
MEDIA RELEASE

LUKE GEORGE AND COLLABORATORS
NOT ABOUT FACE

OCT 9-13

WORLD PREMIERE

DANCEHOUSE OPEN SEASON

150 Princes Street North Carlton, Melbourne



Following the critical acclaim of *NOW NOW NOW* which recently toured to Norway, the Netherlands and Sydney, award winning dancer/choreographer Luke George presents his debut solo work, *NOT ABOUT FACE*.

We will come together. We will become anonymous. We will fake belief or believe in faking it.

ABOUT THE WORK:

NOTABOUTFACE stems from George's fascination with the intimacy between performers and audience and how information and ideas are transmitting between them. In this work George questions the nature of the unseen and unspoken agreement/tradition between performer and audience and accesses the supernatural and the spiritual, as a way to explore what is perceiving, knowing and believing.

For this show, audience are robed in full-body shrouds and are a free-roaming and anonymous gathering in the performance space.

"Under the sheet I become an insular entity; aware of my presence but transformed into obscurity. Each of us is now a wraith, an anonymous self. Without seats or a marked performance area we are left to negotiate our proximity to the performance and each other... Luke George's offer is a generous invitation to both actively inhabit the pretend while internally freely conjuring your own experience, seeing it through the eyes of your homemade 'spirit'." (McDougall, Real Time June 2013)

Read full article: <http://www.realttimearts.net/article/115/11144>

AN INTERNATIONAL TEAM OF AWARD-WINNING ARTISTS:

NOTABOUTFACE has been created over 2 years in collaboration with a team of award winning artists and test audiences in both Melbourne and New York, with public showings at West Space Gallery, Arts House Meat Market, Malthouse/Dance Massive 2013 and Movement Research at the Judson Church (NYC). The Australian premiere takes place at Dancehouse, Melbourne 9-13 Oct 2013.

Luke George and Collaborators:

Nick Roux, Hilary Clark (NYC), Benjamin Cisterne, Martyn Coutts.

Consultant Producer: Alison Halit

With support from: Moriarty's Project, Kristy Ayre.

Biography: Luke George is a dance artist whose practice as performer, choreographer and collaborator takes him throughout Australia, Europe, Asia and North America. Amongst others, he has performed with Phillip Adams BalletLab, Jo Lloyd, Chunky Move and Miguel Gutierrez and the Powerful People. His own choreographies have been curated and presented throughout Australia and in New York and Tokyo. George was recipient of a Melbourne Festival Choice Award (1999), Asialink Performing Arts Residency (2005), Sydney Opera House commission (2006), Russell Page Fellowship for Contemporary Dance (2007), Lucy Guerin Inc commission (2010) and Greenroom Award Best Male Dancer (2011). George is currently performing and touring internationally with New York's Miguel Gutierrez and the Powerful People in a new work *And lose the name of action*.

NYC collaborator Hilary Clark is joining the team in Melbourne to realise the finished work. George and Clark first met and worked together in New York 2011 as co-performers in a new work by renowned NYC choreographer Miguel Gutierrez called *And lose the name of action*, which they have been performing in New York and across the USA and into Europe. George found an instant artistic connection with Clark and invited her to collaborate with him on *NOT ABOUT FACE* and join a team of Melbourne artists who have been collaborating with George on his work since 2007.

GEORGE'S LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL SUCCESSES:

After the world premiere in Melbourne, *NOT ABOUT FACE* is will then hit the road with 2014 premieres at Sydney's Campbelltown Arts Centre and New York's Chocolate Factory Theatre - *a leading incubator for new developments in experimental performance*.

George's previous work *NOW NOW NOW* gained significant notice of audiences and critics. This work asked the question "can we be in the moment?" and had Dancehouse packed to the rafters with audiences literally holding onto their breaths in the electrical silences and feeling their shoeless floor beneath their feet.

"George's explicit intention is the exploration of the present moment, especially the complexities and contradictions of spontaneity when it collides with the consciousness of a structured work of art.....NOW NOW NOW opens up a glorious sense of liberation. Dadaist, post-postmodern dance? ...It effortlessly engrosses your entire attention... but underneath that is a sense of generosity and mutual trust that is mysteriously profound."

(Alison Croggon, Theatre Notes, 2011)

Read full review: <http://theatrenotes.blogspot.com/2011/03/dance-massive-sunstruck-nownownow.html>

The show had a return season and was a hit of Dance Massive 2011. Since then the show has toured to the Noorderzon Festival in Groningen (The Netherlands), Oktoberdansen Festival in Bergen (Norway) and Campbelltown Arts Centre (Sydney). George made history as the first Australian choreographer to be presented in Bergen. He will make further history by being one of the first international artists to be presented in New York's acclaimed American Realness festival this coming January, the throbbing epicentre of Manhattan's downtown performance scene, where he will open the festival with *NOW NOW NOW*. George is quickly developing his presence in New York where he was most recently seen in Miguel Gutierrez and the Powerful People's *And Lose the name of the Action* and has been performing his own short works in many experimental performance nights.



NOT ABOUT FACE
SHOWS:

Wednesday 9 Oct 8pm
Thursday 10 Oct 8pm
Friday 11 Oct 8pm
Saturday 12 Oct 3pm & 9:30pm
Sunday 13 Oct 3pm & 7:30pm

\$25 Full
\$20 Conc/DH members
Book: www.dancehouse.com.au
This is a non-seated performance
Image by Jeff Busby

FOR PUBLICITY INFORMATION AND MEDIA OPPORTUNITIES PLEASE CONTACT:
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Support: The creative development of Not About Face was supported by grants through the Victorian Government through Arts Victoria, the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body, Arts House and the Besen Family Foundation. The work was developed in residencies at Arts House CultureLAB, Lucy Guerin Inc, West Space Gallery, Thousand Pound Bend and Abrons Arts Center (NYC). The premiere season of Not About Face is supported through funding from the Australia Council, and presented through Dancehouse Your Way Open Season.

www.lukegeorge.net