

# 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







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IMAGE CREDIT: SHANE ROZARIO





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

# 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



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.





# 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





# 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

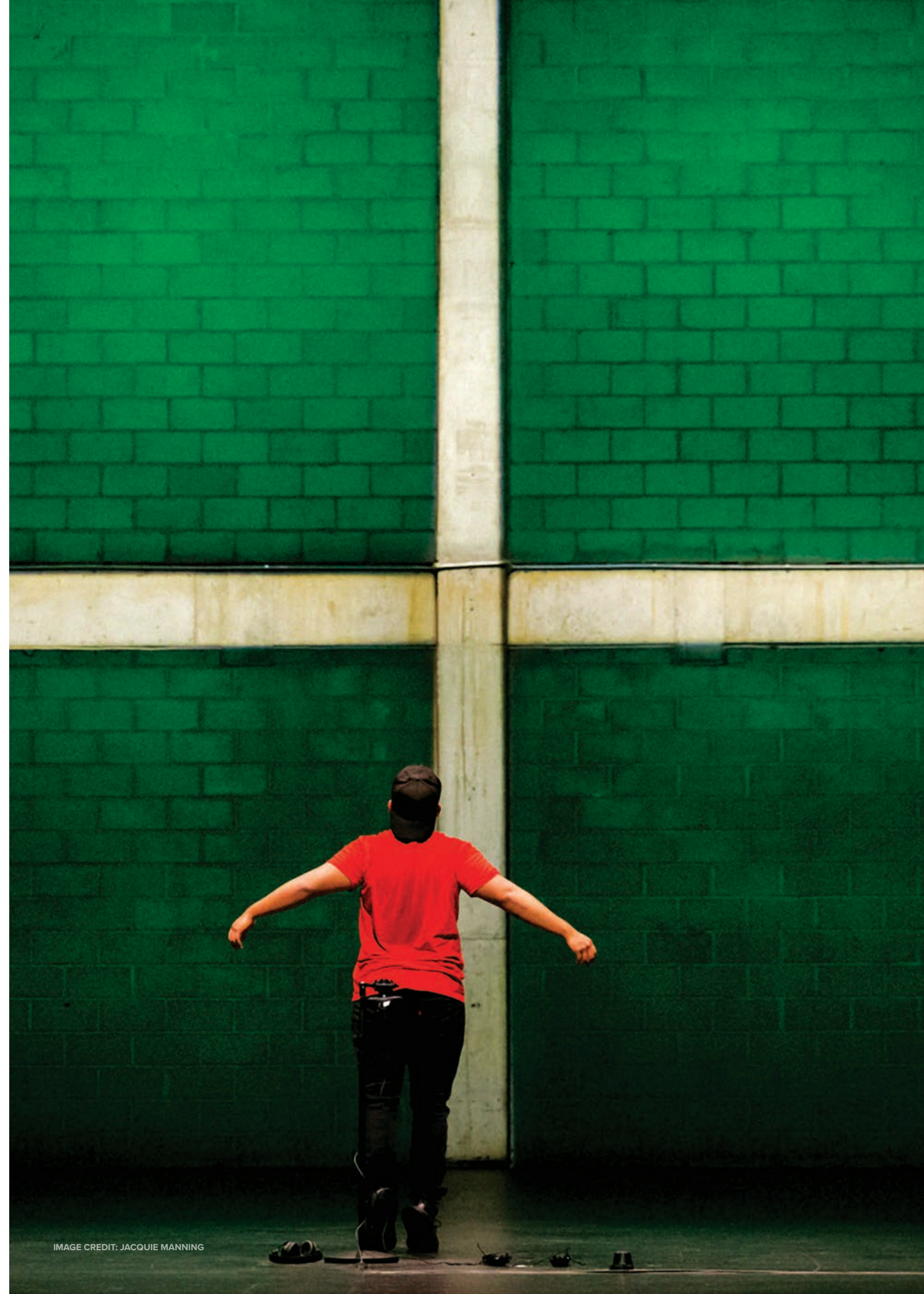
9 July 2024 The Pavilion Performing Arts Centre, Sutherland  
20 September 2024 The Art House Wyong, Wyong  
24 September 2024 Gunnedah Civic Theatre, Gunnedah

## 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



IMAGE CREDIT: JOEL FENTON



# 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



IMAGE CREDIT: NICK BROWN

*“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 (Muruwarri-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 M'CULLA**  
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ARTIST



