

SHAUN PARKER & COMPANY

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

“Shaun Parker & Company’s ability to bring the magic of the arts to even the smallest towns is a gift... delivering world-class performances and transformative workshops, they ignite inspiration and leave a profound, lasting impact.”

– South West Arts





CONTENTS

- 4 YEAR IN REVIEW
- 6 CHAIR'S REPORT
- 7 ARTISTIC DIRECTOR'S REPORT
- 8 COMPANY PROFILE
- 9 THE WORKS

- 32 FIRST NATIONS PROGRAMS
- 33 WORKSHOPS & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
- 34 THANK YOU TO OUR TEAM
- 46 PARTNERS & SUPPORTERS
- 47 THE COMPANY



2024 YEAR IN REVIEW

33 PERFORMANCES OF
8 PRODUCTIONS TO
25,266 AUDIENCE MEMBERS, DELIVERING
115 WORKSHOPS TO
1,508 PARTICIPANTS & EMPLOYING
42 ARTISTS AND CULTURAL WORKERS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Shaun Parker & Company acknowledges the Gadigal, Bidjigal, and Birrabirragal as custodians of the Country where we are blessed to dance, learn, and share our work every day. We further pay our respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and thank them for their eternal custodianship and care for Country, community, and culture across our great nation.

Shaun Parker & Company would like to further give thanks to all Elders past, present, and emerging for our safe and successful travels into Gadigal, Bidjigal, Birrabirragal, Cammeraygal, Burramattagal, Dharawal, Darkinjung, and Kamilaroi territories throughout 2024. We promise to continue treading softly as visitors to your Country and look forward to coming back to dance with you again soon.

WORKS PERFORMED

- HOVER
- FOUND OBJECTS
- IN THE ZONE
- BUBBLE INTERACT!
- SEX. RIOT. REPEAT.
- LUNACY
- STRANGE SHADOW
- HANTU

NSW TOURING

- Riverside Theatres, Parramatta
- Tom Mann Theatre, Surry Hills
- Eternity Playhouse, Darlinghurst
- The Pavilion PAC, Sutherland
- Griffin Theatre, Darlinghurst
- Bondi Pavilion, Bondi Beach
- The Art House, Wyong
- Gunnedah Civic Theatre, Gunnedah
- Parramatta Lanes Festival
- North Sydney Festival, North Sydney
- IO Myers Theatre, Kensington

WORK IN DEVELOPMENT

- BUBBLE
- SPIRIT FINGERS

MENTORSHIPS

- Joshua Doctor –
First Nations Paid Internship Program
- Tara Marsh –
Spirit Fingers secondment
- Malachi Sylvester –
Hover secondment
- Kate Merrick –
Found Objects secondment
- Alex Abbot –
Found Objects secondment
- Kai Taberner –
Found Objects secondment
- Lucy Doherty –
Queer Bites Program
- Felicity Nicol –
Sex. Riot. Repeat. (Queer Bites Program)
- Nick Brown –
Strange Shadow (Queer Bites Program)
- Dyan Tai –
Hantu (Queer Bites Program)

GLOBAL STREAMING

- 16,850

DIGITAL/ONLINE

- Facebook Reach **40,164**
- Facebook Followers **6,098**
- Facebook Page Visits **1,877**
- Facebook Reactions **809**
- Instagram Reach **71,749**
- Instagram Followers **2,269**
- Instagram Profile Visits **2,562**
- Instagram Reactions **726**
- YouTube Views **93,486**
- YouTube Impressions **27,682**
- Vimeo Views **783**
- Vimeo Impressions **9,213**
- Vimeo Unique Viewers **367**
- LinkedIn Page Views **201**
- LinkedIn Impressions **3,208**

CHAIR'S REPORT



2024 has been a fantastic year for Shaun Parker & Company, marked by artistic innovation, strategic growth, and international recognition. Our commitment to delivering transformative dance experiences has not only captivated audiences but also garnered prestigious accolades, including being named “Most Innovative Dance Company – Sydney” and “Performing Arts Company of the Year” at the Australian Enterprise Awards.

Our Australian touring productions have expanded our reach and impact. The remount of *IN THE ZONE*, featuring the groundbreaking AirSticks technology, engaged young audiences across New South Wales, fostering discussions on technology, resilience, and environmental awareness. *FOUND OBJECTS* continued to enchant diverse audiences with performances at Bondi Pavilion and the Parramatta Lanes Festival, showcasing our dedication to accessible, community-centered art. It was also wonderful to see the launch of *BUBBLE INTERACT!* and further creative developments underway for two new major works!

Our on-going commitment to nurturing emerging talent through our Queer Bites mentorship program has again resulted in the development of innovative works – this year *HANTU* was selected for the Byron Bay International Film Festival. Additionally, our long standing educational initiatives, including workshops at Ev & Bow and NAISDA, continue to play a crucial role in developing the next generation of dance artists.

Looking ahead our acclaimed production *KING* has been asked to perform at prestigious European festivals in 2025, including the Belgrade Dance Festival in March. We are delighted by the international standing and global appeal of our work.

All our achievements are made possible through the support of our partners, including Create NSW, Creative Australia, the City of Sydney, and our generous donors such as Penny Hunstead, the Wales Family Foundation, and the Denise & Michael Kellen Foundation. Their belief in our vision fuels our continued success.

In 2024 we welcomed two new directors to our Board – Rob Shwetz and Marie Soghomonian who together bring deep experience and expertise to our board and it has been great to work with them in 2024. We also continued our participation in the Board Observership program which supports aspiring directors understand board work.

As we reflect on a year of significant accomplishments, we remain steadfast in our mission to create compelling, socially relevant dance works that resonate with audiences both at home and internationally. We look forward to building on this momentum in the years to come.

Michelle Cutler
Chair
Shaun Parker & Company

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR'S REPORT



2024 has been a thrilling ride of artistry, collaboration and powerful storytelling for Shaun Parker & Company. As Artistic Director, I am proud to share the vibrant journey we've undertaken this year, creating new work, nurturing emerging voices, and connecting with communities both locally and globally.

