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Presented by Arts House and
Melbourne Festival

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Thank You For Coming: Attendance Faye Driscoll

Image: Maria Baranova

Arts House



Season 2

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Fri 7 – Mon 10 October, 75 minutes
Post show Q & A: Sun 9 October

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Creative Team

Conception & Direction:

Faye Driscoll

Choreography:

Faye Driscoll in collaboration
with the performers

Performance:

Giulia Carotenuto, Sean Donovan,
Alicia Ohs, Toni Melaas, Brandon
Washington / Original Cast:

Nikki Zialcita

Visual Design:

Nick Vaughan & Jake Margolin

Sound Design/

Original Composition:

Michael Kiley

Lighting Design &

Production Management:

Amanda K. Ringger

Stage Manager/Tour Manager:

Alessandra Calabi

On-Site Production Manager:

Randi Rivera

Artistic Advisor:

Jesse Zaritt

Choreographic Assistant:

Nadia Tykulsker

Costume Construction & Alteration:

Sarah Thea Swafford

Image: Maria Baranova



Prepare yourself for a joyous and intriguingly wild ride.

Deceptively chaotic and spontaneous, *Thank You For Coming: Attendance* will take you on a journey of heightened exploration uncovering how we experience ourselves in relationship to others. Five virtuosic performers, passing through ever-morphing states of physical entanglement and scenes of distorted familiarity, will build new bodies, new stories, and new ways of being around a constantly constructed and re-imagined group experience.

As audience and performers increasingly find themselves becoming one, a beautiful and chaotic shared identity emerges, culminating in a dynamic ritual of action and transformation.

Biographies

Faye Driscoll

Director

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Faye is a Bessie Award-winning choreographer and director whose work is rooted in an obsession with the problem of being 'somebody' in a world of other 'somebodies.' Originally from Venice Beach, California, Driscoll moved to New York in 1994 to train in dance at Tisch School of the Arts at NYU. She began her career dancing with groups such as Yasmeen Godder, David Neumann and Doug Varone and Dancers. In 2005 Faye started making her own work, aiming to create immersive worlds of sensorial complexity and perceptual disorientation. These investigations gave rise to a wide range of works including: *Loneliness* (2006), exhibited in the Younger Than Jesus triennial at the New Museum; *Wow Mom, Wow* (2007), a postmodern/pop musical/death metal fantasy; *837 Venice Boulevard* (2008, Bessie Award), an autobiographical work within a theatre within a home; *There is so much mad in me* (2010), an exploration of ecstatic states; *You're Me* (2012), a duet distorted by props, paint and manic costume shifts and *Thank You For Coming: Attendance* (2014) the first part in a series of works that propose performance as a shared political act, where performer and audience co-create reality.

Driscoll is currently working on the second in the series *Thank You For Coming: Play* which focuses on the consumption and fabrication of stories to make our lives cohere. It premiered at the Wexner Center for the Arts in September 2016 and will be playing at BAM's Next Wave Festival in November 2016.

Faye's work has been presented across the US at places such as Walker Art Center, Wexner Center for the Arts, ICA/Boston, Danspace Project, and American Dance Festival, and internationally to Theatre de Vanves Festival Artdanthe, Theatre de Gennevilliers, Festival D'Automne a Paris, Croatian National Theatre in Zagreb, Centro de Arte Experimental UNSAM in Buenos Aires, Belfast International Festival and in the Made in USA Festival, Onassis Cultural Center in Athens, Greece. She has received a 2013 Guggenheim Fellowship and a 2016 Doris Duke Artist Award.

Giulia Carotenuto

Performer

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Giulia is a NYC-based dance artist from Rome. Moving to New York in 2008, she had the honour of working with artists including Mark Dendy, Douglas Dunn, Catherine Miller and Kate Fisher. In 2011 Giulia became a member of Pavel Zustiak's Palissimo, with whom she created and performed *Strange Cargo*, the third part of *The Painted Bird Trilogy*. Later that year she joined Monica Bill Barnes & Company and toured, taught, and performed in venues including the Joyce Theatre, Skirball Center for the Performing Arts and The Kennedy Center in Washington DC. In 2012 she joined the Faye Driscoll Group, and could not be more thrilled to be performing *Thank You for Coming: Attendance* all over the world.

Alicia Ohs (ayo)

Performer

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Alicia is a dance maker and community builder interested in what makes people laugh, cry and continue. She has shown her own work in New York and San Francisco. AO has worked with Movement Research as a curator, educator and a founding member of the Artists of Color Council. She is honoured to have performed with Sally Silvers, Andrea Geyer, niv Acosta, Sondra Loring, Laura Arrington and RoseAnne Spradlin. She is a graduate of Tisch School of the Arts and Experimental Theatre Wing. She lives in Brooklyn, NY.