**ANTHONY WHELAN**  
BOARD MEMBER



**ARABELLA KIEFER**  
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ARTIST



**BARRY CHARLES**  
GUEST CREATIVE



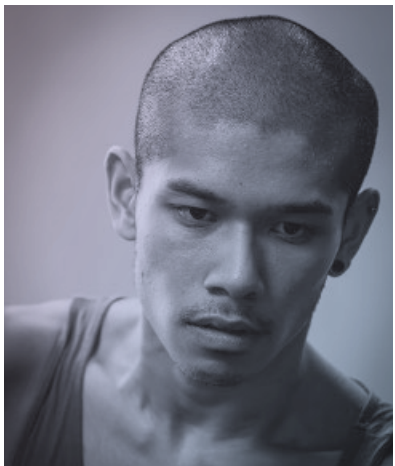
**BEAU DEAN RILEY SMITH**  
GUEST ARTIST



**BENJAMIN BROCKMAN**  
KEY CREATIVE



**BETTY GRUMBLE**  
GUEST ARTIST



**BILLY KEOHAVONG**  
GUEST ARTIST



**BOBBI SALVÖR MENUEZ**  
GUEST ARTIST



**CHERYN FROST**  
GUEST ARTIST



**CHRIS QUYEN**  
GUEST CREATIVE

# THANK YOU TO OUR TEAM



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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

# THANK YOU TO OUR TEAM



**DAVID MAVISA**  
GUEST ARTIST



**DYAN TAI**  
GUEST ARTIST



**ELLA POWER**  
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ARTIST



**EMMA KEW**  
GUEST ARTIST



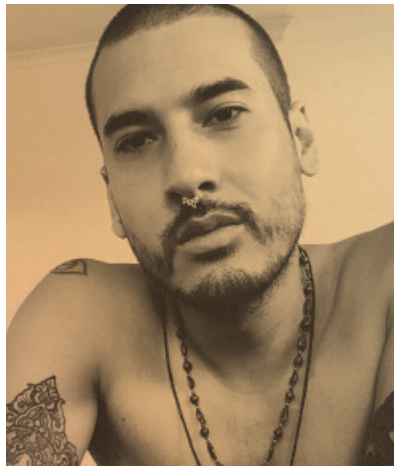
**ERIKA BARNIER**  
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ARTIST



