

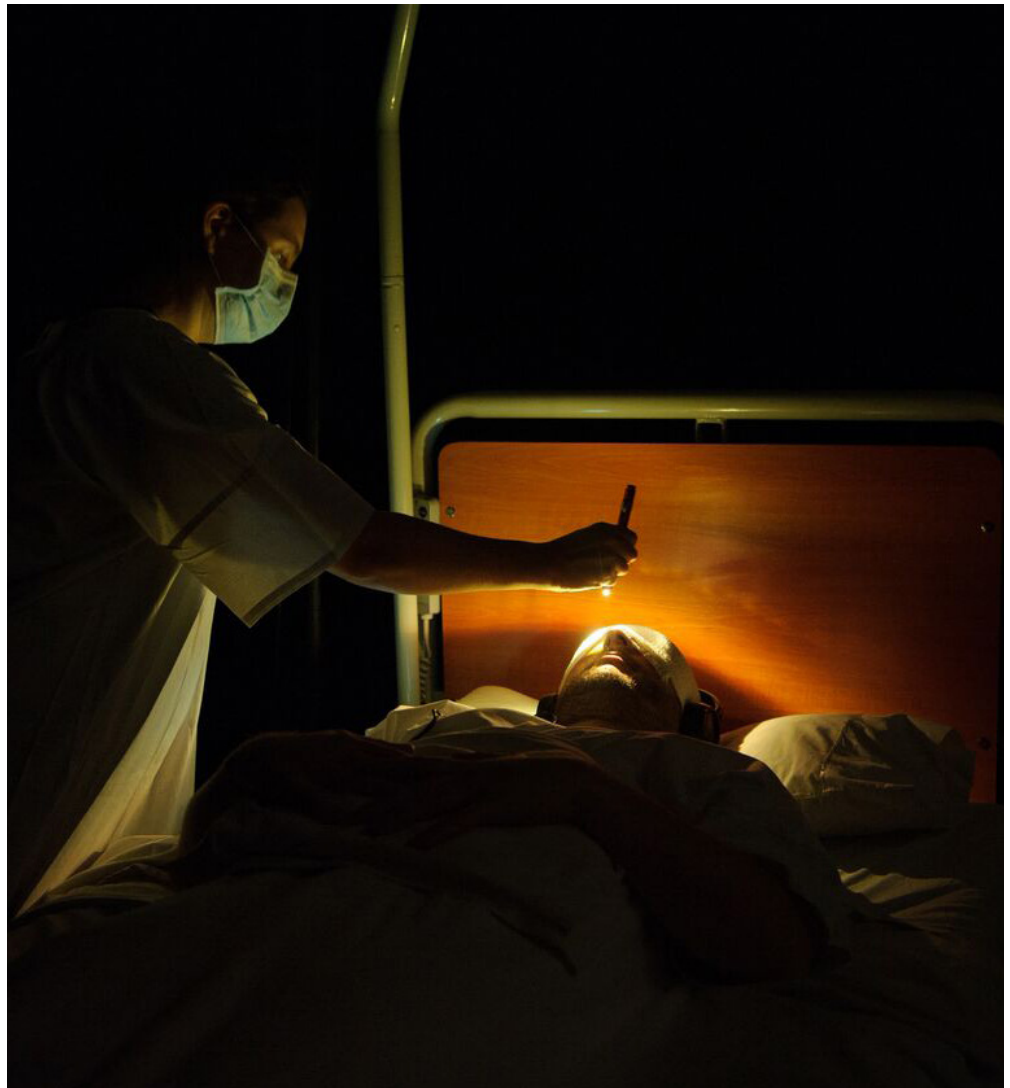
The Infirmary

Triage Live Art Collective

Presented by
Arts House

World Premiere
Immersive live art
7 Nov – 18 Nov
70 mins
\$35 / \$30 / \$25
Audio described 1pm,
3.30pm & 6pm,
Sat 17 Nov

Warning: content on
vulnerability, illness and
death. Recommended for
people aged 16+



Creative Team

**Director/Concept/
Lead Artist**

Katerina Kokkinos-Kennedy

Key Collaborator

Clair Korobacz

**Clinical Nursing
Consultant**

Victoria Morgan

Performers

Suzanne Kersten, Katerina
Kokkinos-Kennedy,

Clair Korobacz, Victoria

Morgan, and Julian Rickert

Lighting Designer

John Ford

Set Designer

Eloise Kent

**Production/Stage
Manager**

Alice Pollard

Project Producer

Katerina Kokkinos-Kennedy

Images: Sarah Walker



Artist Statement

Triage Live Art Collective is led by Artistic Director Katerina Kokkinos-Kennedy. The company has forged a distinct reputation for the creation of intricately dramaturged immersive and participatory works that place audiences at the heart of the performance event. *The Infirmary* was conceived by Katerina Kokkinos-Kennedy as a 'non-catastrophic' encounter with 'the end'. A place to ask questions and to rehearse our mortality. Western society tends to banish illness and death from sight and therefore, human vulnerability.