We launched the year with a creative bang, diving into the dramaturgy and script development of our new work, *BUBBLE*, in collaboration with the extraordinary Felicity Nicol. This development bloomed into an immersive finale—*BUBBLE INTERACT!*—a performance and installation experience in December that captured the whimsy and wildness of human connection. *BUBBLE* shall continue to be developed in 2025 and 2026.

The internationally celebrated film *LUNACY*, directed by Daniel Askill, was launched globally on Apple TV+ and Google TV. I was honoured to choreograph this film, and to witness my choreography meet the cinematic realm in such a bold, visual way was a landmark moment—thank you to all the collaborators who brought this to life.

We were honoured to reimagine *IN THE ZONE*, performing at The Pavilion in Sutherland and later touring to regional NSW, including The Art House Wyong and the Gunnedah Conservatorium. Our dedication to youth engagement continued through bespoke workshops at Ev & Bow and NAISDA, igniting the spark in the next generation of dancers.

Our outdoor and festival works flourished again this year. *FOUND OBJECTS* returned with dynamic performances at Bondi Pavilion and the Parramatta Lanes Festival, and *HOVER* electrified audiences from Parramatta to North Sydney. These performances reaffirmed our commitment to bringing dance into public spaces—accessible, playful, and surprising!

2024 also saw the exciting creative development of *SPIRIT FINGERS*, a new major work set to launch in future seasons, as well as the first development of *SEX. RIOT. REPEAT.*, a powerful collaboration with Fruit Box Theatre and members of the original Mardi Gras 78ers. This intergenerational dialogue of protest and pride is close to my heart, and to be invited into this project by Writer/Director and past Queer Bites mentee Felicity Nicol was simply marvellous.

Our QUEER BITES mentorship thrived, culminating in two bold screen works—*STRANGE SHADOW* (Nicholas Brown) and *HANTU* (Dyan Tai)—with the latter selected for the Byron Bay International Film Festival. The talent and courage of these artists continue to inspire me deeply.

Finally, we were absolutely excited to formalise and extend our commitment to First Nations artists by launching our First Nations Paid Dancer Internship Program featuring NAISDA dancer Joshua Doctor, as well as creating a new position for our First Nations Cultural Advisor Tammi Gissell.

I extend heartfelt thanks to our incredible dancers, collaborators, producing team, Board, and funding partners—Create NSW, Creative Australia, the City of Sydney, and many more. A special shout out and gesture of love towards to our beloved supporters Penny and (the late) Richard Hunstead, the Wales Family Foundation, and our incredible Global Partner, the Denise & Michael Kellen Foundation.

The dance continues. And so does the joy, the disruption, the community, and the magic. Here is to a 2025 that pulsates and permeates, and that provokes a greater sense of consciousness across our globe!

With gratitude,

Shaun Parker
Artistic Director

COMPANY PROFILE



IMAGE CREDIT: SLOPPY BUNNY TOONS

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 it's use of touching humanist themes and stunning musical scores.

Based in Sydney, the Company has garnered considerable international success, having toured to 25 countries globally, including Germany, Austria, France, Spain, Sweden, Luxembourg, Belgium, The Netherlands, Italy, Serbia, Lebanon, Jordan, Palestine, Egypt, Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan, Japan, 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 won the NSW Premier's Resilience Award in the Creative Arts, for its strategic pivot and success throughout the pandemic and lock-down periods. More recently, it won two Australian Enterprise Awards, including "Most Innovative Dance Company" and "Performing Arts Company of the Year".

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 has recently engaged First Nations Cultural Advisor, Tammi Gissell, to bring learnings and visibility to First Nations creativity and stories, and the Company is thrilled to have recently announced the inaugural First Nations Paid Internship to NAISA graduate Josh Doctor.

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, Randwick City Council, City of Parramatta, 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 City of Sydney through their residency at the Joynton Avenue Creative Centre in Zetland, NSW.



IMAGE CREDIT: SLOPPY BUNNY TOONS

HOVER LOCAL PERFORMANCES

SYNOPSIS

A 20-minute multi-purpose work for four dancers on Hoverboards, choreographed by Shaun Parker. Using hip-hop, breakdance, tutting and popping, 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 across Sydney throughout 2024!

CREATIVE TEAM

Director/Choreographer: Shaun Parker

DANCERS

Libby Montilla, Samuel Beazley, Romain Hassanin, Joel Fenton, Malachi Sylvester (understudy)

PRODUCTION TEAM

Project Coordinator: Joel Fenton

DATES & VENUES

9 February 2024 Riverside Theatres Parramatta, Courtyard Series, Parramatta
11 February 2024 Poly Arts, Tom Mann Theatre, Surry Hills
2 November 2024 North Sydney Festival, Brett Whiteley Place, North Sydney

PARTNERS

Riverside Theatres Parramatta, Poly Art China, North Sydney Council, AMPA, Joynton Avenue Creative Centre, 107 Projects, City of Sydney, Create NSW

“In February 2024, Riverside Theatres had the pleasure of presenting HOVER as part of our Courtyard Festival Gardens Program. The performance was truly exceptional, captivating our audiences from beginning to end. The intergenerational audience departed with broad smiles, clearly moved by the experience. The Shaun Parker & Company team was an absolute delight to work with—engaging warmly with both our audiences and staff, superbly organized, and professional in every respect.”

— Catherine Swallow, Program Manager of Riverside Theatres Parramatta



IMAGE CREDIT: SHAUN PARKER

FOUND OBJECTS LOCAL PERFORMANCES

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*, *AXLE*, *HOVER* and *TROLLEYS*.

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, multipurpose work for four 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.

For our performances at Parramatta Lanes Festival, we partnered with Urban Sketchers Sydney to generate unique opportunities for the local sketch artists to try their hand at moving sketches instead of landscapes. The outcomes from this partnership were exquisite and we are proud to share some in this annual report.

