

Arts Centre Melbourne presents

FLY BY NIGHT

By Melinda Hetzel & Co

23 – 26 JULY

Arts Centre Melbourne,
Hamer Hall Foyer

DIRECTOR Melinda Hetzel
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& Rainbow Sweeny
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James Lipari
PRODUCTION MANAGEMENT Rainbow Sweeny
& Emily O'Brien
FRONT OF HOUSE Daria Wray

FLY BY NIGHT

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Fly By Night is a response to [Hamer Hall](#): where it stands, what it represents, what has come before and what might come after. Taking as its canvas the opulent interiors of this iconic concert hall, *Fly By Night* evokes a theatre of images and music of place. Itself a custom-built mobile app, *Fly By Night* reimagines the potential of this technology, questioning the relationship between our urban lifestyle and the natural environment.

A woman tumbles in slow motion down the outside public staircase, caught in a never-ending scream. As we follow her fall 'down the rabbit hole' the unlikely collection of characters we encounter is drawn from the site's past and present. The boxed-head of [Nolan's Ned Kelly](#) crawls out of the crevices, a British princess emerges from the artwork on the wall, while a Melba-inspired Diva faces death at the end of her opening-night bouquet.

Fly By Night has undertaken two stages of creative development, transforming in the process from live promenade performance into its current, hybrid, digital cousin. An extended residency at Arts Centre Melbourne in 2013-14 has resulted in this highly site-specific work.

Fly By Night's design was inspired by the surrealist paintings and soft sculptures of [Dorothea Tanning](#) (1910-2012), along with [Charles Blackman's 'Alice in Wonderland' series](#) and [Sidney Nolan's 'Ned Kelly' series](#).

Featuring the intense interior designs of [John Truscott](#), in *Fly By Night* the architecture itself becomes part of the performance, however the natural world seeps in through cracks in the gold-leaf encrusted ceiling, pushing down through the earth, refusing to die, refusing to be ignored.

- **Melinda Hetzel**

[MELINDA HETZEL AND CO.](#) is a new collective of multi-disciplinary artists who collaborate with director Melinda Hetzel to create extraordinary, site-responsive performance and live art. Building on Melinda's work as artistic director of visual theatre company, Peepshow Inc (2003-13), Melinda Hetzel & Co's credits include: *Urban Cocoon* (Melbourne City Square, 2013) and *Fly By Night* (Premiere Hamer Hall, 2015).

DIRECTOR – MELINDA HETZEL

Melinda's extensive body of work features visually stunning, site-specific performance, participatory live art and dynamic, ensemble-based theatre.

Since graduating in Creative Arts (Victorian College of the Arts, 2000), Melinda has presented a wide range of work in Australia, as well as Singapore and Germany. In 2002 Melinda was invited to Germany to direct and devise an Australian-German co-production, *Einst zu einer Zeit...* which received the Arena Festival Audience Award, returning in 2005 as a jury member for the festival.

Melinda was founding member and Artistic Director of Peepshow Inc 2003-13. During this time she directed and co-devised the company's entire repertoire, including: *Slanting*

into the Void (Arts House, 2006), *The Mysteries of the Convent* (Abbotsford Convent, 2006-08), *The Lost Story of the Magdalen Asylum*, (Abbotsford Convent, 2010) nominated for a Green Room Award for Best Site-specific Performance, *Divine: Part One* (Abbotsford Convent, 2011) nominated for a Green Room Award for Costume/ Set Design and *A Bird, a Tree, the Moon* (City Square, 2012). Melinda was also the interim Artistic Director/CEO of St Martins Youth Arts Centre in 2012.

SOUND DESIGN & COMPOSITION

– JETHRO WOODWARD

Jethro is a Melbourne-based composer, musician and sound designer recognized for his expansive and highly layered film, theatre and dance scores. A multi Green Room Award winner and nominee, he has worked with some of Australia's leading major and independent companies including MTC, Malthouse Theatre, Belvoir Company B, Arena, Windmill, MSO, Rawcus, Stuck Pigs Squealing, Fragment 31, Lucy Guerin, Australian Dance Theatre, KAGE and more. Jethro won Green Room Awards for *Moth* (Malthouse/ Arena), *Goodbye Vaudeville Charlie Mudd* (Malthouse/ Arena) and *Irony Is Not Enough* (Fragment 31). He was the Musical Director and Sound Designer for 6 x Helpmann nominated musical *Wizard of Oz* (Windmill).

SOFTWARE DESIGN – STEPH O'HARA

Steph is an independent software developer, sound designer and musician. He has worked across the globe, engineering and producing music, audio, sound and software. Steph currently specialises in iPhone and Mac Audio development and Web-Audio Development. As a member of The Blue Grassy Knoll, Steph has also performed extensively on the international circuit. He has worked for a multitude of theatre companies, studios and festivals, including: Sydney Opera House, Powerhouse theatre, St Kilda Festival, Melbourne International Comedy Festival, Adelaide Fringe, Adelaide Festival Centre, Melbourne Fringe Festival, 3PBS, Snuff Puppets, DeSoxy Theatre Company, Dead Horse Production, Chamber Made Opera, Ennio Morricone Experience, Peepshow Inc, Spagheffi Western Orchestra, Sista She, NICA, Ilbijerri, Polyglot and Flying Fruit Fly Circus.

