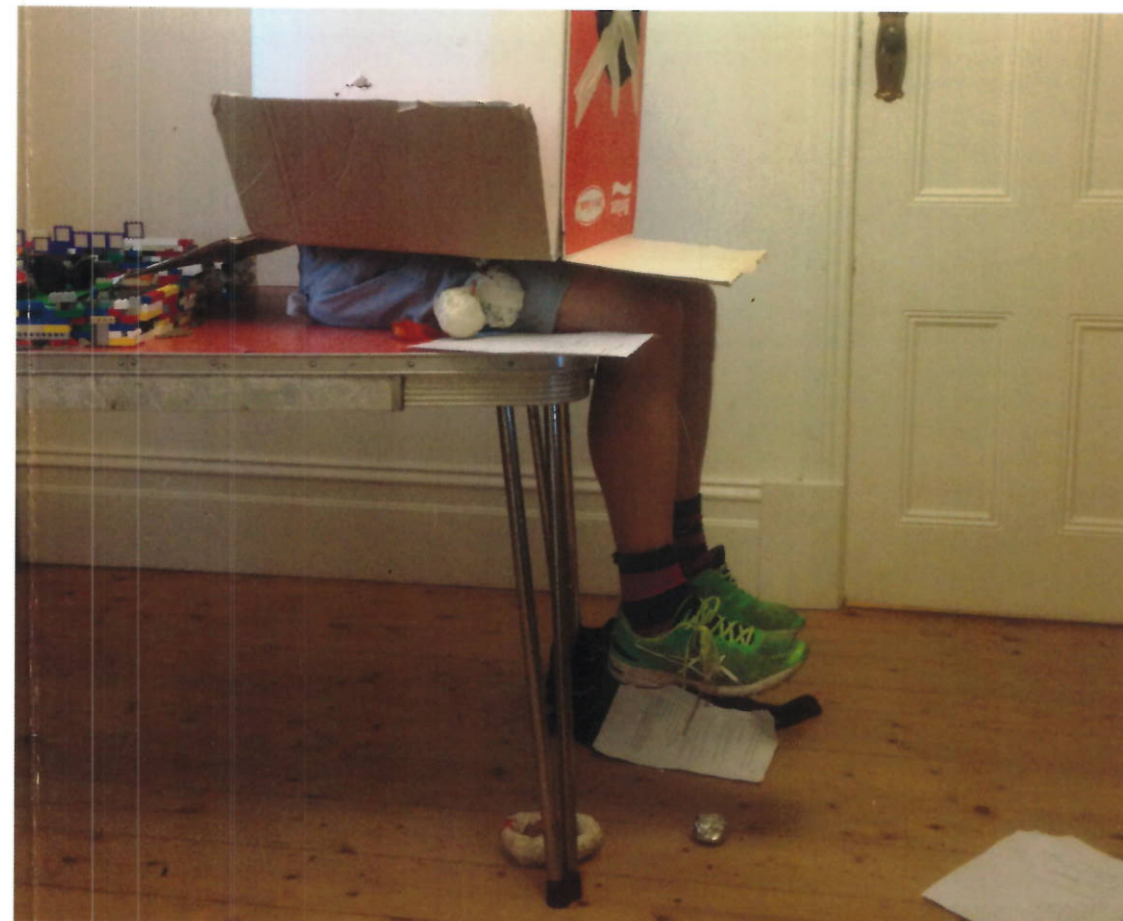
Arts House presents contemporary arts in programs encompassing performance, festivals, live art, residencies and other activities that nurture, support and stimulate cultural engagement. We value work in which artists at different stages of their careers, as well as our diverse audiences and communities, are actively involved in creating an imaginative, just and environmentally sustainable global society.

Arts House's programs include two curated public seasons of multidisciplinary work each year. Approximately half of this work is selected through an Expression of Interest process. We seek artists who are responding to the urgent issues of our time in imaginative and surprising ways, taking artistic risks and offering multiple ways for audiences to engage with or co-author their work.

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

521 Queensberry Street
North Melbourne VIC 3051
(03) 9322 3720
artshouse@melbourne.vic.gov.au

artshouse.com.au



Ridiculumus (AU/UK)

GIVE ME YOUR LOVE

Wed 18 – Sun 22 November 2015

1hr 10min, no interval
Post Show Q&A: Thu 19 Nov, 8.50pm

About Give Me Your Love

Give Me Your Love is informed by research into MDMA-assisted therapy for post-traumatic stress, and is the second instalment of a three-pronged investigation into innovative approaches to mental health.

Give Me Your Love has been supported by the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts, its arts funding and advisory body; the Victorian College of the Arts; Melbourne University; the National Lottery through Arts Council England; Wellcome Trust; Battersea Arts Centre, London; and the City of Melbourne through Arts House. It was developed at Hijinx Theatre, Cardiff; the University of Salford; Bath Fringe Festival; the University of Brighton; the National Theatre Studio; Arena Theatre Company; and the City of Melbourne through Arts House.

Artists' Notes

It was during the making of *The Eradication of Schizophrenia in Western Lapland* that we became aware of MDMA-assisted therapy for chronic treatment-resistant post-traumatic stress disorder, through one of the few psychiatrists willing to discuss chemical and non-chemical approaches to treating psychoses, Dr Ben Sessa. Ben was applying for a medical trial in the UK similar to one being held in South Carolina, USA, and put us in touch with the key people at the Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies (MAPS).