CREATIVE TEAM

Director/Choreographer: Shaun Parker

Composer: Nick Wales

DANCERS

Samuel Beazley, Joel Fenton, Olivia Hadley, Libby Montilla, Romain Hassanin, Kate Merrick (understudy), Alex Abbot (understudy)

PRODUCTION TEAM

Project Coordinator: Joel Fenton

Production Manager: Rafael Pratt

DATES & VENUES

17-18 August 2024 Bondi Pavilion, Bondi Beach

23-26 October 2024 Parramatta Lanes Festival, Parramatta Square, Parramatta

PARTNERS

Urban Sketchers Sydney, Bondi Pavilion, Waverley Council, City of Parramatta, Parramatta Festival, City of Sydney, Create NSW

“The charm and pure joy of FOUND OBJECTS was palpable!”

— Audience member at Bondi Pavilion



Parramatta Lanes Festival
25/10/24 - Rita Orsini

IN THE ZONE REGIONAL NSW TOUR & SOUTH-WEST SYDNEY TOUR

SYNOPSIS

Hip-hop dance meets gaming technology in this groundbreaking work by Shaun Parker & Company. Conceived to engender emotional resilience in young people, *In The Zone* features captivating technology called AirSticks, which create live sound through movement. Developed with AirSticks co-creator, Alon Ilisar PhD, *In The Zone* features Western Sydney hip-hop artist Libby Montilla and is directed by award-winning choreographer Shaun Parker. With AirSticks technology in the hands of Libby Montilla, we enter the world of a video game through the dance forms of locking, popping, waving, and body-ticking, and self-triggered electronic soundscapes. *In The Zone* takes gaming and escapism as a point of inspiration and celebrates the spectacular worlds that we can explore with technology today. It also examines the potential for loss of control through gaming, encouraging a renewed appreciation for nature. *In The Zone* provides young audiences with the insight that they are much more in control of their own emotional responses than they think they are. Families, schools and young audiences (especially gamers) were amazed by *In The Zone*.

In 2024, we undertook phase (a) of our Regional NSW tour of *In The Zone* to Wyong and Gunnedah, thanks to the support of Create NSW's Regional Touring fund. In 2025 we will return for phase (b) of our Regional NSW tour to Coffs Harbour and Goulburn. Touring across Regional NSW is a strategic priority for Shaun Parker & Company, as we are committed to making world-class contemporary dance accessible to all communities across NSW.

CREATIVE TEAM

Director/Choreographer: Shaun Parker
Sound and Instrument Designer: Alon Ilisar
Dancer and Collaborator: Libby Montilla
Associate Dramaturg: Felicity Nicol
Lighting Designer: Benjamin Brockman

PRODUCTION TEAM

Project Coordinator: Joel Fenton
Production Stage Manager: Wun Zee
Producer (contract): Zoe Hollyoak

DATES & VENUES

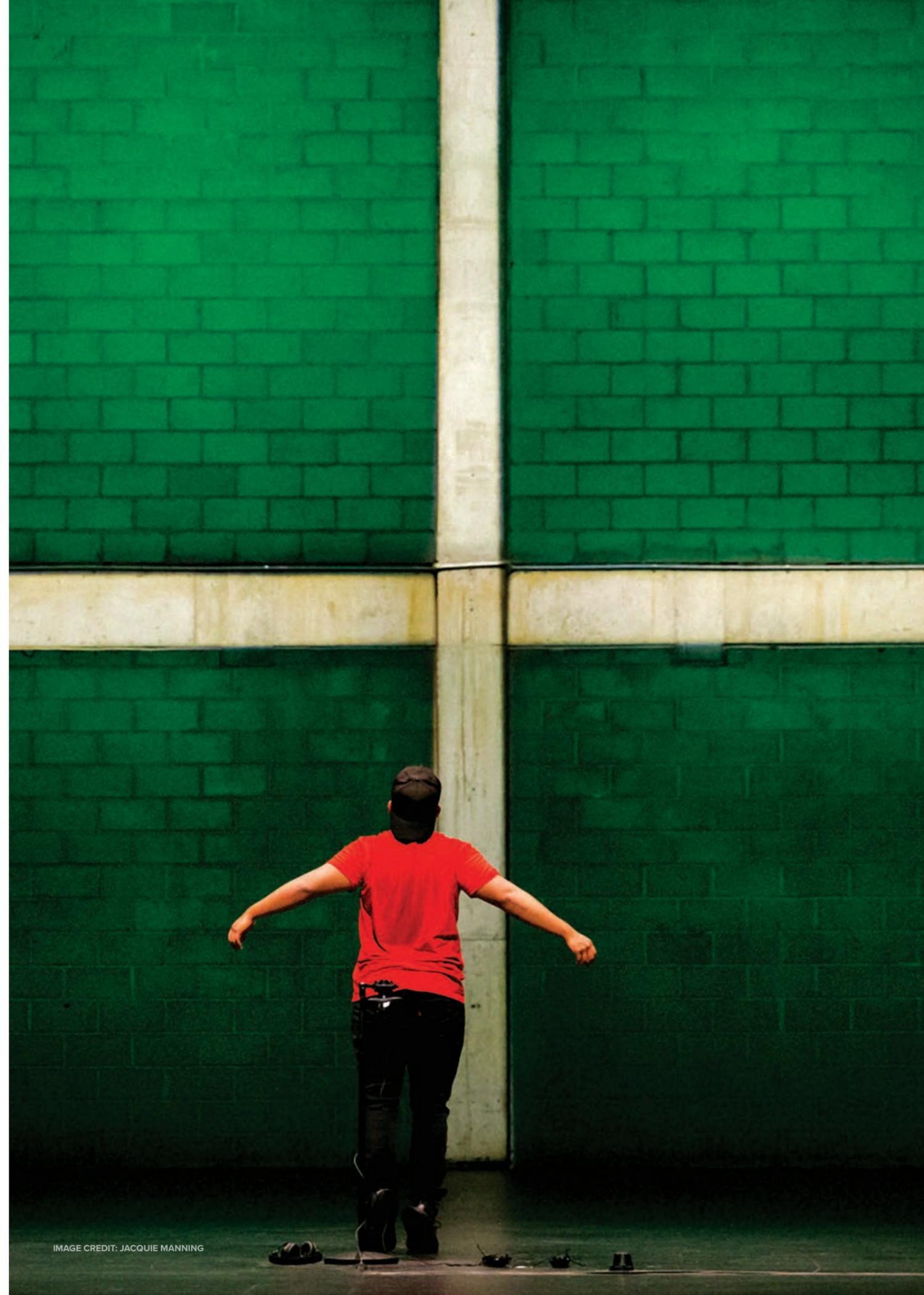
9 July 2024 The Pavilion Performing Arts Centre, Sutherland
20 September 2024 The Art House Wyong, Wyong
24 September 2024 Gunnedah Civic Theatre, Gunnedah