CINEMATOGRAPHY / EDITING / EFFECTS

– NASSIEM VALAMANESH

Nassiem has been working with moving images for more than a decade. Born 1978 in Adelaide, he studied filmmaking at the Victorian College of the Arts in Melbourne. Designed for cinema, his work lies somewhere between narrative filmmaking and video art and is sustained by bold imagery, soundscapes and a sense of humour mixed with melancholy that reflects his unique worldview. Nassiem's practice is supported through residencies he has undertaken within and outside Australia and also with screen agency funding. A multi-skilled practitioner, he frequently writes, directs, photographs and edits out of his workspace in Melbourne. His titles include: 'Little Noel Wants To Fly' which screened in competition at the 2004 Clermont- Ferrand International Short Film Festival in France; 'My Beijing Friend' which was acquired in 2005 by SBS television in Australia;

the Screen Australia funded short 'Side By Side' which screened widely at film festivals in Australia and overseas. His most recent work, 'Distant Words' was exhibited at the Wollongong City Gallery as part of the 2011 Generations exhibition and was screened at the 2012 Melbourne International Film Festival. Currently Nassiem is working on new video works and collaborating with his parents on bringing video into their own art practices.

PERFORMER / COLLABORATOR / ROVING

PERFORMER – INGRID WEISFELT

Ingrid has worked as a performer, movement teacher, choreographer and director in theatre both in Australia and overseas for the last twenty years. She was a company member of Meryl Tankard's Australian Dance Theatre and Tanztheater Basel, and worked as a freelance artist for Joachim Schloemer, Force Majeure, Not Yet It's Difficult, Melinda Hetzel, Vienna Festival, Victorian Opera, Opera Australia, Steirischer Herbst Festival Graz, Kage, Chunky Move and Chamber Made Opera. As a movement teacher, she has worked for Tanztheater Basel, Vienna Festival, V.C.A school of music and the National Theatre drama school. As an assistant and associate director and choreographer, she has worked with the Victorian Opera, Red Stitch, Steirischer Herbst Fest and Theater Basel. She is a founding member of Torque Show which presented *Malmö* at the Adelaide Festival in 2012. Also for Torque Show Ingrid co-directed: *Intimacy* at the Malthouse Theatre and Southbank Centre London in 2014 and *Madam* at the State Theatre of South Australia in 2015. Ingrid is a certified Feldenkrais practitioner and integrates the Feldenkrais method into her performance and teaching work.

PERFORMER / COLLABORATOR – DAN WITTON

Dan has worked as an actor, physical performer, musician, composer, sound designer and web developer. Companies that he has worked with include: Malthouse Theatre, State Opera of SA, Opera Australia, State Theatre SA, Australian Dance Theatre, Circus Oz, The Seymour Group, Etcetera Theatre Co, ABC Television, Belvoir St, Theatre, Playbox, The Mambologists, Magpie Theatre, Strange Fruit, The Blue Grassy Knoll, Cosmo Cosmolino, Not Yet It's Difficult, Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, The Urban Dream Capsule, Chamber Made Opera, David Chesworth/Wax Media, The Wikimen, the Ennio Morricone Experience, Jenny M. Thomas & The System - Bush Gothic, Tania Bosak and Jumbleads' production of *Still Awake Still*. He co-founded deoxy Theatre in 1990 with Teresa Blake, creating original performance projects that included works at major festivals, film and video, short pieces and independent seasons, touring extensively. Most recently he has performed with Meow Meow, Ali Macgregor and is touring internationally with The Spooky Men's Chorale.

ROVING PERFORMER – GEOFF DUNSTAN

Geoffrey is a founding member of Dislocate circus theatre and Ruccis circus school. He is currently the Artistic Director of children theatre for Dislocate and is the managing director of Ruccis circus school. Geoffrey performed in

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Dislocate's most recent new show *If These Walls Could Talk* which was presented by Melbourne International Arts Festival last year and has recently been nominated for a Helpmann award. Geoffrey is currently most excited by Rucci's new classes teaching a combination of permaculture and circus to pre-schoolers. Classes are due to start in term 4 of this year. Geoffrey has been a physical performer, and maker for over 20 years, during which time he has danced, sung, composed, directed, produced, clowned, and somersaulted his way around the world working for companies such as Circus Oz, Rock'n'Roll Circus, Circa, Queensland Theatre Company, Melbourne Theatre Company, Torque show, Y Space, JOLT, Hothouse Theatre, Horned Moon Productions, QPAT, Chambermade Opera, Snuff Puppets, MDPE, The Australian Shakespeare Company and Legs on the Wall.

