

DAREBIN ARTS SPEAKEASY

PRESENTS



FUTURE PROOF

GRAVITY DOLLS



Darebin
Arts

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF SUPPORTING LOCAL ART

CR SUSANNE NEWTON
MAYOR OF DAREBIN

Darebin Arts Speakeasy is an award-winning year-long program. It supports innovative new works presented by small and medium arts organisations, companies and independent artists. The program spans dance, circus, theatre and multi-disciplinary work that speaks to issues that matter to the community and celebrates cultural diversity.

Darebin has long been home to artists and creatives. Over the last 11 years, Speakeasy has provided opportunities to some incredibly talented people, many of them local to Darebin.

Since 2013, Speakeasy has supported over 1,500 artists to create over 150 original works presented to roughly 80,000 patrons, receiving 45 creative industry awards and a further 125 nominations. The program brings Northcote Town Hall Arts Centre and Darebin Arts Centre to life with thrilling artistic presentations.

The 2024 season features First Nations-led works, diverse local voices, fierce environmentalism and access for all.

Congratulations to everyone involved in making this year's program a wonderful success! I can't wait to enjoy these incredible performances with you.

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

HARLOW CAREY
WRITER & DIRECTOR

***FUTURE PROOF* EMERGED FROM MY OWN REFLECTIONS ON THE WORLD AROUND ME.**

It is not just a play; it's a testament to the intersection of global events and personal experiences, where the enormity of what's happening in the world collides with the intimate journeys of individual lives.

From its inception, *Future Proof* has undergone a transformative journey of its own. What began as a narrative with fully-formed characters and linear journeys soon evolved into something more fluid, more reflective of the pace and complexity of our contemporary existence. The decision to allow performers to dive into scenes and let them go mirrors the struggle of ideas to gain traction in a world that's constantly evolving.

For me, *Future Proof* is like a living venn diagram, with its focus on people, place, and power. While the term 'future proofing' often conjures images of corporate strategies and technological advancements, I believe its true essence lies in safeguarding

the well-being of individuals and communities, free from the distortions of power.

When we embarked on this journey in 2016, there was a sense of urgency, a feeling that we needed to capture the essence of the times before it slipped away. Yet, here we are, seven years later, and the relevance of *Future Proof* has only deepened. As the world continues to grapple with ever-evolving challenges, the themes of this production resonate even more profoundly.

I hope this performance sparks conversations, inspires introspection, and perhaps offers glimpses of hope amidst the complexities of our shared journey.

ABOUT

FEARLESS PHYSICAL THEATRE

Darebin team **Gravity Dolls** make genre-defying theatre that fires the imagination. Combining acrobatics and aerial skills with fierce new writing, their shows push live performance to new heights.

Future Proof invites you to witness a dreamscape of our world in this critical juncture. Systems faltering. Tectonic plates colliding. A planet fighting for survival. Ordinary people just trying to get out of bed.

Performing on a revolving platform on the Darebin Arts Centre stage, this local ensemble of physical performers brings to life the beauty and absurdity of our collective moment – asking what keeps us going, and what got us here.

With stirring text by Harlow Carey, *Future Proof* is a stunning invocation of the world we're waking up to, and a call to action for the one we hope to see.

Running time: approx. 70mins, no interval.

Show warnings: this production contains loud music and sound, smoke and haze.

CREATIVE TEAM

Co-created by: **Tim Rutty and Harlow Carey**

Writer/Director: **Harlow Carey**

Set and Costume Design: **Tim Rutty**

Lighting Design: **Richard Vabre**

Compositions/Sound Design: **Ian Moorhead**

Performed by: **Nina Robertson, Karina Schiller, Easa Min-Swe, Cassia Jamieson, Tim Rutty and Harlow Carey**

Stage Manager: **Solina Diallo**

Image by: **Aaron Walker**

Gravity Dolls gratefully acknowledges the support extended to this project from their leading funders.



This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through Creative Australia, its principal arts investment and advisory body, and the Besen Family Foundation.

GRAVITY DOLLS

Founded in 2014, Gravity Dolls has garnered a reputation for their multidisciplinary approach, fusing contemporary circus, physical theatre, and original writing. Under the visionary leadership of Tim Ruddy and Harlow Carey, Gravity Dolls has crafted a unique artistic practice rarely seen in Australia.