PARTNERS

The Pavilion Performing Arts Centre, The Art House Wyong, Gunnedah Civic Theatre, AMPA, NAISDA, Regional Arts NSW, City of Sydney, Create NSW

"Western Sydney hip-hop artist Libby Montilla is the star of this show...Montilla's performance is brilliant and he brings a contagious energy and sense of fun to the stage. If you have tweens or teens who are into gaming, digital media or electronic music, this show really is a must-see."

— Playing in Puddles



BUBBLE INTERACT! CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT AND SCHOOL SHOWING

SYNOPSIS

BUBBLE INTERACT! is a free, community program that swirls together dance, sound, light and bubble art in a family-friendly and interactive event. Supported by the Randwick City Council, SP&Co underwent a creative development, culminating in a live “pilot” performance for students and educators! This production will be developed further in 2025 in partnership with Parramatta Riverside Theatres, with the completed program ready for the official World Premiere in 2026.

CREATIVE TEAM

Director/Choreographer: Shaun Parker
Bubble Artist/Collaborator: Chung Tai Su (蘇太) (Taiwan)
Designer: Hailley Hunt
Dramaturge: Felicity Nicol

DANCERS

Samuel Beazley, Libby Montilla, Joel Fenton & Joshua Doctor (First Nations Paid Intern)

PRODUCTION TEAM

Project Coordinator: Joel Fenton
Venue Manager: Mark Mitchell
Production Manager: Rafael Pratt
Photographer: Prudence Upton
Videographers: The Story Mill (Rowan Devereux & Sophie Saville)

DATES & VENUES

17 December 2024 IO Myers Studio, UNSW, Randwick

PARTNERS

Randwick City Council, IO Myers Studio, UNSW, The Story Mill, St Aiden's Catholic Primary School, Create NSW

“I was thrilled with the performance of Bubble Interact! It is one of the most creative works I have ever seen and reflects an imaginative performance of the highest standard. I was delighted to watch the bubbles and dance performance in the company of a troupe of Primary School children. It may have been the first live performance that many of them have seen, and I have never seen such an amazing reaction to the show, really on a par with the audience reaction to a popular rock band. The children were elated to be able to take part in the bubbles and dance aspects of the work.”

— Penny Hunstead, audience member



SPIRIT FINGERS CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW WORK

SYNOPSIS

SPIRIT FINGERS is a new work exploring global faith and religious obsession. Nine outstanding dancers will manipulate and utilise “old school”, analogue, and kitsch backstage theatre devices such as smoke machines, trap doors, glitter/flutter canons, strobe lighting, shadow play and costume reveals to comment on the notion of humanity’s need for a spiritual dogma.

This first stage development took place over five weeks and generated numerous seed ideas that will be crafted in future developments.

CREATIVE TEAM

Choreographer/Director: Shaun Parker

Designer: Hailley Hunt

DANCERS

Alex Abbot, Samuel Beazley, Lucy Doherty, Joel Fenton, Kate Merrick, Libby Montilla, Malachi Sylvester, Kai Taberner, Tara Marsh (understudy)

PRODUCTION TEAM

Project Coordinator: Joel Fenton

Venue Manager: Mark Mitchell

DATES & VENUES

29 July – 9 August 2024 PACT, Erskineville

20 August – 6 September 2024 IO Myers Studio, UNSW, Kensington

PARTNERS

PACT, IO Myers Studio, UNSW, Create NSW

“Thank you so much for the wonderful opportunity to work with Shaun Parker & Company during Spirit Fingers. I learnt so much and am feeling so inspired by the creative process. Spirit Fingers looks like it is heading in a very exciting direction!”

— Tara Marsh, secondee dancer



KING REMOUNT REHEARSALS

SYNOPSIS

KING is a music-dance collaboration between award-winning Australian Director/Choreographer Shaun Parker, internationally renowned, Bulgarian-born, vocalist Ivo Dimchev, and our nine 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.

In late 2024, we undertook a three-day remount rehearsal to assist the new cast members in preparation for our 2025 tour of *KING* to Belgrade Dance Festival.

CREATIVE TEAM

Choreographer, Director & Designer: Shaun Parker

Composer & Vocalist: Ivo Dimchev

DANCERS

Alex Abbot, Samuel Beazley, Julian Chan, Joel Fenton, Libby Montilla, Malachi Sylvester, Beau Dean Riley Smith (First Nations Paid understudy), Joshua Doctor (First Nations Paid Intern)

PRODUCTION TEAM

Project Coordinator: Joel Fenton

DATES & VENUES

18-20 December 2024 IO Myers Studio, UNSW, Kensington

PARTNERS

IO Myers Studio, NAISDA, Ecotopia Dance Productions, City of Sydney, Create NSW

"Being in the studio with these incredible dancers and diving into KING has been an unforgettable experience. Shaun Parker's choreography is unlike anything I've encountered—deeply intricate, layered, and brilliantly crafted. It's the kind of work that challenges you on every level, and because of that, I've grown immensely in such a short time. I've learnt so much, not just about movement, but about precision, presence, and performance. This opportunity has been transformative, and I'm truly grateful to Shaun for trusting me with such a powerful and demanding piece."

— Alex Abbot, company dancer



BUBBLE CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

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 humanity's complex relationships with technology and the environment.