Sean Donovan

Performer

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Sean is a New York actor, dancer and writer. He has worked with Faye Driscoll, Miguel Gutierrez, Jane Comfort and Company, The Builders Association, Witness Relocation, 600 Highwaymen and Jennie Marytai Liu. He creates theatre and mixed media works in collaboration with Sebastián Calderón Bentin. Original works include the site-specific bilingual piece *Se Vende* at the FAE Festival in Panama, *The Climate Chronicles* at Incubator Arts Project, *NYC and 18 ½ Minutes* at JACK, NYC. He is currently an Artist-in-Residence at HERE Arts Center, NYC. Sean received his BFA in Theatre from NYU's Experimental Theatre Wing. He has trained and performed internationally in France, Holland, Romania, Poland, Russia, Panama, Argentina, Croatia, Canada, Thailand and Japan working with the highly acclaimed Ildi! Eldi of France and Sankai Juku Butoh company of Japan.

Toni Melaas

Performer

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Toni is a dance artist, wellness teacher and owner of Hatch NYC. Toni has worked with Faye Driscoll over the past 14 years and has performed in theatres including NYC's State Theatre and BAM Harvey. Toni has performed with companies including Netta Yerushalmy/Dancing People, Shen Wei Dance Arts, geraldcaseldance, Alexandra Beller/Dances, PearsonWidrig Dancetheater, David Dorfman Dance, Satoshi Haga and Nancy Bannon. Theatre work includes *Agamemnon* with the Aquila Theater Company including Olympia Dukakis; *L'Histoire du Soldat* directed by Will Kerley and Faye Driscoll with Maestro Lorin Maazel at the Castleton Festival, and *Grimm* with M.U.D. Productions directed by Otis Cook. SAG Film work includes *Across the Universe* directed by Julie Taymor and *The Hottest State* directed by Ethan Hawk; Music Videos include *Fire to the Ground* for The National and *Secret Room* for Joan Osborne.

Brandon Washington

Performer

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Brandon is a native of Chesapeake, VA and received his BFA from the University of Florida. He has been collaborating with Faye Driscoll since 2012. Brandon is currently working on projects with Ryan McNamara, Dana Katz and Robin Becker. He has performed at various venues including the Lincoln Center, MoMA's PSI, The Guggenheim Museum, New York Live Arts, Brooklyn Arts Exchange, The French Institute Alliance Française, 92Y, Danspace at St. Marks Church, Dixon Place and Judson Memorial Church. Previous collaborations include Mark Dendy, Alicia Ohs, Burr Johnson, Jen McGinn, Neta Pulvermacher, Lauren Bakst, Megan Kendzior, Daria Faïn and Germaul Barnes.

Michael Kiley

Sound Design & Original Composition

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Michael is a Philadelphia based composer, sound designer, performer and educator working in Dance, Theatre and Public Installation. Past collaborators include SubCircle, Lars Jan, Dan Rothenberg of Pig Iron Theater Co., Luciana Achugar, Magda and Chelsea and Nichole Canuso Dance Company. Michael creates his own work under the moniker The Mural and The Mint (TM&TM). In 2010, TM&TM created *As the Eyes of the Seahorse*, an interdisciplinary performance of dance and live music at HERE Arts Center (NY). In 2013, TM&TM released *The Empty Air* and *Animina*, two sound walk pieces as iPhone applications. Michael's work has been supported by The Independence Foundation, The Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, The American Composers Forum-Philadelphia Chapter, FringeArts (Live Arts Brewery Fellowship), The PEW Center for Arts and Heritage and the Wyncote Foundation through The Painted Bride.

Nick Vaughan & Jake Margolin

Visual Design

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Mick and Jake are Houston based installation artists whose solo shows include *A Marriage: 2* (WEST-ER) [The Invisible Dog Art Center]; *A Marriage: 1* (SUBURBIA) (HERE Arts Center, NYC; MCLA's Gallery 51, North Adams, MA; Sleeping Weazle, Boston); *Art/Slant Presents: Nick & Jake* (Chicago, IL) and *Preparations for a Marriage* (Future Tenant Gallery, Pittsburgh). Their collaborations with choreographers include Yoshiko Chuma's *Shredded* (Gallery 128, NYC) and Pavel Zustiak's *S(even)* (New Hazlett Theater, Pittsburgh). They are twice official finalists for the NYFA Fellowship and recipients of grants from The MAP Fund and mediaThe foundation, inc. They have created five plays for devised theatre company The TEAM, *Rooseveltvis*, *Waiting For You...*, *Mission Drift*, *Architecting*, and *Particularly in the Heartland*, touring to venues including the National Theater and The Barbican, London; The Walker, Minneapolis; Culturegest, Lisbon; and the Hong Kong Arts Festival.

