

# SHAUN PARKER & COMPANY

## ANNUAL REPORT 2023

“Shaun Parker’s choreography is detailed, nuanced, imaginative, and funny, something that is rare in dance...a great artist to be emulated.”

- Frankfurter Rundschau (Germany)



A photograph of three men in tuxedos dancing in a jungle setting. The man in the foreground is wearing a black tuxedo with a white shirt and a black bow tie, and is in a dynamic dance pose. Behind him, another man in a black tuxedo is also dancing. To the right, a third man with short blonde hair, wearing a dark red shirt, is partially visible, also appearing to be part of the scene. The background is filled with lush green foliage, and the lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights and deep shadows.

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A photograph of three men in formal attire performing on a stage. The man on the left is crouching, wearing a maroon velvet jacket and holding a microphone. The man in the center is leaning forward, wearing a black tuxedo and making a hand gesture. The man on the right is standing, wearing a black tuxedo and a bow tie, also making a hand gesture. The background is a dense wall of green tropical plants.

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# 2023

## YEAR IN REVIEW

**40** PERFORMANCES

**8** PRODUCTIONS

**12,243** AUDIENCE MEMBERS

**160** WORKSHOPS

**1,307** PARTICIPANTS

**77** ARTISTS AND CULTURAL WORKERS



## WORKS PERFORMED

- *KING*
- *FOUND OBJECTS*
- *HOVER*
- *TROLLEYS*
- *KITCHEN*
- *HANTU*
- *I'M BI AND I'M BEAUTIFUL TOO*
- *PERMAISURI*

## NATIONAL TOURING

- Sydney WorldPride Festival, Seymour Centre, Sydney
- Tocumwal Memorial Hall, Tocumwal, NSW
- Finley Railway Park, Finley, NSW
- Deniliquin Town Hall, Deniliquin, NSW
- Ausdance Till Dusk Festival, Martin Place, Sydney
- Dream BIG Children's Festival, Adelaide Festival Centre, Adelaide
- New Annual Festival, Wheeler Plaza, Newcastle
- Carriageworks, Sydney
- Red Rattler Theatre, Sydney

## INTERNATIONAL TOURING

- Schauspiel Köln, Germany
- Grand Théâtre de la Ville de Luxembourg, Luxembourg
- Staatstheater Darmstadt, Germany
- Hessisches Staatstheater Wiesbaden, Germany
- Bolzano Dance Festival, Teatro Comunale Stadttheater, Bolzano, Italy
- Bolzano Dance Festival, Waltherplatz Piazza, Bolzano, Italy

## INTERNATIONAL STREAMING

- *AM I* – Sydney Opera House 50th Anniversary Global Streaming

## WORK IN DEVELOPMENT

- *BUBBLE*

## FILM PREMIERE

- *LUNACY*

## MENTORSHIPS

- Dyan Tai – *Hantu & Permaisuri*
- Felicity Nicol – *Sex, Riot, Repeat*
- Barbarella Karpinski – *I'm Bi and I'm Beautiful Too*
- *LAUNCH* Workshop Week

## DIGITAL / ONLINE

- Facebook Reach **1,875,288**
- Facebook Followers **6,317**
- Facebook Page Visits **15,634**
- Facebook Reactions **11,027**
- Instagram Reach **107,861**
- Instagram Followers **2,011**
- Instagram Profile Visits **5,282**
- Instagram Reactions **907**
- YouTube Views **79,831**
- YouTube Impressions **17,279**
- Vimeo Views **2,778**
- Vimeo Impressions **24,298**
- Vimeo Unique Viewers **991**
- LinkedIn Page Views **638**
- LinkedIn Impressions **147,606**



# CHAIR'S REPORT

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2023 has been a hugely successful year for Shaun Parker & Company, and after the past few years, feels like a return to focusing on solely what we love – performing, touring and creating. With many opportunities to showcase the creativity of Shaun Parker & Company, 2023 has been an exciting and rewarding year.

We kicked off with *KING* at the Seymour Centre as part of WorldPride. An exploration of group dynamics, sexuality and masculinity with the globally renowned Ivo Dimchev and ten of our gravity defying dancers. Rave reviews from all sides and standing ovations set the Company up for its' European tour across Germany, Italy, and Luxemburg. Touring presents the Company with many opportunities – a broader audience, arts institutions that are funded to financially support their performers and creatives, and, of course, the joy of performing in different locations.

Unbelievably, we also took *Trolleys* on tour – our outdoor work with heavy, metal shopping trolleys, which really needs to be seen to be believed – and astounded audiences sitting in piazzas and squares in cities across Germany and Italy.

We also toured extensively in Australia with *Found Objects*, delighting local community audiences around NSW, and in the Adelaide DreamBIG Festival.

A key aspect of Shaun Parker & Company is our continuing commitment to mentoring emerging queer artists and again we have seen alumni thrive. It is Shaun's dedication to mentoring which has assisted a number of artists launch in the harsh reality that is the arts sector. The new cultural policy, Creative Australia, announced this year, is a much-needed focus on the arts. However, if it is to revive the arts to being a central tenant of our society and ensure a growth in audiences and opportunities, appropriate funding needs to flow into the arts. Small to medium arts bodies, and dance in particular, need supporting if we are to have a vibrant and uplifting arts sector that enriches us all.

The 50th anniversary of the Sydney Opera House, that we were delighted to be part of, in the streaming of *AM I*, reflected the talent of the sector. To grow and thrive, the sector needs funding that appreciates the diversity of organisations and people within it, and recognises the work being produced across the sector.

We continue to take part in the Board Observership program supporting aspiring directors learn about the workings of a board. I am privileged to be able to showcase our board of highly engaged and hard working directors – who support me as Chair, and Shaun as Artistic Director, so well.

Shaun Parker & Company is fortunate to be supported financially by a number of sponsors and individuals who share our dreams and value our creative output. Our dancers and all the creatives which support the work, require their support and we thank them for it. Thank you to Create NSW, Creative Australia, City of Sydney, South West Arts, City of Newcastle, Inner West Council and 107 Projects – we very much appreciate your support.