In 2024, Shaun Parker & Felicity Nicol worked together to further develop the script for *BUBBLE* in preparation for the next creative development with the team in 2025.

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, Libby Montilla

PRODUCTION TEAM

Producer/Translator: Shiya Lu
Project Coordinator: Joel Fenton

DATES & VENUES

January 2024 Joynton Avenue Creative Centre, Zetland

PARTNERS

107 Projects, City of Sydney, Creative Australia, Create NSW, Creative Partnerships Australia

“Working with Shaun Parker on developing the script for BUBBLE was an incredibly inspiring, creative and stimulating experience. With the creative juices flowing we explored many ideas and themes, before rigorously crafting each idea into coherent and informative scenes that skilfully convey the humanity of the work. I’m most excited to see this script leap onto the stage as it will be a truly exceptional work, especially younger audiences. I look forward to this work ‘popping into existence!’”

— Felicity Nicol



LUNACY FEATURE FILM & GLOBAL STREAMING

SYNOPSIS

Our Artistic Director, Shaun Parker, 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 went live on Apple TV+ and Google TV in April 2024.

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

Apple TV+ and Google TV

PARTNERS

Collider, Heckler, See Pictures, Apple TV +, Google TV

"A standout aspect of Lunacy is its choreography...its' explosive energy, serving as a powerful punctuation point in the film's gradual buildup."

— Letterboxd



IMAGE CREDIT: STEFAN DUSCIO

SEX. RIOT. REPEAT. CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT & SHOWING

SYNOPSIS

Sex. Riot. Repeat. is an immersive and politically charged theatre production created by Felicity Nicol and developed by Fruit Box Theatre. The work offers a kaleidoscopic journey through Australian LGBTQIA+ history, spanning from 1978 to 2078. Blending physical theatre, verbatim text, archival footage, and live performance, the production aims to illuminate the untold stories of queer activism and the ongoing fight for rights and recognition.

Originally named *Political Animals*, this creative development of *Sex. Riot. Repeat.* was the next step for this important work about Australia's queer history and activism. Shaun Parker & Company are proud to continue mentoring Felicity Nicol through our Queer Bites Program.

CREATIVE TEAM

Writer/Director: Felicity Nicol

Choreographer: Shaun Parker

Dramaturg: Hannah Marlarski

Actors: Janet Anderson, Cheryn Frost, Mansoor Noor, Pollyanna Nowicki, Emma Kew, Vonne Patiag, Angelica Lockyer

Community Consultant: Barry Charles, Titi Chartay, Peter de Waal, Sylvia Kinder, Peter Murphy, Wilfred Roach

Movement Assistant: Kai Taberner

Photographer: Patrick Boland

PRODUCTION TEAM

Producer: Sean Landis

Venue Manager: Dale Morgan-Mawby

Technical Manager: Sam Ducker

Access Coordinator: Courtney Henson

DATES & VENUES

26 April–2 May 2024 Eternity Playhouse, Darlinghurst

PARTNERS

Fruit Box Theatre, Eternity Playhouse, City of Sydney, Create NSW, Inner West Council

"I love this show, I love this script. It feels so important. Felicity Nicol has written just an extraordinary piece of work. It's formally really exciting, there are so many different disciplines involved. It's like a big party!

So often we haven't been in the room, when history is being written.

So now it's time to be in the room and own that."

— Hannah Malarski, Dramaturg



STRANGE SHADOW MUSIC VIDEO – QUEER BITES

SYNOPSIS

Strange Shadow is a love letter to the shadow self. It's about embracing your dark side and being open to the journey it can take you on as you reconcile with all parts of your mind, body and soul. It's about meeting your inner twin flame – in all its glory – and dancing in that chaos and beauty. It's about celebrating your freak and trusting that the world will catch up soon.

This music video, produced by Nick Brown, was supported by our Queer Bites Program, and sought to empower queer artists to create exceptional art. The filming took place in the historic Griffin Theatre before it was closed for renovations.

CREATIVE TEAM

Lead Artist/Producer: Nick Brown
Choreographer: Shaun Parker
Director: David Charles Collins
Lead Performer: Betty Grumble
Costume: Alli Sebastian Wolf
Shadow Puppetry: Spark Sanders Robinson

DANCERS

Alex Abbot, Joel Fenton, Alana Searles, Malachi Sylvester, Kai Taberner

PRODUCTION TEAM

Project Coordinator: Joel Fenton
First Assistant Director: Andy Johnston
Director of Photography: Trudi Gultom
Gaffer: Tahira Donohoe-Bales

DATES & VENUES

28 July 2024 Griffin Theatre, Darlinghurst

PARTNERS

Griffin Theatre Company, Chippen Street Theatre

“The outrageously talented Shaun Parker from Shaun Parker & Company choreographed the music video with support from his Queer Bites Program.”

— Bruce Baker, *The AU Review*



HANTU MUSIC VIDEO - QUEER BITES

SYNOPSIS

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

HANTU featured in numerous Music Video & Film Festivals in Australia and internationally throughout 2024, notably the Byron Bay International Film Festival and San Francisco Queer Film Festival. Shaun Parker continues to mentor Dyan Tai through the Queer Bites Program, providing valuable artistic feedback, industry career advice and ongoing support, not to mention providing employment for our Queer Bites dancers.

CREATIVE TEAM

Composer/Lead Vocalist: Dyan Tai

Director/Choreographer: Shaun Parker

DOP: Chris Quyen

Make Up Artist: Star Gayze

DANCERS

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

PRODUCTION TEAM

Project Coordinator: Joel Fenton

Production Assistant: Romain Hassanin

Focus Puller: Kelvin Santos

“Choreographer Shaun Parker shows why he is so respected in the dance world in his direction of this visual expression of an electronic anthem that explores queer liberation and its antithesis through the imagery of HANTU, or “ghost”. The video treatment of this experimental pop single, which incorporates Malaysian and Indonesian soundscapes and throat singing, calls upon Dyan Tai’s multicultural heritage and powerful physical street-dancer performances to produce a thrilling and imaginative work.”

