

EXHIBIT

PRESENTED BY LA MAMA & MELBOURNE FRINGE

A HAWKINS & PROWD PRODUCTION

SEPT 30 - OCT 4

LA MAMA

MELBOURNE FRINGE FESTIVAL

CITY OF MELBOURNE

flying fruit fly circus

circus centre melbourne

EXHIBIT

Two women—often mistaken for one another—lean into the chaos of being seen, mis-seen, and often underestimated. With greying hair and zero interest in behaving, their vitality is louder, wiser, and impossible to ignore.

Created and performed by Emma J. Hawkins and Leisa Prowd, Exhibit is a disability-led work, a bold physical theatre work collides dance, spoken word and comedy.

With razor-sharp humour and disarming vulnerability, Exhibit pokes at the awkward, the absurd, and the deeply human need to belong.

Expect the unexpected. Expect to laugh. Expect to feel a little seen.

Strange. Funny. Unsettling. Human.

Creative Team

Created and performed by Emma J. Hawkins and Leisa Prowd
Directorial Eye: Susie Dee
Movement Guru: Kyall Shanks
Sound Design: Dan West
Lighting Design: Richard Vabre
Stage Manager/Operator: Stephanie Young
Set Construction and General Good Guy: Ryan Leister
Set and Costume Design/Construction: Emma J. Hawkins
Random Latchhooking Borders: Lillian Hawkins



With Thanks

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EMMA J. HAWKINS

A short-statured performer and keen advocate for fair representation of disability in the arts, Emma has performed and produced across Australia and overseas in events, festivals and productions from Shakespeare to burlesque and all things in between. Her recent acting credits include “Emilia” (Essential Theatre), “Volpone” (Sydney Theatre Company), “The Real & Imagined History of the Elephant Man” (Malthouse Theatre) and “Big Bad Wolf” (Arena Theatre Company).

Emma is also a physical performer: a tap dancer, stilt walker and acrobat whose work includes Circus Oz and “Momentum” (Women’s Circus). She received Green Room Award nominations for “Love Never Dies” and “White Day Dream” (Weave Movement Theatre). Through Atypical Theatre Company in Sydney, she performed in and produced Jean Genet’s “The Maids”, the award-winning physical theatre piece “One More Than One”, which toured to Edinburgh, and her solo work “I Am Not a Unicorn!” (Melbourne International Comedy Festival and Adelaide Fringe). Emma’s background in finance management means she can balance a budget as well as she can balance herself on a walking globe!



LEISA PROWD

Leisa Prowd is a performance artist whose work spans dance theatre, butoh, burlesque and collaborative installation. Their practice is rooted in the body as a site of memory, resistance and transformation. With an international performance history that includes collaborations across Australia, Germany, France and the United States, their work moves between ensemble and solo forms, as well as experimental and community contexts. Leisa has worked with companies such as Rawcus, Unusual Symptoms/ Hódworks, Compagnie DK-BEL and Weave Movement Theatre, and continues to explore embodiment as both a poetic and political act.

Leisa's work emerges from the body as archive, protest and portal. They are drawn to the thresholds of transformation—between visibility and invisibility, stillness and rupture, the grotesque and the sublime. Movement, voice, costume and installation converge in their performance language. They work from the margins of the visible, where embodiment is political, identity is fluid, and movement speaks where words fall short.

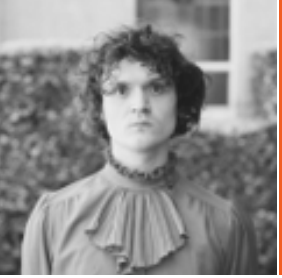


SUSIE DEE

Susie Dee is a theatre director, performer and devisor whose career spans more than forty years across Australia and internationally. She has served as Artistic Director of Melbourne Workers Theatre, Union House Theatre and the Institute of Complex Entertainment, all known for bold, award-winning and often site-specific work.

Susie has directed for major companies including Melbourne Theatre Company and Malthouse Theatre, as well as numerous independent companies. Her 2016 production “Animal” won five Green Room Awards, including Best Director. In 2017, she received multiple nominations for “Looking Glass”, “Big Heart” and “SHIT”, the latter earning a Helpmann nomination for Best Director. In 2019, she presented “SHIT” and “Love” at the Venice Biennale Theatre Festival and directed “Anthem” for the Melbourne International Arts Festival, Sydney Festival and Perth Festival.