PRODUCER – NINA BONACCI

Nina is an arts producer, currently working with Sisters Grimm, Stuck Pigs Squealing and Angus Cerini / Doubletap, among other companies. Nina was Company Manager at Malthouse Theatre for several years, where she enjoyed working with some of Australia's finest artists. Prior to that she produced and toured contemporary Australian productions nationally and internationally while Associate Producer at Performing Lines, including Back to Back Theatre's *small metal objects* and Stephen Sewell's *Three Furies*. She has worked as a Producer at Melbourne International Comedy Festival; Festival Director for Mudfest – Melbourne University's student arts festival; Producer at Keep Breathing; Administration and Development Coordinator at Arena Theatre Company; Marketing Manager at St Martin's Youth Arts Centre; and as Publicist at Miranda Brown Publicity, with clients including Big Day Out and Circus Oz. Nina has participated on the Peer Assessment Panel for Sydney Opera House, on the Next Wave Festival Curatorial Committee, as Chair of visual theatre company Peepshow Inc, and has served on the Platform Youth Theatre Board of Management.

PRODUCTION DESIGN / PRODUCTION MANAGEMENT – RAINBOW SWEENEY

Rainbow has worked across many areas of the arts and entertainment industry and has

held senior positions in Production Design, Costume Design, Wardrobe Management, Event Co-ordination, Stage Management and Volunteer Co-ordination. Festival and Event management credits include projects for Melbourne International Arts Festival, the AFL Grand Final, Melbourne Grand Prix and such international festivals as Arena Festival (Germany) and the Edinburgh Festival. Screen credits include projects for Grundy Television, SBS Independent, Madman, Burberry Productions, Channel Ten Sport, Global Television and BBC (UK). In 2005 Rainbow was nominated for a Green Room Award for her set design for *Smashed* by Lally Katz. She was also a founding member of Peepshow Inc.

PRODUCTION DESIGN – ADRIENNE CHISHOLM

Originally trained as a Graphic Designer, Adrienne studied Theatre Design at the Victorian College of the Arts. Since then Adrienne has designed sets, costumes and puppets for Back to Back Theatre, Melbourne Workers Theatre, Spanda Productions, Circus Oz, Danceworks, The Wiggles, The Eleventh Hour, Playbox, Petty Traffickers, Paradigm Productions, Polyglot, Gasworks, Chookahs Festivals for the Victorian Arts Centre, Sydney Theatre Company and Poor Boy for Melbourne Theatre Company. Adrienne received a Green Room Award for her set design for *The Burlesque Hour*. Adrienne was a founding member of the highly acclaimed The Keene Taylor Theatre Project, designing sets and costumes for all of their seasons. Adrienne designed *The Lower Depths* for Ariette Taylor Productions and *Café Rebelikal* and *Syncopation* for The Follies Company, *Così* for Hit Productions and *Café Scherezade* by Thérèse Radic, *Fortyfive Downstairs*. She was also Parade and Float Designer for the 2009 Moomba Waterfest.

LIGHTING DESIGN / STAGE MANAGEMENT – JAMES LIPARI

James is a graduate of the Victorian College of the Arts' Bachelor of Production course and works as a Freelance Lighting Designer, Technician and Stage Manager. James worked as Stage Manager for *Urban Cocoon* (Melinda Hetzel and Co.) He has also been Co-Lighting Designer for *In The Next Room (The Vibrator Play)* (FWL Theatre) and Lighting Designer for *Together as One* (Jonathan Homsey's Faure

Experiment). James also works as part of the Production team at Resolution X, Polyglot Theatre and Chunky Move.

PRODUCTION MANAGER – EMILY O'BRIEN

Emily works primarily in Production and Project Management across theatre, dance, festivals, cultural and corporate events, both locally and internationally. She completed a Bachelor of Dramatic Arts at VCA in 2002, together with an internship at the prestigious Performing Garage for The Wooster Group, and completed a Masters of Arts Management at the University of Melbourne in 2012. She is a founding member of the production collective, First In Last Out (FILO). Emily's clients, collaborators and projects include: All Tomorrow's Parties, Aphids, Arena Theatre Co, Auspicious Arts, BalletLAB, Barkly Arts Centre, Black Lung Theatre & Whalling Co, Boogie Festival, Comedy@Trades, Commonwealth Games Cultural Festival (Melbourne 2006), Daniel Schlusser Ensemble, Easy Tiger Smith St, Federation Square, Feel Presents, Film Victoria, Four Winds Festival, Harley Davidson, Harvest Festival, Insite Arts, KAGE, Madeleine Flynn & Tim Humphrey, Melbourne Festival, Melbourne Worker's Theatre, Melinda Hetzel & Co, Mixitup, Nat Cursio Co, Next Wave, Oz Comic Con, Peepshow Inc, Polyglot Theatre, Sans Hotel, Spicks & Specktaclar – The Finale, Stuck Pigs Squealing, the Eleventh Hour, the Other Film Festival, the Village Festival, Token Events, and Westside Circus, amongst others.

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