Their debut show, *My Life in Boxes*, premiered at the Melbourne Fringe Festival in 2014. It won the Original New Circus Award supported by Circus Oz, runner-up at the Gasworks Circus Showdown before interstate and regional tours. They were the first circus company to be programmed in Poppy Seed Theatre Festival with Level Up. In 2022 *Future Proof* premiered at the Arts Centre Melbourne, commissioned by the Springboard Program.

Gravity Dolls also runs their own circus studio in Northcote. It is home to a year-round short-course circus program for adults and a number of other programs for professional artists.

gravitydolls.com | FB: /gravitydolls | IG: @gravitydolls

DAREBIN ARTS SPEAKEASY

Darebin Arts Speakeasy is Darebin City Council's award-winning year-round independent performance and development program. The program partners with artists and organisations to generate thrilling artistic presentations for audiences and engage our diverse community. It aims to provide the highest quality experiences to audiences at the Northcote Town Hall Arts Centre and the Darebin Arts Centre.

Darebin Arts Speakeasy plays integral role in Australia's arts landscape. Since its inception in 2013, it has supported over **1,500 artists** to create over **150 original works** presented to roughly **80,000 patrons**, receiving **45 creative industry awards** and a further **125 nominations**.

Darebin Arts has backed many of the groundbreaking artists and companies that make Melbourne's art sector so iconic: RAWCUS, Ilbijerri Theatre Company, Bloomshed, The Hayloft Project, Little Ones Theatre, Stephanie Lake Company, Elbow Room, MKA, Double Water Sign, and lead artists like Joel Bray, Alisdair Macindoe, Michele Lee, Emilie Collyer, Anna Seymour, Stella Young and Sammy J.

ARTIST BIOS



HARLOW CAREY

Harlow is an actor, writer, circus performer with an equal love for coffee and dumplings. Recent credits include *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*, *Apricity* by Casus Creations and *Level Up* by Gravity Dolls.



TIM RUTTY

Tim is a queer, Production Designer, Rigger and Physical Performer living with a disability. Tim has performed with Strange Fruit, Highwire Entertainment, Raconteur Productions and Gravity Dolls, which he co-founded in 2014.



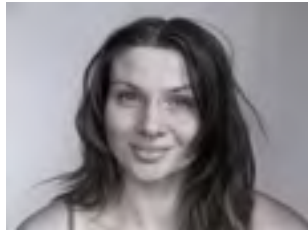
KARINA SCHILLER

Karina is an energetic, and enthusiastic circus artist with a love for learning and exploration. Karina thrives in ensemble collaborations touring the world performing with companies like Circus Oz and Boost Producties.



NINA ROBERTSON

Nina is a multi-skilled physical performer. She completed a Cert IV at NICA in 2019, performed in *Level Up!* by Gravity Dolls, *TBC* by Studio Nexus, and *The Bells* by 5AM Physical Theatre.



CASSIA JAMIESON

Cassia has spent the past few years touring Australia and New Zealand. She has worked for a number of Australian circus companies and is best known for *Werk It* by Circus Trick Tease.



EASA MIN-SWE

Born to an Asian ex-punk and a nomadic craftsman, circus seemed somewhat of an eventuality to Easa. Credits include performing with Phat Cab Club, One Fell Swoop, and A Good Catch.



RICHARD VABRE

Richard is a multi-award winning lighting designer who has lit productions for MTC, STC, Malthouse, Belvoir, Black Swan State Theatre Company, Back To Back Theatre, Victorian Opera, Circus Oz and many more.



IAN MOORHEAD

Ian specialises in music composition and sound design for theatre, dance, circus, film and radio. He has performed around Australia and internationally, including New York, London, Edinburgh, Dublin, Wellington, Calgary and Vancouver.



SOLINA DIALLO

Solina recently arrived in Melbourne from Brussels, Belgium. Intrigued by circus for a long time, she is very excited to be part of this show helping with the stage management.

DAREBIN ARTS SPEAKEASY

PRESENTS

POLITE MAMMALS

BY THE WHOLESOME HOUR

9 APRIL, 10AM & 1PM
DAREBIN ARTS CENTRE



Darebin
Arts