A huge thank you to our global partners, the Denise & Michael Kellen Foundation, and our major donors, Penny and (the late) Richard Hunstead, and the Wales Family Foundation, for their ongoing and generous support, without which we simply could not continue to showcase the creative talent of our artistic director Shaun, our dancers, and the artists we work with.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Michelle Cutler". The signature is fluid and cursive.

**Michelle Cutler**  
**Chair**  
**Shaun Parker & Company**



# ARTISTIC DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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Our dancers and I were thrilled to leap with reckless abandon into 2023!

The year began with an invitation by Sydney WorldPride to relaunch our major work *KING*, which featured the demonic Ivo Dimchev and ten of our outstanding dancers! *KING* was originally created in 2019, and following an initial international tour, was shut down by the pandemic for almost four years! Yet, *KING* was reborn, and soon after the Sydney season in February/March 2023, we set off for an extensive tour of Germany, Italy and Luxembourg! We opened the Bolzano Dance Festival in Italy which was an absolute honour!

Our family and community outdoor work *FOUND OBJECTS* also had a prolific year with touring throughout South West NSW, Adelaide's Dream BIG Children's Festival, and The New Annual Festival in Newcastle! We also performed *TROLLEYS* in Germany and Italy too, including a collaboration with a wonderful "sketch drawing" collective in Darmstadt, Germany, whose artists created a series of works of our dancers live-in-action. We have included several of our favourite sketches later in this report because we loved them so much!

The dancers and I also found time to work on our new show in development *BUBBLE*, and dramaturge and *QUEER BITES* alumni Felicity Nicol worked with me on writing the first draft of the script! We are so excited to develop this new work further with the dancers, *BUBBLE* artist, and videographers in 2024!

Our *QUEER BITES* mentorship went from strength to strength with two of our alumni embarking on new projects: the first being two new works by electro-pop dance artist Dyan Tai, and a reimaging of a cult work at Performance Space by veteran performance artist Barbarella Karpinski! I was so proud to see their work flourish, and to see them curate and direct a series of projects in their own right, alongside my mentorship! It was so very rewarding!

When I was approached by Parisian fashion house HERMÈS to create a new work, I was absolutely delighted! In particular because 29 years ago I danced in a fashion show for HERMÈS, choreographed by the legendary Meryl Tankard! It was a definitely a "full circle" moment! And even better, I was commissioned to work with 15 dancers! What a dream!

We also had a special invitation to be a part of the Sydney Opera House's 50th Anniversary celebrations! What an honour! They streamed our major work, *AM I*, to thousands of viewers across the globe as a part of these celebrations! The feedback was amazing, and to hear the original musical score by Nick Wales again was a real treat!

It was so lovely to see the feature film installation *LUNACY*, with direction by Daniel Askill, finally have its launch on Billong-olola Island (Shark Island) in Sydney Harbour. The film will be live-streamed on Apple TV+ and Google TV in April 2024! I learnt so much about choreographing for film, and I was lucky enough to utilise six incredible actors as my movement canvas!

I would like to thank Create NSW, who were our key funding partners for 2023, and Creative Australia, for their project investment! Also many thanks to the City of Sydney, South West Arts, City of Newcastle, Inner West Council, and 107 Projects too!

And from the bottom of my heart, I want to thank my dancers, my creative collaborators, my producing team, and our wonderful Board whose support and understanding is paramount, especially in a somewhat robust arts environment!

And a big shout out to our major donor Penny and (the late) Richard Hunstead, the Wales Family Foundation, and our global partners, the Denise & Michael Kellen Foundation, for their kind and generous support! I was lucky enough to visit Denise in New York in November, and the thrill of being in New York City again remains with me! We shall return!

May the dance be with you!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shaun Parker".

**Shaun Parker**  
Artistic Director



# COMPANY PROFILE



Shaun Parker & Company is one of Australia's most wide-reaching dance companies. Amongst the cohort of Australian dance companies, it punches above its weight in terms of international touring and engagement with young people. Its' work takes place on the stages of major international festivals as a result of its artistic and dramaturgical rigour, but resonates just as strongly in public spaces, regional Australia, and among school students. The work is renowned for its ability to connect with audiences through its use of touching human vignettes and stunning musical scores.

Based in Sydney, the Company has garnered considerable international success having toured to 21 countries globally including Germany, Austria, France, Spain, Sweden, Luxembourg, Belgium, The Netherlands, Italy, Serbia, Lebanon, Jordan, Palestine, Egypt, Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan, New Zealand, USA, and the UK, including a sold-out season at London's prestigious dance house Sadler's Wells. The Company has won two Australian Dance Awards, the Shirley McKechnie Award for Choreography, a Banksy Award (New Zealand), the Argus Angel Award (UK), the Bearer of Hope Award (Germany) and a Helpmann Award nomination for Best Presentation for Children. The Company won the NSW Premier's Creative Achievement Award, was nominated for the CHASS Prize for New Work, and was finalist in the NSW Premier's Export Award in the Creative Industries category. The Company won the NSW Premier's Resilience Award in the Creative Arts, for its strategic pivot and success throughout the pandemic and lockdown periods.

The Company has ongoing prestigious agency representation in Europe with Meinrad Huber at Ecotopia Productions who

promotes and facilitates European touring opportunities, presentations and co-commissions, linking the Company with key players internationally.

The Company also has a role in providing emerging dancers with opportunities to develop their skills and career trajectory including the ongoing mentorships of Joel Fenton as Project Coordinator and Queer Bites mentees Dyan Tai, Felicity Nicol, and Barbarella Karpinski on their various projects. The Company is constantly developing the skills of our core Sydney based dancers, and the Company also employs and develops the skills of many young producers, production staff and creative collaborators.

The Company continues to contribute to the professional development of its key ensemble of dancers to an international standard through their participation in numerous workshops, creative developments, performances and touring.

Shaun Parker & Company is currently supported by the New South Wales Government through Create NSW multi-year funding (2021-2025), project funding through Creative Australia and partnerships with City of Sydney, Inner West City Council and Creative Partnership's Plus1 program.