She regularly collaborates with Fat Fruit, with credits including “Fuck Fabulous”, “Fart Fabulous”, “Queen Kong and the Homosapiens” and “Fuck Christmas”. In 2022, Susie received the Australia Council Award for Theatre. In 2023, she won Green Room Awards for Best Director and Outstanding Production for “My Sister Jill”. Her 2024 directing credits include “TRUTH” (Malthouse), “Rodeo Clown”, “I’m With Her” (HotHouse) and “Fair Punishment” (Brown’s Mart).



KYALL SHANKS

Kyall Shanks is a Naarm/Melbourne-based contemporary dance artist whose practice spans performance, choreography, direction and teaching. A 2015 graduate of the Victorian College of the Arts, Kyall has worked with companies including Tasdance, Chunky Move, Antony Hamilton Projects, Matthew Bourne's New Adventures, Opera Australia, The Delta Project and Liquidskin Dance Company. Their passion lies in how each element of dance practice informs the others, fostering greater accessibility and connection within the artform.

Locally, they have engaged diverse communities through "Lord of the Flies" (Arts Centre Melbourne/ Matthew Bourne), "Simulcast" (Dance Massive 2019) and "Multiply" (Stephanie Lake Company, Melbourne Fringe 2020). They have taught for institutions including VCA, Chunky Move, Ausdance Victoria and DRILL, and contributed widely to youth and community dance. Since 2020, Kyall has been Artistic Director of Yellow Wheel, a pre-professional dance company, and since 2022 they have been part of the core creative team producing the City of Melbourne's annual Moomba Parade. Their work centres curiosity, collaboration and cultural generosity.



DAN WEST

Dan West is a musician, sound designer and community collaborator based in Naarm/ Melbourne. He has created soundtracks for video and performance artist Eugenia Lim, music and sound design for Butoh performer Yumi Umiumare and dancer Leisa Prowd, and work for Maxine Beneba Clarke's "The Hate Race" (Malthouse Theatre) and "Topdog/Underdog" (Melbourne Theatre Company).

Dan has performed extensively across Australia, Europe and Asia at festivals including Falls Festival, Singapore International Arts Festival and Tokyo Jazz Festival. His music for installation and dance has been shown at Tate Modern (UK), Noh Theatre (Japan), the Museum of Contemporary Art (Sydney) and MONA. He also runs "Buttons", a monthly experimental beat night where emerging and established artists gather to share music and ideas through performance. Dan is signed to ORiGiN Music Publishing and digitally distributed by AWAL.



RICHARD VABRE

Richard Vabre is a freelance lighting designer whose work spans theatre, opera, dance and circus. He has lit productions for Melbourne Theatre Company, Sydney Theatre Company, Malthouse Theatre, Belvoir Street, Black Swan State Theatre Company, Back to Back Theatre, Victorian Opera, The Australian Ballet School, Circus Oz, Rawcus, Windmill Theatre, Arena Theatre Company, NICA, Barking Gecko, the Flying Fruit Fly Circus, Darwin Festival, Stuck Pig's Squealing, Chamber Made, Red Stitch, Polyglot, Melbourne Workers Theatre, Speak Percussion, Aphids and Lyric Opera, as well as many productions at La Mama.

Richard has won six Green Room Awards, including the Association's John Truscott Prize for Excellence in Design in 2004. He has received a further thirteen Green Room Award nominations.



STEPH YOUNG

Steph Young is a Naarm/Melbourne-based arts freelancer from Gunaikurnai country, specialising in stage and production management. Their collaborative practice prioritises safety, care and access, supporting artists to take creative risks across contemporary dance, circus, physical theatre, cabaret, festivals, musical theatre and opera.

Steph has worked with leading arts organisations and companies across Australia and tours as stage manager for “Imagine Live” and “Robot Song”. Steph holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Production) from the Victorian College of the Arts and a Master of Arts and Cultural Management from the University of Melbourne.

LA MAMA

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La Mama Theatre is on the traditional lands of the peoples of the Kulin nation, and we give our respect to the Elders and to all First Nations people past, present and future. We acknowledge all events take place on stolen lands and that sovereignty was never ceded.

La Mama Theatre is financially assisted by the Federal Government through Creative Australia and the Victorian Government through Creative Victoria.

We are grateful to all our philanthropic partners and donors, advocates, volunteers, audiences, artists and our entire community. Thank you!

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