— J’aimee Skippon-Volke, Byron Bay International Film Festival



FIRST NATIONS PROGRAMS



TAMMI GISSELL

STRATEGIC APPOINTMENTS AND CULTURAL LEADERSHIP

In 2024, Shaun Parker & Company proudly appointed Tammi Gissell (Muruwarrri-Wiradjuri) as the First Nations Cultural Advisor to the Board. A distinguished artist with over 25 years of national and international experience, Tammi brings extraordinary expertise and deep cultural knowledge to this role. Her appointment marks a pivotal moment for the company, as she leads vital initiatives to embed First Nations cultural safety across all areas of operations, ensuring that SP&Co upholds industry best practice with integrity and respect.

FIRST NATIONS CAREER DEVELOPMENT AND MENTORSHIP PROGRAMS

Shaun Parker & Company demonstrated its commitment to nurturing emerging First Nations artists by initiating and launching the First Nations Paid Internship Program in 2024. Specifically designed for emerging contemporary First Nations dancers, this program offers a transformative professional pathway. Interns join the company across multiple projects, participating in daily technique classes, learning and generating new repertoire alongside company dancers, and receiving tailored mentorship from Artistic Director Shaun Parker and the highly experienced ensemble members. All participants are paid at full industry rates and are fully covered under Workers' Compensation insurance, ensuring their physical, mental, and financial well-being.

In December 2024, the company proudly awarded its inaugural First Nations Paid Internship to Joshua Doctor. Joshua undertook intensive professional training with SP&Co, participating in the creative development of *BUBBLE INTERACT!* and performing in the school showing. He also took part in the *KING* remount rehearsals, further developing his skills within a professional and supportive environment and signalling the beginning of a promising professional journey.

FIRST NATIONS REGIONAL NSW ENGAGEMENT

In 2024, SP&Co commenced comprehensive planning for an ambitious touring and workshop program that will directly engage First Nations communities across regional and remote New South Wales. Scheduled for delivery in 2026, this program will offer extensive dance education activities and performances in First Nations missions, significantly expanding access to high-quality arts experiences. Central to this engagement will be *HOVER REIMAGINED!*, a celebratory First Nations-led work choreographed by Tammi Gissell, showcasing Indigenous music, dance, and storytelling traditions to audiences throughout regional NSW.

FIRST NATIONS ORGANISATIONAL POLICIES

In recognition of the need for ongoing, systemic support for First Nations engagement, Shaun Parker & Company formalised its internal structures by commencing the development of a First Nations Reconciliation Action Plan and a comprehensive Cultural Safety Policy. These frameworks are designed to ensure that all First Nations participants, collaborators, and audiences experience a culturally safe and respectful environment. SP&Co also reinforced its commitment to meaningful partnerships, strengthening its ties with key organisations such as NAISDA (National Aboriginal and Islander Skills Development Association), building deeper pathways for First Nations dancers to thrive within the sector.

BROADER VISION AND IMPACT

Shaun Parker & Company's engagement with First Nations communities throughout 2024 is far more than symbolic; it is foundational, strategic, and transformative. First Nations voices, stories, and leadership are embedded across every facet of the organisation—its leadership, governance, artistic practice, sector development, education initiatives, and community engagement. Through this holistic and action-driven approach, Shaun Parker & Company is setting a national benchmark in championing First Nations excellence within the Australian dance and performing arts landscape, creating a more equitable and vibrant future for all.



JOSH DOCTOR

WORKSHOP & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

Throughout 2024 numerous dancers and artists undertook professional development and skills training with Shaun Parker & Company. These took place through specialised workshops, company classes, auditions, secondments and bespoke mentorships.



POLY ART CHINA

WORKSHOPS

Shaun Parker & Company believe dance is for everyone! Throughout 2024 Shaun Parker & Company taught specialised dance workshops for Poly Art China, Ev & Bow, AMPA, NAISDA, Gunnedah Primary School, Bondi Pavilion, Parramatta Lanes Festival, and Play Kids Festival. These workshops inspired future generations of dancers, and provided important skills sharing and actively encouraged positive health and well-being through dance.



NAISDA

“So good to have you with us Shaun Parker & Company. Big thanks to Joel and Libby for sharing their knowledge, time, beautiful choreography and advice. We look forward to welcoming you all back to our studios again soon.”

— NAISDA

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Providing professional skills development opportunities and training for professional and emerging dancers is embedded in the DNA of Shaun Parker & Company.

Whilst remounting *FOUND OBJECTS* and *HOVER* for performances throughout 2024 Malachi Sylvester, Kate Merrick, Alex Abbot, and Kai Taberner undertook secondments to understudy roles for these works. These experiences expanded their skills and versatility, leading to all four dancers being employed for the first stage creative development of *SPIRIT FINGERS*.

During *SPIRIT FINGERS*, Tara Marsh took time off from her studies at Ev & Bow to join us on secondment for 3 weeks. During this secondment Tara joined the company for daily classes and participated in the creative tasks alongside the company dancers, gaining valuable experience of working in a professional company environment before she graduates from Ev & Bow.

During the *KING* remount rehearsals in December 2024, First Nations dancer Beau Dean Riley Smith joined the cast as a paid understudy, learning a role in the work. This was a fantastic opportunity for Beau, and we look forward to working with Beau again in the future.

In October 2024, Shaun Parker & Company announced that Lucy Doherty would join the Queer Bites Mentorship Program to receive mentorship from Shaun Parker. As part of her mentorship, Shaun Parker & Company paid for Lucy to attend the Sydney Dance Sector Gathering, where multiple companies, independent artists, and organisations met to discuss the current state of the dance industry in NSW. Shaun Parker & Company are passionate about empowering our artists and making a positive impact to the wider dance sector in NSW through meaningful opportunities for artists.

AUDITION

In November 2024, Shaun Parker & Company held an open audition for Sydney-based dancers, with a focus on new cast members for our 2025 international tour of *KING*, and for future works. We had an over 100 applicants and were able to invite 26 dancers to attend the “in studio” audition processes. During the audition, the dancers were put through their paces by senior company dancers, Joel Fenton (contemporary), Samuel Beazley (Hip Hop), and Libby Montilla (Tutting), before learning repertoire from *KING* & *Happy as Larry*.