The Company also receives generous support from our Global Partner, the Denise & Michael Kellen Foundation and our Major Donors, Penny and (the late) Richard Hunstead and The Wales Family Foundation. Shaun Parker & Company continues their ongoing partnership with 107 Projects and City of Sydney through their residency at the Joynton Avenue Creative Centre in Zetland.





# THE WORKS



# KING SYDNEY WORLDPRIDE & EUROPEAN TOUR

## SYNOPSIS

*KING* is a music-dance collaboration between award-winning Australian Director / Choreographer Shaun Parker, internationally renowned Bulgarian-born Vocalist Ivo Dimchev, and ten outstanding dancers.

Set in a fantastical realm that is part elite cocktail-bar, and part jungle, *KING* interrogates the power systems that oppress and hinder the natural development of male sexuality and identity in the form of a biting, yet humorous theatrical experience. Parker's highly physical and articulate choreographic world in *KING* intertwines with the scorching live sung narration of Dimchev's deconstructed operatic and cabaret-esque vocals. The key protagonist and archetype in *KING* is observed as a naked man, and we witness the male body as a commodity for anthropological observation. The juxtaposition of Dimchev's gloriously sung counter-tenor against the male dominated world created in *KING*, provides a compelling counterpoint to the notion of the power and brutality found within the context of historic masculinity and socio-sexual-political structures.

*KING* went into rehearsals in December 2022 to rework and remount the production in preparation for the major Sydney WorldPride Arts festival season in February–March 2023! Shaun Parker & Company continues its legacy in ensuring that dancers have ample time in rehearsals to build stamina and skills in preparation for the particular demands of each work, as well as providing much needed employment for our outstanding dancers.

Following our successful Sydney season, we jetted off to Europe for highly anticipated performances in Germany, Luxembourg and Italy.

## CREATIVE TEAM

Choreographer, Director and Designer Shaun Parker  
Composer and Vocalist Ivo Dimchev  
Horticultural Consultant and Jungle Design Penny Hunstead  
Lighting Designer Benjamin Brockman  
Costumier Christine Mutton  
Dramaturges Veronica Neave & Felicity Nicol  
Brass Arrangements Duane Morrison  
Cello Nils Hob  
Drums Alon Ilisar  
Guitar Mick Stuart

## DANCERS

Samuel Beazley, Max Burgess, Imanuel Dado, Toby Derrick, Joel Fenton, Romain Hassanin, Harrison Hall, Damian Meredith, Libby Montilla, Robert Tinning, Alex Warren

## PRODUCTION TEAM

Production Managers Mark Haslam & Briony Hunt  
Stage Managers Imogen Millhouse & Jay Bailey  
Sound Engineer Ilia Bezroukov  
Lighting Realiser Ryan McDonald  
Project Coordinator Joel Fenton  
European Agent Meinrad Huber  
Executive Producer Andy Currums  
Senior Producer Helen Doick

## DATES & VENUES

28 February – 4 March 2023 Sydney WorldPride Festival, Seymour Centre, Sydney  
16–17 June 2023 Schauspiel Köln, Cologne, Germany  
20–21 June 2023 Grand Théâtre, Les Théâtres de la Ville de Luxembourg, Luxembourg  
27 June 2023 Hessisches Staatstheater Wiesbaden, Wiesbaden, Germany  
14 July 2023 Tanz Bozen Bolzano Danza Festival, Teatro Comunale  
Stadttheater, Bolzano, Italy

## PARTNERS

Sydney WorldPride, Ecotopia Dance Productions, Tanz Bozen Bolzano Danza Festival, Creative Australia, Australian Trade and Investment Commission, Create NSW, City of Sydney

**“KING is quite the masterpiece.”**

— *Luxembourg Times*







# FOUND OBJECTS AUSTRALIAN TOUR

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## SYNOPSIS

**FOUND OBJECTS** is an epic, outdoor, family, dance-theatre work utilising everyday objects and five exceptional dance and physical theatre artists. Choreographed by Shaun Parker and set to a stunning orchestral score by composer Nick Wales, the work creates a highly physical, extraordinary urban world incorporating high-octane contemporary dance, acrobatics, street dance, parkour and seemingly ordinary objects. *FOUND OBJECTS* consists of a quartet of works.

**SPIN** – four friends playing basketball discover new and exciting worlds in an adventure that sees one ordinary basketball become the centre of an imaginative and thrilling adventure.

**AXLE** – a duet between a parkour performer and a remote-control car featuring a stunning electro-acoustic score by Nick Wales. A dancer is chased, berated and bullied by a seemingly out-of-control remote-control car. Soon, the dancer realises the remote-control car is actually looking for friendship, and a series of epic and acrobatic vignettes ensue.

**HOVER** – A 20-minute, outdoor work for five dancers on Hoverboards, choreographed by Shaun Parker. Using breakdance, tutting, popping and krumping, Shaun Parker integrates these highly popular dance forms with the humorous and visually compelling trajectories of the hoverboards in an homage to pop groups throughout the ages.

**TROLLEYS** – Part dance. Part ballet. Part outdoor spectacle. Five shopping carts randomly appear in a public space. Two meet and fall in love. A lone cart grapples to find a friend. Three others revolt and ignite a dance of anarchy. Trolleys spin, glide and slide in this highly physical outdoor performance work where high-octane contemporary dance, parkour, acrobatics and street dance merge with the extraordinary world of the trolleys. Featuring another beautiful orchestral work by Australian Nick Wales.