**ERMINIA COTARU**  
ARTS WORKER



**FELICITY NICOL**  
GUEST CREATIVE



**FIO GEDE PARMA**  
GUEST ARTIST



**FRANCES ORLINA**  
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ARTIST



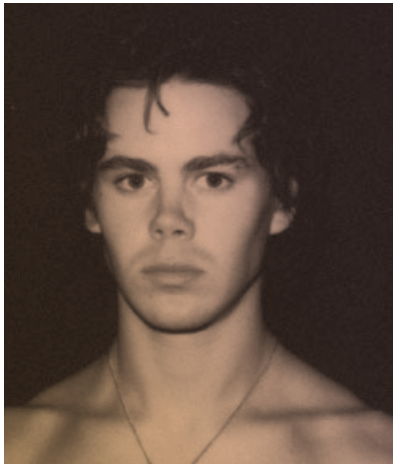
# THANK YOU TO OUR TEAM



**HAILEY 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

# THANK YOU TO OUR TEAM



**JULIAN CHAN**  
GUEST ARTIST



**JULIE CLARK**  
ARTS WORKER



**KAI TABERNER**  
GUEST ARTIST



**KATE CLERKIN**  
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ARTIST



**KATE MERRICK**  
KEY ARTIST



**KEIYNAN LONSDALE**  
GUEST ARTIST



**KIRIN J. CALLINAN**  
GUEST ARTIST



**LIBBY MONTILLA**  
KEY ARTIST



**LILY SULLIVAN**  
GUEST ARTIST



# THANK YOU TO OUR TEAM



**LUCY DOHERTY**  
KEY ARTIST



**LUKE HAWTHORNE**  
BOARD MEMBER



**LUKE HOLMES**  
BOARD OBSERVER



**MALACHI SYLVESTER**  
KEY ARTIST



**MANSOOR NOOR**  
GUEST ARTIST



**MARIE SOGHOMONIAN**  
BOARD MEMBER



**MARK MITCHELL**  
ARTS WORKER



**MEINRAD HUBER**  
ARTS WORKER



**MIA RASHID**  
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ARTIST



**MICHELLE CUTLER**  
BOARD MEMBER



**NATASHA STURGIS**  
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ARTIST



**NATHALIA HENAO RODRIGUEZ**  
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ARTIST



**NICHOLAS BROWN**  
GUEST CREATIVE



**NICK WALES**  
KEY CREATIVE



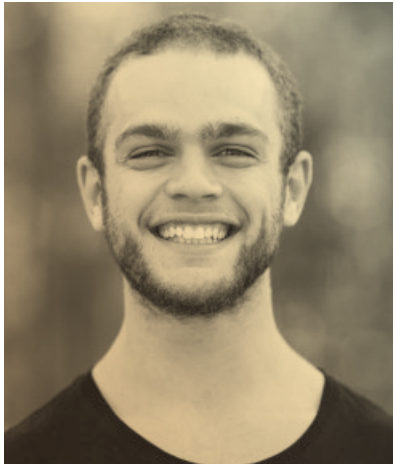
**NICKI SABATINO**  
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ARTIST



**OLIVIA HADLEY**  
KEY ARTIST



**OLIVIA PASCOE**  
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ARTIST

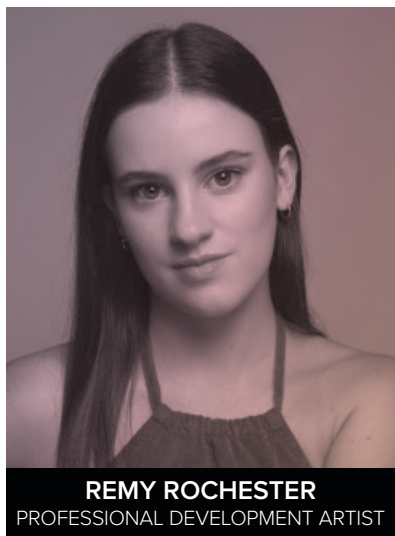


**OWEN JONES**  
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ARTIST

# THANK YOU TO OUR TEAM



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# THANK YOU TO OUR TEAM





# THANK YOU TO OUR TEAM



**SU CHUNG-TAI**  
KEY CREATIVE



**SYLVIA KINDER**  
GUEST CREATIVE



**TAMMI GISSELL**  
KEY ARTIST



**TARA MARSH**  
GUEST ARTIST



**THUBA NDIBALI**  
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ARTIST



**TILLY BACKUS**  
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ARTIST



**TITI CHARTAY**  
GUEST CREATIVE



**TOMMY THUNGSUNAWAN**  
GUEST ARTIST



**TRACY TUCKER KNOX**  
BOARD MEMBER

# THANK YOU TO OUR TEAM



**TREVOR JAMIESON**  
GUEST ARTIST



**TRUDI GULTOM**  
GUEST CREATIVE



**VINCENT GARCIA**  
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ARTIST



**VONNE PATIAG**  
GUEST ARTIST



**WHYAN CHEN**  
GUEST ARTIST



**WILFRED ROACH**  
GUEST CREATIVE



**WUN ZEE**  
ARTS WORKER



**ZOE HOLLYOAK**  
ARTS WORKER



**ZOE JEWELL**  
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ARTIST



# PARTNERS & SUPPORTERS

## GOVERNMENT PARTNERS



**GLOBAL PARTNERS**  
DENISE & MICHAEL KELLEN  
FOUNDATION

**MAJOR DONORS**  
PENNY & (the late) RICHARD HUNSTEAD  
THE WALES FAMILY FOUNDATION

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT PARTNERS



## VENUE PARTNERS



## COLLABORATIVE PARTNERS



**EUROPEAN AGENT**  
ecotopia  
dance productions

# THE COMPANY

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Michelle Cutler (Chair)  
Luke Hawthorne  
Shaun Parker  
Tracy Tucker Knox  
Anthony Whelan  
Rob Shwetz (Appointed February, 2024)  
Marie Soghomonian. (Appointed August, 2024)

## FIRST NATIONS CULTURAL ADVISOR

Tammi Gissell

## BOARD OBSERVERSHIP PROGRAM

Luke Holmes

## 2024 MANAGEMENT & ADMINISTRATION TEAM

Shaun Parker Artistic Director & CEO  
Joel Fenton Project Coordinator  
Zoe Hollyoak Producer (contract)  
Shiya Lu Consultant 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 & SKETCH ARTISTS

Prudence Upton, Shane Rozario, Michelle Aboud, Jacquie Manning, Nick Brown, Chris Quyen, Shiya Lu, Stefan Duscio, Anna McGirr, Joel Fenton, Shaun Parker, Rita Orsini, and Sloppy Bunny Toons.





# SEE YOU IN 2025!

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## SHAUN PARKER & COMPANY

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IMAGE CREDIT: PRUDENCE UPTON