David says: "I have had many a moment when retreating into a safe place seemed my best option to get through mentally difficult situations. After a flat performance of *Yes Yes Yes* in the Orkney Islands, I retreated to the space beneath a cloakroom desk, long enough for the audience to disperse. At university I had severe bouts of 'pit-itis' – lying in bed when I should have been at lectures and tutorials – but on most days I would get it together to emerge in time to do something. The central character in **Give Me Your Love** hasn't been able to get himself together in this way, but defiantly challenges us to 'get out of whatever you're in'.

Creative Team

Written, Directed & Performed by
David Woods & Jon Haynes
Set Design & Construction **Jacob Williams**
Sound Designer **Marco Cher-Gibard**
Lighting Designer **Richard Vabre**
Production Manager **Rainbow Sweeney**
Biomedical Consultant & Collaborator
Dr Ben Sessa

Executive Producer (Australia) **Erin Milne**,
Bureau of Works
Executive Producer (UK) **Cheryl Pierce**
Special Projects Producer (UK) **Rob Young**

"One of the things we are 'in' might be a mindset – creating a stigma around the therapeutic use of illegal substances. It's a mindset I share in the presence of peer-pressured drug use fuelled by a fear of the unknown. But, as with the challenge of changing stubborn, under-informed opinions about things like abortion or same-sex marriage, the most effective approach is to somehow enable a meeting between a person directly affected by an issue with the gatekeepers of change – the general public."

So, meet Zachary Williams: a former Private in the Welsh Guards Regiment; resident of Port Talbot, West Wales; married to Carol, with two daughters.

David Woods & Jon Haynes

Biographies

Ridiculusmus
Writers, Directors & Performers

Award-winning theatre company, Ridiculusmus, has been producing work for over 20 years. Co-Artistic Directors Jon Haynes and David Woods have established an international reputation for the company, with works passionately wrought from minimal resources which achieve the oxymoronic aim of being both serious and funny.

Since creating *The Eradication of Schizophrenia in Western Lapland* in 2014, Ridiculusmus has been forging a reputation for transforming complex mental health issues into warm, witty and accessible performance.

Jacob Williams
Set Design & Construction

Multi-award-winning puppeteer, director and puppet-maker, Jacob Williams, has collaborated with companies including Terrapin Puppet Theatre, Arena Theatre Company, Chamber Made Opera and Polyglot Theatre. He performed with Global Creatures in *Walking with Dinosaurs – The Arena Spectacular* and was Head Puppeteer for *King Kong – Live on Stage*, for which he won Helpmann and Green Room Awards. He was Assistant Puppetry Director for Melbourne's Commonwealth Games Opening Ceremony and is Co-Artistic Director of Lemony S Puppet Theatre.

Marco Cher-Gibard
Sound Designer

Marco Cher-Gibard works primarily with sound, with current interests including improvisation, documentation and the conceptual and aesthetic possibilities of sampling processes. In his performance practice he uses custom-designed software to sample the environment and his collaborators as material for live improvisation. He has worked with companies including Chunky Move/Malthouse Theatre (*Depth of Field*), Polyglot Theatre (*Drawbridge*), Back to Back Theatre (*Super Discount*), Snuff Puppets (*Everybody*) and Samara Hersch (*NOA*).

Richard Vabre
Lighting Designer

Richard Vabre has lit productions for MTC, Malthouse Theatre, Victorian Opera, Windmill Theatre, Arena Theatre Company, NICA, Darwin Festival, Stuck Pigs Squealing, Chamber Made Opera, Rawcus, Hit Productions, Red Stitch Actors Theatre, Polyglot Theatre, Melbourne Workers Theatre and Aphids. He has won

four Green Room Awards, including the John Truscott Prize for Excellence in Design (2004); and has been nominated for a further five Green Room Awards.

Rainbow Sweeney
Production Manager

Rainbow Sweeney has worked in both design and management, with collaborators including Polyglot Theatre, St Martins Youth Arts, Chamber Made Opera, the ANZAC Centenary, City of Moreland, Melbourne Festival, Melbourne Music Week, ACMI, Regional Arts Victoria, Multicultural Arts Victoria and White Night Melbourne. Current works include *Yes. No. Maybe* (Punctum Inc. Seedpod residency), *Fly by Night* and *More Female Parts* (Arts Centre Melbourne), *Great Forest Walk* (Knox Festival), *16 Girls* (Castlemaine Festival), *Boats* and *Separation Street* (Polyglot Theatre) and *Museum of Imagined Touch* and *The Carers Project* (Jodee Mundy Collaborations).

Dr Ben Sessa
Biomedical Consultant & Collaborator

Dr Ben Sessa is a consultant child and adolescent psychiatrist with the UK's National Deaf Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service. As a trainee, he began publishing in medical journals on the therapeutic potential of psychedelics, and has campaigned internationally to see these substances return to the mainstream pharmacopeia. In 2008 he became a Research Associate at Bristol University, where he consulted on MDMA for the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs and worked on a human hallucinogen study; becoming the UK's first person in 33 years to be legally administered a classical psychedelic drug. He now leads the UK's first MDMA psychotherapy study at the University of Cardiff.