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## CREATIVE TEAM

Director / Choreographer Shaun Parker

Composer Nick Wales

## DANCERS

Samuel Beazley, Joel Fenton, Olivia Hadley, Anna McCulla, Libby Montilla, Romain Hassanin

## PRODUCTION TEAM

Executive Producer Andy Currums

Project Coordinator Joel Fenton

## DATES & VENUES

8 March 2023 Tocumwal Memorial Hall, Tocumwal, NSW

9 March 2023 Finley Railway Park, Finley, NSW

10 March 2023 Deniliquin Town Hall, Deniliquin, NSW

17–21 May 2023 Dream BIG Children's Festival, Adelaide Festival Centre,  
Adelaide, South Australia

29 September – 1 October 2023 New Annual Festival, Wheeler Plaza, Newcastle, NSW

## PARTNERS

South West Arts, Dream BIG Children's Festival, New Annual Festival, Create NSW, Playing Australia

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*"...you only had to see the joy on the children's faces to know you have a growing fanbase in Newcastle!"*

— Civic Theatre

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# HOVER LOCAL PERFORMANCES

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## SYNOPSIS

A 20-minute, outdoor work for four dancers on Hoverboards, choreographed by Shaun Parker. Using hip-hop, breakdance, tutting, popping, and krumping, Shaun Parker integrates these highly popular dance forms with the humorous and visually compelling trajectories of the hoverboards in an homage to pop-groups throughout the ages.

*HOVER* was adapted to feature as tailored pop-up shows at several events throughout 2023!

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## CREATIVE TEAM

Director / Choreographer Shaun Parker

## DANCERS

Libby Montilla, Joel Fenton

## PRODUCTION TEAM

Project Coordinator Joel Fenton

## DATES & VENUES

29 April 2023 107 Projects Gallery Event, Joynton Avenue Creative Centre,  
Zetland, Sydney

29 April 2023 Ausdance Till Dusk Festival, Martin Place, Sydney

## PARTNERS

Ausdance NSW, Joynton Avenue Creative Centre, 107 Projects, City of Sydney, Create NSW

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***“OMG that was brilliant!”***

— Audience Member

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# TROLLEYS INTERNATIONAL TOUR

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## SYNOPSIS

Part dance. Part ballet. Part outdoor spectacle. Five shopping carts randomly appear in a public space. Two meet and fall in love. A lone cart grapples to find a friend. Three others revolt and ignite a dance of anarchy. Trolleys spin, glide and slide in this highly physical outdoor performance work where high-octane contemporary dance, parkour, acrobatics and street dance merge with the extraordinary world of the trolleys. Featuring another beautiful orchestral work by Australian Nick Wales.

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## CREATIVE TEAM

Director / Choreographer Shaun Parker  
Composer Nick Wales

## DANCERS

Samuel Beazley, Joel Fenton, Romain Hassanin, Libby Montilla, Robert Tinning

## PRODUCTION TEAM

European Agent Meinrad Huber  
Executive Producer Andy Currums  
Project Coordinator Joel Fenton

## DATES & VENUES

24-25 June 2023 Staatstheater Darmstadt, Darmstadt, Germany  
15 July 2023 Tanz Bozen Bolzano Danza Festival, Waltherplatz Piazza,  
Bolzano, Italy

## PARTNERS

Ecotopia Dance Productions, Tanz Bozen Bolzano Danza Festival, Creative Australia,  
Australian Trade and Investment Commission, Create NSW

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*“TROLLEYS captivated the spectators who gathered in the piazza, and were stunned by the spinning and whirling of the supermarket trolleys. There was a beautiful synchronicity between the dancer’s bodies, and between the trolleys and the immersive orchestral score. Ballet and the urban world collide wonderfully!”*

— Paneacqua Culture Magazine (Italy)

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# KITCHEN HERMÈS COMMISSION

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## SYNOPSIS

*KITCHEN* was created as a special commission from Kat & Co for Parisian fashion house Hermès. This project gave Shaun Parker & Company the opportunity to employ 16 dancers over several weeks, culminating in a site-specific event in Bay 22-24 at Carriageworks in Sydney to critical acclaim.

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## CREATIVE TEAM

Director / Choreographer Shaun Parker  
Project Coordinator Joel Fenton  
Lighting Designer Damien Cooper  
Sound Designer Gary Sinclair

## DANCERS

Kate Arber, Samuel Beazley, Julian Chan, Lucy Doherty, Joel Fenton, Taiga Kita-Leong, Siobhan Lynch, Tara Marsh, Anna McCulla, Kate Merrick, Libby Montilla, Sienna Osborne, Harriet Ritchie, Alana Searles, Malachi Sylvester, Kai Taberner

## DATE & VENUE

26 September 2023 Bay 22-24, Carriageworks, Sydney

## PARTNERS

Hermès, Kat & Co

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*“From our first meeting with Shaun Parker, we felt confident that we had chosen the right collaborator to bring this incredible concept to life. The casting, the dedication, and the delivery, were all second to none!”*

— Kat & Co

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# BUBBLE CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

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## SYNOPSIS

*BUBBLE* is a dance and visual arts collaboration between Director / Choreographer Shaun Parker and bubble performance artist Chung Tai Su and tells a story of teenage girl's fight against global warming. Led by live Steadicam footage, our narrative follows the journey of a single bubble through to an epic climax in an exquisitely choreographed single-shot, alongside four dancers, transforming the stage into a spectacular live cinema. Part contemporary dance theatre, part visual arts, part narrated fairy tale, *BUBBLE* will feature a vast array of elemental devices including mist, laser, and smoke, signifying humanities complex relationships with technology and the environment.

In 2023, we further developed the choreographic and live video elements, and developed the first draft of the script. In 2024, we will embark on the next stages of the creative development.

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## CREATIVE TEAM

Director / Choreographer / Writer Shaun Parker  
Bubble Artist / Collaborator Chung Tai Su (蘇太) (Taiwan)  
Dramaturge / Writer Felicity Nicol  
Video Designer David Bergman  
Lighting Designer Damien Cooper

## DANCERS

Samuel Beazley, Lucy Doherty, Joel Fenton, Romain Hassanin, Anna McCulla, Libby Montilla

## PRODUCTION TEAM

Producer / Translator Shiya Lu  
Photographer Frank Liu  
Venue Production Manager Tim Edmond  
Project Coordinator Joel Fenton

## DATES & VENUES

4–9 September 2023 Reginald Theatre, Seymour Centre  
2–6 October 2023 Joynton Avenue Creative Centre  
27 Nov–22 Dec 2023 IO Myers Theatre, UNSW

## PARTNERS

Creative Australia, Create NSW, Creative Partnerships Australia







# AM I GLOBAL STREAMING

## SYNOPSIS

Shaun Parker & Company's highly acclaimed work *AM I* was invited to be included in the Sydney Opera House's 50th Anniversary Global Streaming program.