By approaching the outer limits of life (the moment when we are bed-bound and cared for by others) the work functions as a memento mori, Latin for 'remember that you [have to] die'. This seems important in a culture that endlessly puts off encounters with finitude. *The Infirmary* is an invitation to suspend oneself, to contemplate endings and to celebrate them for the clarity they can bring. The chance to think about illness and death (whilst alive and well) is an invaluable opportunity to think about life and what matters most. So far from being dark or morbid, the work is a deep affirmation of the now, and the privilege of being alive.

In making *The Infirmary*, Katerina Kokkinos-Kennedy and Clair Korobacz sought to re-stage and re-frame the inherently theatrical elements of the hospital to enable audiences to experience it as a place of stillness and reflection. Our research included interviewing people of all ages, and being in dialogue with Professional Nursing Consultant, Victoria Morgan. These meetings and encounters laid the foundation for creating a 'cosmic hospital visit' - one in which trust and the act of letting go become the very site of the performance.

Biographies

Katerina Kokkinos-Kennedy

Triage Live Art Collective Artistic Director, lead artist, creator of *The Infirmary* & performer

Katerina Kokkinos-Kennedy is a graduate of the VCA Drama School. She is an award-winning theatre director, a recipient of the Ewa Czajor Memorial Award and the VCA Teaching Award. In 2009 Katerina founded Triage Live Art Collective and has focused exclusively on audience agency within intimate, immersive and site-specific performance works. She created *The Stranger Series: Once* (Punctum Inc, 2009); *It's All About You* (Westspace Gallery, 2010), and *Strange Passions* (Radical Moments Festival, Berlin 2011). In 2012 she initiated The Istanbul Teegarten project funded by the Berlin Senate for 2 years. In 2013 Triage Live Art Collective was nominated for a Green Room Award for *An Appointment with J Dark* (Arts House) in the category of Outstanding Production for Audience Agency. From 2014-2016 Katerina was the Artistic Director of *Hotel Obscura*, a Creative Europe funded project in Australia, Austria, France and Greece. In 2016 Katerina was awarded the prestigious Australia Council Theatre Fellowship in recognition of her work in Australia and internationally. She is currently developing three new works; *The AI Party* (AU), *CULT* (AU), and *Forest* (AU/DK).

Clair Korobacz

Artistic Associate, sound artist, key collaborator & performer

Clair Korobacz is a performance maker & founding member of one step at a time like this. Recent credits include: *Carnival of Futures* (Arts House, 2018); *upsidedowninsideout* (Sadlers Wells, London, 2018); *Undreamed Waters* (Chicago Shakespeare Theatre Commission, 2016); *Since I Suppose* (OZ Arts, Nashville, 2016, Melbourne Festival / Arts House & Chicago Shakespeare Theatre Commission, 2014); *forever young* (Traverse Theatre, Edinburgh Festival Fringe & Junction Festival, Ireland, 2015); *nowhere* (Going Nowhere Festival, Arts House, 2014); *en route* (national & international tours 2010-2013) including 2 Green Room Awards, Adelaide Fringe Festival Best Theatre Production Award, & 2 Melbourne Fringe Awards. In 2002 Clair worked with Theatre du Soleil in Paris on *Le Dernier Caravanserai*, and with Triage Live Art Collective on *Hotel Obscura* (FOLA 2016 for Arts House).

Victoria Morgan

Artistic associate, Professional Nursing Consultant, & performer

Victoria Morgan is a New Zealand trained actor and Nursing professional who has lived and worked in Melbourne since 2008. She was a member of Triage Live Art Collective and performed with the company between 2009 - 2011. Victoria collaborated and performed with Triage Live Art Collective on *Envy* (2009), *The House Project* (2009), *It's All About You* (2010) and *Strange Passions* (2011). She has continued to perform in Melbourne's independent theatre scene in works such as *Ringside* (Arts House 2012); *Roulette* (Theatreworks 2013), and *Slut* (The Dog Theatre, 2013). Victoria currently works at St Vincent's Hospital as a registered health professional and medical consultant. Her specific role in *The Infirmary* will be to train the team in a range of hospital protocols and to perform within the work at Arts House.

