

DAREBIN ARTS



proudly presents



RHYTHMIC FICTIONS

by Siobhan McKenna

Darebin City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi wurrung people as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of this land and pays respect to their Elders past and present.



**Darebin
Arts**

CHOREOGRAPHER'S NOTE

So it's umm it's definitely

quite random

from the

start

As in you definitely

can't

like...

put your finger

on it.

.....

RHYTHMIC FICTIONS is a balancing act of movement, sound and language for audiences to wander through. Five performers negotiate communicating with each other and the audience whilst attending to the complex rhythmic world in which they operate.

Oscillating between the monotonous and the dramatic, between the meaningful and the meaningless, **RHYTHMIC FICTIONS** reorganises language and movement into a playful choreography that exposes the fragility and multiplicity of communication.

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SPECIAL THANKS

I would like to thank the incredible team of people on the project who have all contributed so much to make it happen. A special thanks to Arabella Frahn-Stakie, Emma Riches, Claire Leske and Rachel Coulson who brought so much curiosity and energy to the project. I am incredibly lucky to work with such an amazing group of collaborating dancers.

Thanks to Darebin Arts Speakeasy for supporting the presentation of the show and to Lucy Guerin Inc. for their support of earlier developments. Finally, a big thanks to my family and friends who have supported me and my artistic pursuits!

CREATIVE TEAM

Choreography: Siobhan McKenna

Performers: Arabella Frahn-Starkie, Emma Riches, Claire Leske, Rachel Coulson and Siobhan McKenna

Text: Siobhan McKenna in collaboration with performers

Sound Design: Merinda Dias Jayasinha in collaboration with performers

Lighting Design: Giovanna Yate Gonzalez

Production/Stage Manager: Harmony Boucher



Images by Pia Johnson

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Siobhan McKenna (Choreographer) is a Melbourne (Naarm) based choreographer and dancer, graduating from the Victorian College of the Arts in 2016 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance. She has since presented her award-winning choreography internationally as well as in key Australian festivals. Siobhan's work *Utterance* received the 'Best Dance Award' and 'Temperance Hall Award' in the 2017 Melbourne Fringe Festival and received a nomination for the 'Shirley McKechnie Award for Choreography' in the 2019 Green Room Awards for its presentation in Dance Massive Festival at Dancehouse. Siobhan's choreographic work explores ways of incorporating dance, sound and language together to expand and question the relationship between the three mediums.



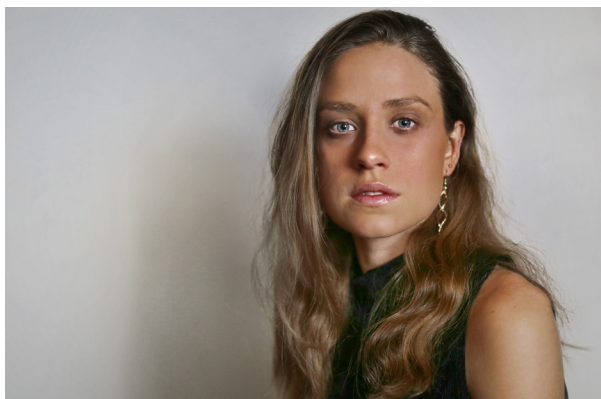
Rachel Coulson (Dancer) is an independent dance artist based here in Melbourne (Naarm). She has performed in works by Antony Hamilton (*Yung Lung*, *Nyx*, *Blood & Bone*), Stephanie Lake and Robin Fox (*Manifesto*, *A Giant Theremin*), Alisdair Macindoe (*Reference Material*), Melanie Lane (*Death Peak*), and Rebecca Jensen and Sarah Aiken (*Overworld*). Rachel completed her dance training at Newtown High School of the Performing Arts and The Victorian College of the Arts.



Arabella Frahn-Starkie (Dancer) is a dance artist and researcher. In 2021, she completed her Honours at the Victorian College of the Arts, where she also received a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Contemporary Dance) in 2016. Over the past few years her artistic practice has seen a preoccupation with documenting and thinking about how to archive the ephemera of dance. Arabella is driven to use the body in her work, as she believes that at the junction of the artwork, audience, and artist, is a sentient and volatile body.



Claire Leske (Dancer) is a Melbourne based performer and collaborator. A graduate from the Victorian College of the Arts, Claire has worked with Rebecca Jensen & Sarah Aiken, Prue Lang, Jo Lloyd and Tra Mi Dinh, among others. Claire is the initiator of Dance Is - a 'what's on' website for contemporary dance in Melbourne, and Open Dance - movement classes for adults with a background in dance.



Emma Riches (Dancer) is an artist who works across performance, choreographic and teaching practices. She has danced with notable choreographers including Jo Lloyd, alice will caroline, Phillip Adams/ Matthew Bird and Victoria Hunt and has presented work at Temperance Hall, Dancehouse, The University of Melbourne and LASALLE College of the Arts (Singapore). Emma was recently an artist in residence at Schoolhouse Studios through which she developed an online writing project.



Merinda Dias-Jayasinha (Sound Design) is a creative artist and musician whose practice explores heartfelt and lyrical storytelling, genre-blurring compositions and the melodic and textual potential of the voice. Born and raised in Meanjin with Sri Lankan/Australian heritage, Dias-Jayasinha explores her artistry, impressive vocal ability, and versatility through a number of ensembles and projects and delights in collaboration, connection, and community.



Giovanna Yate Gonzalez (Lighting Design) is an emerging Lighting Designer in Melbourne from Colombia with a rich background of dance and performance experience. Recent graduate from VCA with a Bachelors of Fine Arts, she has had opportunities to work with theatres such as Red Stitch and The National Theatre.



Harmony Boucher(Production/Stage Manager) has a varied career spanning over 20 years in music, theatre and fashion.

Coming on board as a Production and Stage Manager for Rhythmic Fictions they are continuing to add to an endless list of roles in entertainment.