*AM I* is a dance and music collaboration between Shaun Parker and composer Nick Wales. *AM I* investigates the quintessential meaning of I. Religion meets science in this arresting Australian production which features an outstanding cast of 14 musicians, singers, and dancers, who bring to life an inspired blend of spoken word, razor-sharp choreography, and stunning original live music. *AM I* burrows to the very heart of what it is to be human within our modern-day, digitised, global tribe.

## CREATIVE TEAM

Director / Choreographer Shaun Parker  
Composer Nick Wales  
Dramaturge Veronica Neave  
Co-Design Damien Cooper & Shaun Parker  
Lighting Design Damien Cooper  
Sound Design Bob Scott  
Costume Design Anna Tregloan  
Musicians/Collaborators Tunji Beier, Alyx Dennison, Jess Green, Jason Noble,  
Jessica O'Donoghue, Bree Van Reyk, Nick Wales

## DANCERS

Josh Mu, Sophia Ndaba, Jessie Oshodi, Marnie Palomares, Melanie Palomares, Shantala Shivalingappa, Julian Wong

## PRODUCTION TEAM

LX Programmer Pat Smithers  
Production Manager Guy Harding  
Stage Manager Terri Herlings  
Rehearsal Director Craig Bary

## DATES & VENUES

4 October – 4 November 2023 Sydney Opera House - Global Digital Platform

## PARTNERS

Sydney Opera House, Creative Australia, Create NSW, City of Sydney

*"Meticulous, elegant and sophisticated, AM I ambitiously takes ideas from physics, astronomy, anthropology and other sciences to chart human development, starting before the Big Bang... AM I covers the ground with immense grace and delicacy"*

— *The Australian*







# LUNACY FEATURE FILM & INSTALLATION

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## SYNOPSIS

Our Artistic Director was invited by film director Daniel Askill to choreograph his new feature film *LUNACY*, featuring six internationally acclaimed actors. Taking place in the Daintree Forest in Cape Tribulation, *LUNACY* tells the story of a group of people who are invited to a secret party, where the host fails to arrive. Visually striking, and thought provoking, this film interrogates the human egoist plight.

*LUNACY* had a live installation premiere on Billong-olola Island (Shark Island), Sydney NSW, and will be launched globally on Apple TV+ and Google TV in April 2024.

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## CREATIVE TEAM

Director Daniel Askill  
Choreographer Shaun Parker  
Director of Photography Stefan Duscio  
Editor Lorin Askill  
Writers Daniel Askill, Lucy Warren Bidwell, Gregory Stern,  
Bobbi Salvor Menuez  
Composer Matteo Zingales  
New Music Ivo Dimchev, These New Puritans  
Actors Bobbi Salvor Menuez, Isabel Lucas, Kirin J. Callinan,  
Hunter Page-Lochard, Lily Sullivan, Priscilla Doueihy,  
Trevor Jamieson  
Creative Consultants Jordan Askill, Andrew van der Westhuyzen  
Dramaturge Nadia Townsend  
Costume Designers Amelia Gebler, Rita Carmody  
Hair & Make Up Jenny Roberts

## DATE & VENUE

14 December 2023 Billong-olola Island (Shark Island), Sydney Harbour, NSW

## PARTNERS

Collider, Heckler, See Pictures

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*“...an immersive and primal world where carnal energy and rising tensions force a group of strangers to confront their true nature.”*

— RUSSH

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BOBBI SALVÖR MENUEZ    ISABEL LUCAS    KIRIN J CALLINAN    HUNTER PAGE-LOCHARD    LILY SULLIVAN    PRISCILLA DOUEIHY    TREVOR JAMIESON



Empty yourself of everything.

# L U N A C Y

DIRECTED BY DANIEL ASKILL

SEE PICTURES presents in association with COLLIDER and HECKLER  
starring BOBBI SALVÖR MENUEZ ISABEL LUCAS PRISCILLA DOUEIHY LILY SULLIVAN KIRIN J CALLINAN HUNTER PAGE-LOCHARD TREVOR JAMIESON  
featuring music by THESE NEW PURITANS original music MATTEO ZINGALES supervising sound editors ANDY WRIGHT DIEGO RUIZ costume designers AMELIA GEBLER RITA CARMODY  
additional music by LAURIE ANDERSON MICHAEL ASKILL TENZIN CHOEGYAL THE CHURCH STEVE REICH JESSE PARIS SMITH and JOHN TAVENER  
editor LORIN ASKILL additional editing ANDREW HOLMES production designer RUBY MATHERS creative consultants JORDAN ASKILL ANDREW VAN DER WESTHUYZEN ADRIENNE LEVENSON  
director of photography STEFAN DUSCIO ace visual effects HECKLER dramaturg NADIA TOWNSEND choreographer SHAUN PARKER story consultant NICHOLAS LATHOURIS  
executive producers HOLLY ALEXANDER WILL ALEXANDER JAMIE WATSON CATHERINE TERRACINI DANIEL ASKILL GREGORY STERN LUCY WARREN BIDWELL ISABEL LUCAS  
producers JAMIE HILTON RACHAEL FORD-DAVIES ISABEL STANFIELD OLIVIA HANTKEN written by DANIEL ASKILL GREGORY STERN LUCY WARREN BIDWELL BOBBI SALVÖR MENUEZ directed by DANIEL ASKILL

FEATURING MUSIC BY THESE NEW PURITANS



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# QUEER BITES – HANTU MUSIC VIDEO

## SYNOPSIS

In 2023, our *QUEER BITES* alumni Dyan Tai produced their new music video *HANTU*, mentored by our Artistic Director Shaun Parker, and featuring several of our *QUEER BITES* mentees and allies.

The video, for Tai's latest single *Hantu*, was filmed on location in one of Sydney's many hidden industrial warehouses and features Tai performing alongside five Sydney dancers, to Parker's choreography.