Biographies

Amanda K. Ringger

Lighting Design/Production Management

Amanda lives in New York and designs locally, nationally and internationally with artists including Faye Driscoll, Doug Elkins, Cynthia Oliver, Molly Poerstel, Jennifer Archibald, Julian Barnett, Nora Chipaumire, Alexandra Beller, Deborah Lohse, Laura Peterson, Donnell Oakley, Kota Yamazaki, 10 Hairy Legs, Darrah Carr and cakeface. She received a BA from Goucher College in Baltimore, MD and an MFA in lighting design from Tisch School of the Arts at NYU. She is the recipient of a 2009 Bessie award for her collaboration on Faye Driscoll's *837 Venice Boulevard* at HERE Arts.

Alessandra Calabi

Stage Manager/Tour Manager

Alessandra is an interdisciplinary artist from Milan, Italy, who works at the intersection of performance, politics and critical theory. She is a graduate of the New School for Social Research, where she completed her Masters Degree in Philosophy. Alessandra is the stage manager and a main collaborator of Andrew Schneider's Obie-award winning *YOUARENOWHERE*, and a member of the collaborative arts group Fixed Agency, Artists-in-Residence at the Brooklyn Navy Yard for 2014 and creators of *Private(i)*, an immersive mixed-reality adventure about state surveillance. Recent credits include *17 Border Crossings* (BAM Next Wave) and *Long Yarn* (The Bushwick Starr). She has worked with Pascal Rambert (*A (micro) history of world economics, danced*), Palissimo (Painted Bird: Bastard), Andrew Schneider (FIELD) and Zishan Ugurlu (LaMaMa ETC).

Randi Rivera

On Site Production Manager

Randi is a native New Yorker. She holds a BA in Theatre from Hamilton College and studied Production at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. Randi is a full-time freelancer who has worked with Phantom Limb Company, Keigwin + Company, The Chocolate Factory, Sidra Bell Dance NY, Doug Elkins Choreography Etc and Half Straddle. Randi has worked internationally and domestically with Faye Driscoll Group since 2009 and is thrilled to be back on the road with this team. All of her work is for her family.

Jesse Zaritt

Artistic Advisor

Jesse has performed his solo work in Russia, Korea, Germany, New York, Japan, Mexico and Israel. He was a 2012-13 resident artist in the Studio Series Program at New York Live Arts, working on a duet created in collaborative partnership with choreographer/performer Jumatatu Poe. Jesse's solo work *Binding* is the recipient of three 2010 New York Innovative Theater Awards: Outstanding Choreography, Outstanding Solo Performance and Outstanding Performance Art Production. He has recently taught at University of the Arts, Bard College, American Dance Festival, Hollins University, and Pomona College, as well as at festivals in Japan, Korea, and Russia. Jesse was a member of Shen Wei Dance Arts Company (2001- 2006) and Inbal Pinto Dance Company (2008). From 2009-2013 he performed in the work of Faye Driscoll and Netta Yerushalmy.

Image: Maria Baranova



Thank You

Thank You For Coming: Attendance was made possible by the Danspace Project 2013-14 Commissioning Initiative; Lower Manhattan Cultural Council; and Creative Capital with support from The Jerome Foundation, 92Y New Works in Dance Fund, a Headlands Alumni New Works Award and the assistance of New York State Council on the Arts, and is made possible through the sponsorship of The Field.

Thank You For Coming: Attendance received a production residency at Danspace Project's venue, St. Mark's Church, with support from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. *Thank You For Coming: Attendance* is commissioned by Mass Live Arts through a multi-year residency and presentation commitment. Faye Driscoll received residency support from Park Avenue Armory, along with Lower Manhattan Cultural Council's Extended Life Dance Development program made possible in part by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

fayedriscoll.com

Arts House

Arts House is a program of the City of Melbourne and our home is North Melbourne Town Hall. Melbourne's centre for contemporary and experimental performance, Arts House provides a nexus for cultural expression and social connection in a city environment. Arts House is committed to championing independent artists' practice, developing contemporary, experimental and participatory work and engaging audiences. Locally engaged with the diverse communities that surround it and a collaborator across the city, Arts House engages not just an arts audience, but a broad spectrum of audience and participants.

The presentation of *Thank You For Coming: Attendance* continues Arts House's ongoing exchange program with New York's Performance Space 122. The exchange program allows an international audience to experience the thriving and innovative contemporary performance scene that Melbourne, and in particular Arts House, has come to represent.

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

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