From this audition, Alex Abbot, Malachi Sylvester and Julian Chan were invited to join the cast for the international tour of *KING* in 2025.

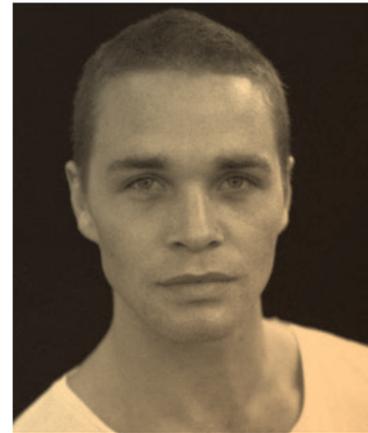
THANK YOU TO OUR TEAM



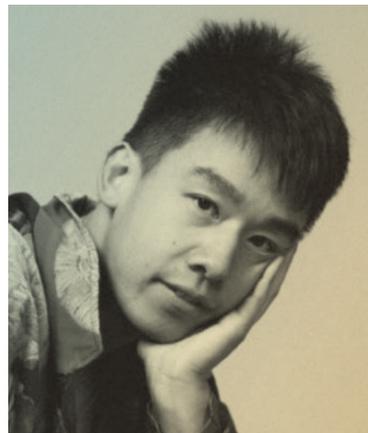
ALANA SEARLES
GUEST ARTIST



ALEISHA BROWN
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ARTIST



ALEX ABBOTT
KEY ARTIST



ALEXANDER CHOY
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ARTIST



ALLI SEBASTIAN WOLF
GUEST CREATIVE



ALON ILSAR
KEY CREATIVE



ANDY JOHNSTON
GUEST CREATIVE



ANNA McCULLA
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ARTIST



ANTHONY WHELAN
BOARD MEMBER

THANK YOU TO OUR TEAM



ARABELLA KIEFER
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ARTIST



BARRY CHARLES
GUEST CREATIVE



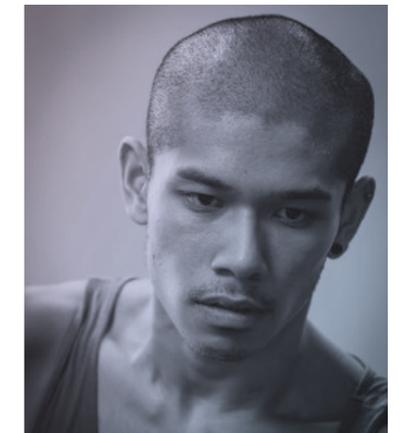
BEAU DEAN RILEY SMITH
GUEST ARTIST



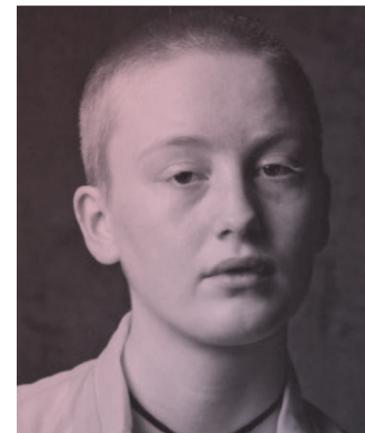
BENJAMIN BROCKMAN
KEY CREATIVE



BETTY GRUMBLE
GUEST ARTIST



BILLY KEOHAVONG
GUEST ARTIST



BOBBI SALVÖR MENEZ
GUEST ARTIST



CHERYN FROST
GUEST ARTIST



CHRIS QUYEN
GUEST CREATIVE

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CHRIS WADE
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ARTIST



CLAUDIA HURLEY
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ARTIST



COURTNEY SEIGERT
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ARTIST



DALE HOLLINGSWORTH
ARTS WORKER



DAMIEN COOPER
KEY CREATIVE



DANIEL ASKILL
GUEST CREATIVE



DANNY PRATT
ARTS WORKER



DAVID BERGMAN
KEY CREATIVE



DAVID CHARLES COLLINS
GUEST CREATIVE

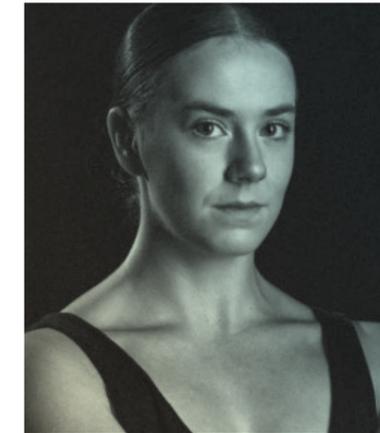
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DAVID MAVISA
GUEST ARTIST



DYAN TAI
GUEST ARTIST



ELLA POWER
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ARTIST



EMMA KEW
GUEST ARTIST



ERIKA BARNIER
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ARTIST



ERMINIA COTARU
ARTS WORKER



FELICITY NICOL
GUEST CREATIVE



FIO GEDE PARMA
GUEST ARTIST



FRANCES ORLINA
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ARTIST

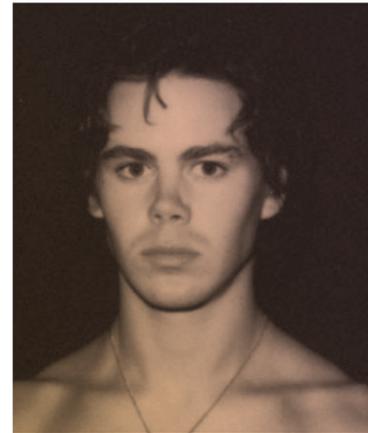
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HAILLEY HUNT
KEY CREATIVE