The pair's creative collaboration on *Hantu* builds on the success of Parker's multi-award-winning music video for Tai's single, *DO IT 4U*, in 2022, for which he also brought in local dancers to perform alongside the acclaimed performance and cabaret artist turned electronic musician.

*Hantu*, which means ghost, is an empowering and liberating electronic anthem exploring queer liberation and fusing elements of the artists' multicultural heritage and features Malaysian and Indonesian soundscapes layered with delicate Tuvan throat singing. *Hantu* inspired by Tai's upbringing in Malaysia and diasporic migration experience.

## CREATIVE TEAM

Director Shaun Parker

Composer Dyan Tai

Lead Vocalist Dyan Tai

Dancers Libby Montilla, Billy Keohavong, Tommy Thungsunawan,  
Whyan Chen, Fio Gede Parma

DOP Chris Quyen

Focus Puller Kelvin Santos

Make Up Artist Star Gayze

Production Assistants Joel Fenton, Romain Hassanin

*"An empowering electronic anthem, delving into the themes of masculinity, power, sexuality, and queerness... continues to push boundaries."*

— BREAKING & ENTERING

## AWARDS & OFFICIAL SELECTIONS

### WINNER



NOMINEE /  
OFFICIAL  
SELECTION







15



# PERMAISURI QUEER BITES

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## SYNOPSIS

In November 2023, Shaun Parker continued his mentorship of Dyan Tai, supporting them on their first headlining show *PERMAISURI*, at the Red Rattler Theatre, in Marrickville, NSW.

*PERMAISURI: The Gaysian Empress Rises* was an interdisciplinary music and performance art project by electronic artist, singer, and DJ, Dyan Tai. Drawing on their background as a trilingual, Malaysian-born, Chinese-Australian artist, the show explored queer identity and the diasporic migrant experience in Australia.

Accompanied by immersive projection art by Juune Lee, *PERMAISURI* highlights Tai's signature use of Asiatic soundscapes and Chinese operatic drag; intersected with glitchy, hyper-pop and breakcore club samples as an ode to queer nightlife. Featuring original compositions from Tai, *PERMAISURI* is a joyous celebration of culture and community that marks the culmination of Tai's work as a trailblazer in Sydney's music, arts and cabaret scene.

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## CREATIVE TEAM

Director Shaun Parker  
Lead Artist / Composer Dyan Tai  
Projection Art Juune Lee  
Dancer Risako Katsumata  
Chinese Flute Chloe Chung  
DJs Maggie Tra, Putrika, Fried Pork Chop  
Production Assistant Joel Fenton

## DATE & VENUE

4 November 2023 Red Rattler, Marrickville, NSW

## PARTNERS

Red Rattler, Create NSW, Inner West Council

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*"... a multifaceted triumph!"*

— KALTBLUT

---







# I'M BI AND I'M BEAUTIFUL TOO QUEER BITES

---

## SYNOPSIS

In October 2023, Shaun Parker mentored *QUEER BITES* mentee Barbarella Karpinski, in a reimagining of her acclaimed mid-'90s performance art work entitled *I'm Too Beautiful To Be A Lesbian*. In partnership with the 40th Anniversary of Performance Space's cLUB bENT program, at Carriageworks, Sydney, this mentorship included employment of several of our *QUEER BITES* dancers.

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## CREATIVE TEAM

Director Barbarella Karpinski  
Outside Eye / Mentor Shaun Parker  
Choreographer Shaun Parker  
Dancers Alana Searles, Faye Forever, Josh Freedman  
Voiceover Artist John Samaha  
Dresser Christine Aldrick  
Make-up Artist Grace Mary-Ann Bacci  
Production Assistant Shiya Lu

## DATE & VENUE

28 October 2023 cLUB bENT, Bay 17, Carriageworks, NSW

## PARTNERS

Performance Space, Carriageworks, Create NSW, City of Sydney

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*“...a cult favourite!”*

— *Star Observer*

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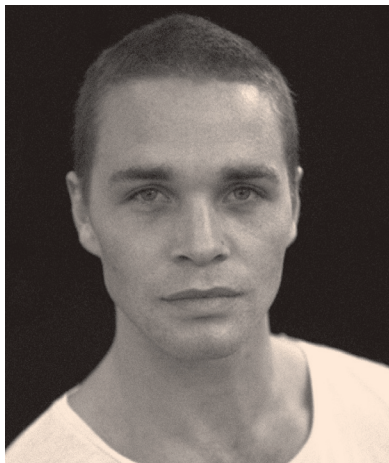


# THANK YOU TO OUR TEAM

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**ALANA SEARLES**  
DANCER



**ALEX ABBOT**  
LAUNCH PARTICIPANT



**ALEX WARREN**  
DANCER



**ALYX DENNISON**  
MUSICIAN



**ANDY CURRUMS**  
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER



**ANNA McCULLA**  
DANCER



**ANNA TREGLOAN**  
COSTUME DESIGNER



**ANTHONY WHELAN**  
BOARD MEMBER



**BARBARA KARPINSKI**  
QUEER BITES MENTEE



# THANK YOU TO OUR TEAM

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**BENJAMIN BROCKMAN**  
LIGHTING DESIGNER



**BILLY KEOHAVONG**  
DANCER



**BREE VAN REYK**  
MUSICIAN



**BRENDAN LIDSTER**  
MARKETING CONSULTANT



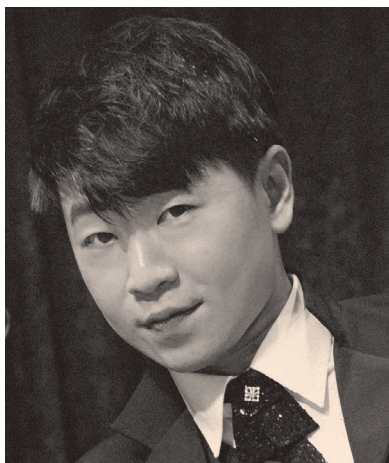
**BRIONY HUNT**  
PRODUCTION MANAGER



**CHRIS QUYEN**  
VIDEOGRAPHER



**CHRISTINE MUTTON**  
COSTUMIER



**CHUNG TAI SU**  
BUBBLE ARTIST



**CLAUDIA HURLEY**  
LAUNCH PARTICIPANT



# THANK YOU TO OUR TEAM

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**DALE HOLLINGSWORTH**  
FINANCE MANAGER