Suzanne Kersten

Performer

Suzanne Kersten is a performance maker, and co-artistic director of one step at a time like this. Recent credits include: *Carnival of Futures* (Arts House, 2018); *upsidedowninsideout* (Sadlers Wells, London, 2018); *Undreamed Waters* (Chicago Shakespeare Theatre Commission, 2016); *Since I Suppose* (OZ Arts, Nashville, 2016, Melbourne Festival & Arts House & Chicago Shakespeare Theatre Commission, 2014); *forever young* (Traverse Theatre, Edinburgh Festival Fringe & Junction Festival, Ireland, 2015); *nowhere* (Going Nowhere, Arts House, 2014); *en route* (national & international tours 2010 - 2013, including 2 Green Room Awards, Adelaide Fringe Festival Best Theatre Production Award, & 2 Melbourne Fringe Awards). Suzanne is a recipient of the Ewa Czajor Memorial Award for Women Directors.

Biographies

Julian Rickert

Performer

Julian Rickert is a performance maker and co-artistic director of one step at a time like this. Recent credits include: *Carnival of Futures* (Arts House, 2018); *upsidedowninsideout* (Sadlers Wells, London, 2018); *Undreamed Waters* (Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, 2016); *Since I Suppose* (OZ Arts, Nashville, 2016, Melbourne Festival & Arts House & Chicago Shakespeare Theatre Commission, 2014); *forever young* (Traverse Theatre, Edinburgh Festival Fringe & Junction Festival, Ireland, 2015); *nowhere* (Going Nowhere, Arts House, 2014); *en route* (national & international tours 2010- 2013, including 2 Green Room Awards, Adelaide Fringe Festival Best Theatre Production Award, & 2 Melbourne Fringe Awards).

John Ford

Lighting Designer

John Ford has been working as a theatrical and architectural lighting designer for more than 20 years. He has worked on numerous small – large scale lighting design projects across all sectors of the dance, performance and building industry. In 2012 John established Relume Consulting to provide high quality lighting design services. Recent credits include: *Carnival of Futures* (Arts House, 2018); Swan Street Bridge Lighting Design (Richmond, 2018); Lennox Street Park, Richmond, (Winner, Award of Excellence IESANZ Victorian Lighting Design Awards 2014); Melbourne Theatre Company (winner, Award of Excellence, IESANZ Victorian Lighting Design Awards, 2009); Melbourne Recital Centre; State Theatre of Western Australia, Perth (winner, Award of Excellence, IESANZ Western Australian Lighting Design Awards 2012); Landmarks, National Museum of Australia, Canberra; Treasures Gallery, and National Library of Australia, Canberra.

Eloise Kent

Set Designer

Eloise Kent is a Melbourne-based set and costume designer and a graduate of the Master of Design for Performance at the VCA. She has a keen interest in creating spaces that respond to and interact with site, the performer and the spectator. Recent theatrical credits include: *Carnival of Futures* (Arts House); *Can't Be Tamed* (La Mama); *The Absence of Knowing* (La Mama), *King Lear* (LaTrobe University); *La Comtesse Bis* (Melbourne French Theatre); *Servant of Two Masters* (Make A Scene); *Life Without Me* (Illuminate Educate); and *The Merry Wives of Windsor* (Nothing But Roaring). Eloise has interned with the Schaubühne Theater in Berlin, and is currently taking part in the Besen Family Artist Program at Malthouse Theatre.

Alice Pollard

Production & Stage Manager

Alice Pollard is a Production Manager who enjoys whiskey, having the right tool for the right job, going camping and long walks on the beach. Her work has taken her across the world, including all across Australia, the UK, some of Europe and China. Notable achievements include still holding it together after a decade in the arts and being a part of *Personal*, by Jodee Munde. A show that took her to Darwin Festival and brought Deaf communities together across Australia. Alice dislikes flat batteries, bad coffee and writing bios.

Thank You

Triage Live Art Collective would like to thank the following people for their support of *The Infirmary* from its inception to its realisation at Arts House. Special thanks to Angharad Wynne-Jones, Josh Wright, Erin Milne, Jude Anderson, and our generous funders Arts House, Creative Victoria, The Besen Family Foundation and Punctum Inc. Thanks also to our Arts House producer Sarah Rowbottam, and the wonderful people of the Arts House team. A special thanks to our brilliant interviewees - Lorna, Lorender, Jude, Marlo, Thea and Gideon.

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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