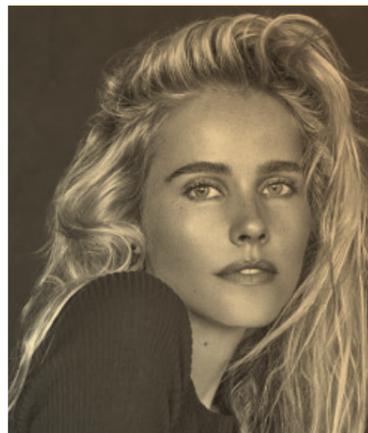
HANNAH MALARSKI
GUEST CREATIVE



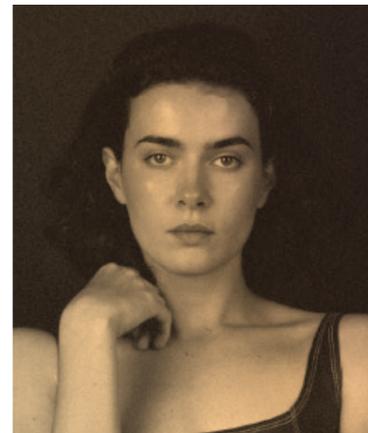
HUGO POULET
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ARTIST



HUNTER PAGE-LOCHARD
GUEST ARTIST



ISABEL LUCAS
GUEST ARTIST



JANET ANDERSON
GUEST ARTIST



JOEL FENTON
KEY ARTIST



JOSHUA DOCTOR
GUEST ARTIST



JOYCE LAM
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ARTIST

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JULIAN CHAN
GUEST ARTIST



JULIE CLARK
ARTS WORKER



KAI TABERNER
GUEST ARTIST



KATE CLERKIN
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ARTIST



KATE MERRICK
KEY ARTIST



KEYNAN LONSDALE
GUEST ARTIST



KIRIN J. CALLINAN
GUEST ARTIST



LIBBY MONTILLA
KEY ARTIST



LILY SULLIVAN
GUEST ARTIST

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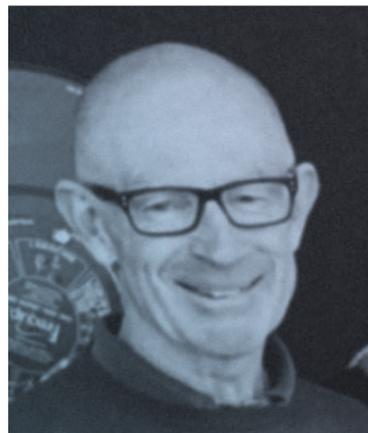
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KEY ARTIST



MANSOOR NOOR
GUEST ARTIST



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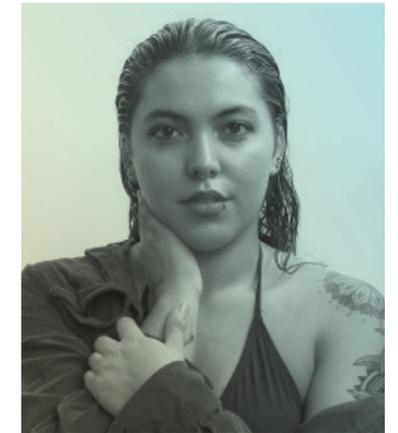
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GUEST CREATIVE



NICK WALES
KEY CREATIVE



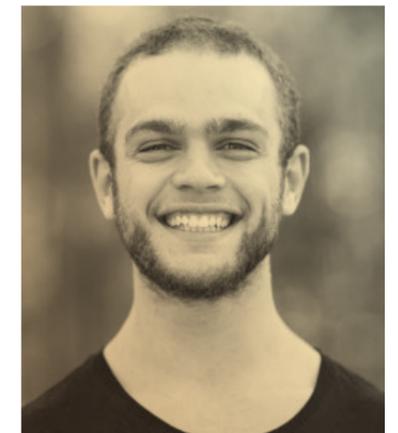
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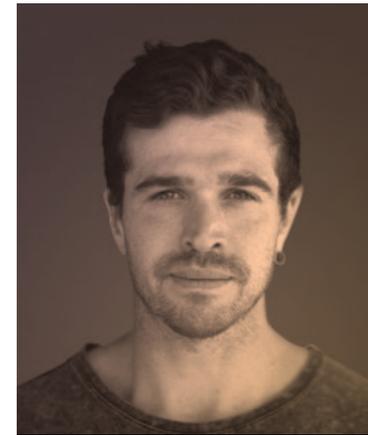


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TAMMI GISSELL
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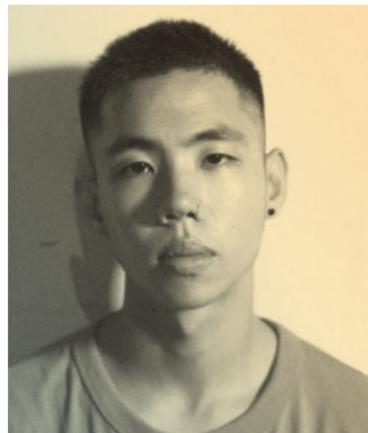
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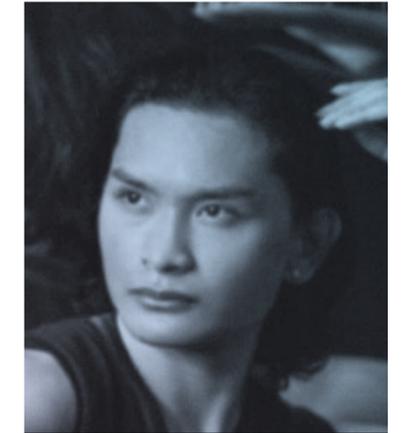
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ZOE HOLLYOAK
ARTS WORKER



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Anthony Whelan
Rob Shwetz (Appointed February, 2024)
Marie Soghomonian. (Appointed August, 2024)

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Tammi Gissell

BOARD OBSERVERSHIP PROGRAM

Luke Holmes

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Zoe Hollyoak Producer (contract)
Shiya Lu Consultant Producer & Translator
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THANKS TO OUR INCREDIBLE PHOTOGRAPHERS & SKETCH ARTISTS

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SEE YOU IN
2025!

SHAUN PARKER & COMPANY

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