**DAMIAN MEREDITH**  
DANCER



**DAMIEN COOPER**  
LIGHTING DESIGNER



**DAVID BERGMAN**  
VIDEO DESIGNER



**DYAN TAI**  
QUEER BITES MENTEE



**ERMINIA COTARU**  
FINANCE OFFICER



**FAYE FOREVER**  
PERFORMER



**FELICITY NICOL**  
DRAMATURGE/WRITER

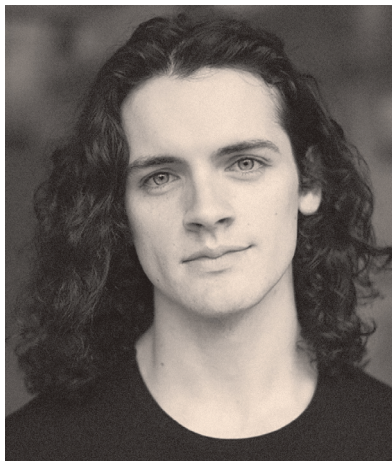


**FIO GEĐE PARMA**  
DANCER



# THANK YOU TO OUR TEAM

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**GABRIEL SINCLAIR**  
LAUNCH PARTICIPANT



**GRACE LEWIS**  
LAUNCH PARTICIPANT



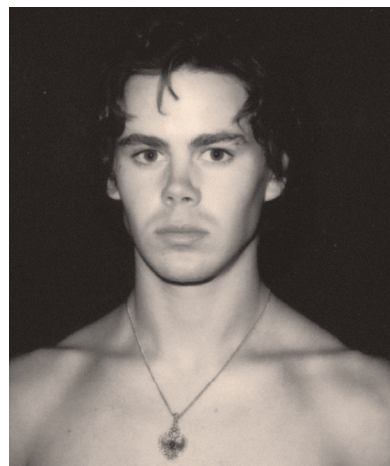
**HARRIET RITCHIE**  
DANCER



**HARRISON HALL**  
DANCER



**HELEN DOICK**  
PRODUCER



**HUGO POULET**  
SECONDMENT DANCER



**ILIA BEZROUKOV**  
SOUND ENGINEER



**IMANUEL DADO**  
DANCER



**IMOGEN MILLHOUSE**  
STAGE MANAGER



# THANK YOU TO OUR TEAM

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**IVO DIMCHEV**  
COMPOSER/PERFORMER



**JACK TUCKERMAN**  
SECONDMENT DANCER



**JASON NOBLE**  
MUSICIAN



**JAY BAILEY**  
STAGE MANAGER



**JESS GREEN**  
MUSICIAN



**JESSICA O'DONOGHUE**  
MUSICIAN



**JESSIE OSHODI**  
DANCER



**JOEL FENTON**  
PROJECT COORDINATOR/DANCER



**JOHN SAMAHA**  
VOICE OVER ARTIST



# THANK YOU TO OUR TEAM

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**JOSH FREEDMAN**  
DANCER



**JOSH MU**  
DANCER



**JULIAN CHAN**  
DANCER



**JULIAN WONG**  
DANCER



**JULIE CLARK**  
PUBLICIST



**KAI TABERNER**  
DANCER



**KATE ARBER**  
DANCER



**KATE MERRICK**  
DANCER



**LIBBY MONTILLA**  
DANCER



# THANK YOU TO OUR TEAM

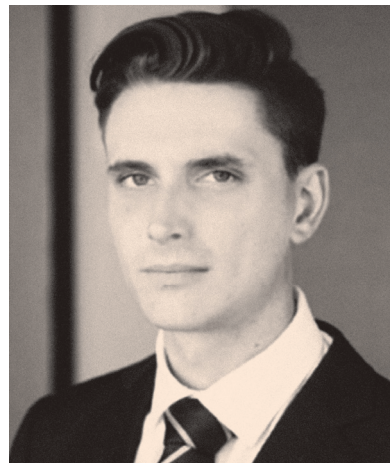
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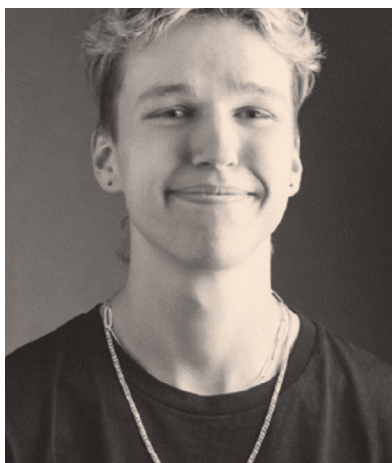
**LUCY DOHERTY**  
DANCER



**LUKA RAYMENT**  
LAUNCH PARTICIPANT



**LUKE HAWTHORNE**  
BOARD MEMBER



**MALACHI SYLVESTER**  
DANCER



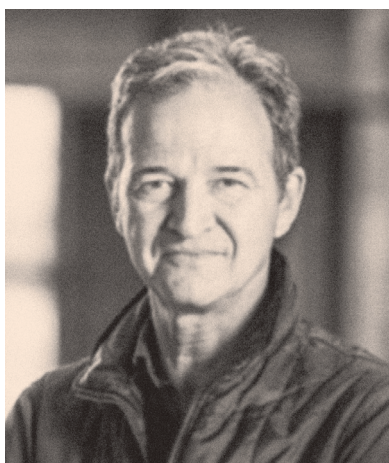
**MARK HASLAM**  
PRODUCTION MANAGER



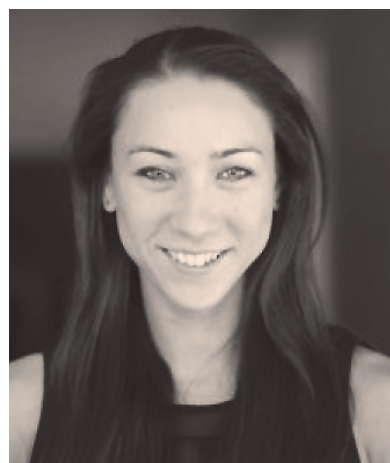
**MARNIE PALOMARES**  
DANCER



**MAX BURGESS**  
DANCER



**MEINRAD HUBER**  
EUROPEAN AGENT



**MELANIE PALOMARES**  
DANCER



# THANK YOU TO OUR TEAM

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**MICHELE ABOUD**  
PHOTOGRAPHER



**MICHELLE CUTLER**  
CHAIR OF BOARD



**NESH VU**  
LAUNCH PARTICIPANT



**NICK WALES**  
COMPOSER/MUSICIAN



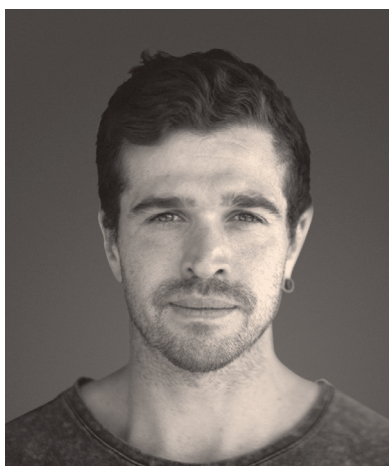
**OLIVIA HADLEY**  
DANCER



**PENNY HUNSTEAD**  
HORTICULTURALIST/SET DESIGNER



**ROBERT TINNING**  
DANCER



**ROMAIN HASSANIN**  
DANCER



**ROWAN DEVEREUX**  
VIDEOGRAPHER



# THANK YOU TO OUR TEAM

---



**RYAN MCDONALD**  
LIGHTING REALISER



**SAMUEL BEAZLEY**  
DANCER



**SASCHA PARBERY**  
GRAPHIC DESIGNER



**SHANTALA SHIVALINGAPPA**  
PERFORMER



**SHAUN PARKER**  
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR / CEO / CHOREOGRAPHER



**SHIYA LU**  
PRODUCER/TRANSLATOR



**SIENNA OSBORNE**  
DANCER



**SIOBHAN LYNCH**  
DANCER



**SOPHIA NDABA**  
DANCER

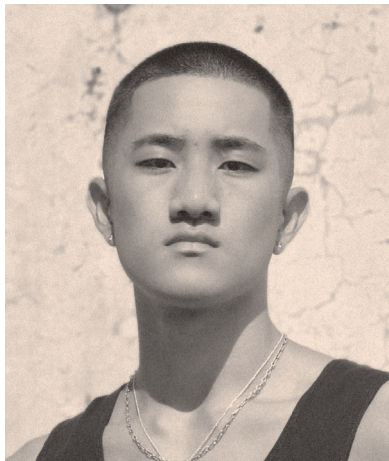


# THANK YOU TO OUR TEAM

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**SOPHIE SAVILLE**  
VIDEOGRAPHER



**TAIGA KITA-LEONG**  
DANCER



**TARA MARSH**  
DANCER



**TOBY DERRICK**  
DANCER



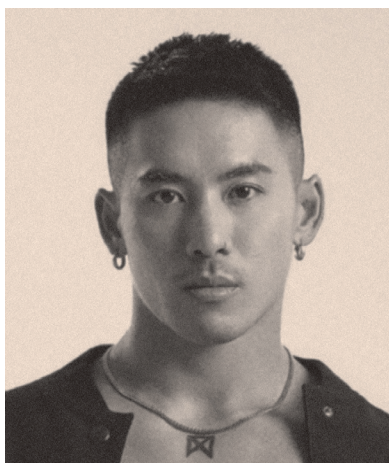
**TOMMY THUNGSUNAWAN**  
DANCER



**TRACY TUCKER KNOX**  
BOARD MEMBER



**TUNJI BEIER**  
MUSICIAN



**WHYAN CHEN**  
DANCER



**MELANIE GILBANK**  
COSTUMIER



# PARTNERS & SUPPORTERS

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## GLOBAL PARTNERS

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FOUNDATION

## MAJOR DONORS

PENNY & (the late) RICHARD HUNSTEAD

THE WALES FAMILY FOUNDATION

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT PARTNERS



## VENUE PARTNERS





# THE COMPANY

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Michelle Cutler (Chair)  
Luke Hawthorne  
Shaun Parker  
Tracy Tucker Knox  
Anthony Whelan (from June 2023)

## BOARD OBSERVERSHIP PROGRAM

Vanessa Gage

## 2023 MANAGEMENT & ADMINISTRATION TEAM

Shaun Parker	Artistic Director & CEO
Andy Currums	Executive Producer
Joel Fenton	Project Coordinator
Shiya Lu	Producer & Translator
Erminia Cotaru	Finance Officer
Dale Hollingsworth	Finance Manager
Sascha Parbery	Graphic Designer

## THANKS TO OUR SERVICE PROVIDERS

Greg Andresen	Professor Mac IT
Julie Clark	HumanKind PR
Brendan Lidster	Startled Co (Digital Marketing)
Marcus Price & team	BlackMoon Alchemy Website Developers
The Story Mill	Video Documentation, Filming & Editing

## INTERNATIONAL AGENT

Meinrad Huber Ecotopia Dance Productions, Germany

## THANKS TO OUR INCREDIBLE PHOTOGRAPHERS

Prudence Upton, Michele Aboud, Phandrea Macchia, Shane Rozario, Andrei Meltser, Russell Hawkins, Chris Quyen, Yaya Stempler, Daniel Boud, Shiya Lu, Frank Liu, Ben Gross, Branco Garcia, Stefan Duscio, Adrian Mesko, Nicolas Lefaudeux, Phil Erbacher.



# SEE YOU IN 2024!



## SHAUN PARKER & COMPANY

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ANNUAL REPORT DESIGNED BY SASCHA PARBERY [INFO@SASCHAPARBERY.COM](mailto:INFO@SASCHAPARBERY.COM)