

DANCEHOUSE D/

PERFORMED IN-SEASON 2021

Production Information & Specifications



BODYLEX

By Rhys Ryan

18-21 March 2021

www.dancehouse.com.au/whats-on/bodylex

A gripping dance work exploring the physical effect of legal systems on the body, from lawyer-turned-choreographer Rhys Ryan.

ABOUT THE WORK

Bodylex is a gripping dance work exploring the physical effect of legal systems on the body. Laws are designed to regulate human behaviour. How our bodies respond to these pressures is a complex phenomenon. We must constantly navigate — deliberately or unconsciously — the tension between external rules and our subjective desires. Do we resist, conform or adapt? The answer is both choreographic and political. Dance artist and lawyer Rhys Ryan forges creative links between legal theory and choreography in this arresting work for three dancers. By isolating embodied responses to rule-based systems, *Bodylex* probes bigger questions about power, agency and authoring our own futures in a world of colliding sovereignties.

Credited Performers & Collaborators

Rhys Ryan – Choreographer
Anika De Ruyter* – Performer
Piaera Lauritz – Performer
Emma Riches – Performer
Zoe Boesen – Voice Artist
Robert Downie – Sound Designer
John Collopy – Lighting Designer

(*Isabelle Beauverd for premiere season)

Responses

- Nominated for Best Choreography – Green Room Awards 2022
- Review: [Theatre Travels](#) (★ ★ ★ ★)
- Review: [All About Entertainment](#) (★ ★ ★ ★)
- Review: [The Advertiser](#)
- Selected as case study in law courses at University of Adelaide, University of Windsor and Dalhousie University (Canada)

Documentation

- [Trailer](#) (50 seconds)
- [Excerpts](#) (5 mins)
- Full version (48 mins) – *Available on request*
- [Images](#) (12 photos)

Credit for all images and video: James Lauritz

Acknowledgements

Bodylex was co-commissioned and presented by Dancehouse in 2021 with support from Yarra City Arts and Lucy Guerin Inc. The tour of *Bodylex* to Adelaide Fringe 2022 was supported by the Adelaide Fringe Artist Fund.

Warnings

This work includes loud music or sound effects, smoke or haze effects and strobe-like effects. Viewer discretion is advised.

ARTIST / PRODUCER CONTACT

Rhys Ryan

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CREATIVE TEAM

Rhys Ryan (Choreographer) is a dance artist from Naarm / Melbourne working across performance, choreography and critical writing. He trained at the Victorian College of the Arts and has worked as a dancer with Stephanie Lake, Russell Dumas, Anouk van Dijk, Kate Denborough, Linda Sastradipradja and Chunky Move. His choreographic credits include *Bodylex* (Dancehouse 2021, Adelaide Fringe 2022), *Condition* (Dancehouse 2020), *Synthetic Upper* (VCA 2017) and, with collaborator Piaera Lauritz, *Colour Correction* (Melbourne Fringe 2018) and *Self Repair* (Melbourne Fringe 2017). Rhys is a lawyer, was a creative fellow at the State Library of Victoria for 2022, and a dance writer for Limelight and Dance Australia. Visit www.rhysjryan.com for more.

Anika De Ruyter (Performer) is a dance artist based in Naarm (Melbourne). She completed a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Dance) at the Victorian College of the Arts, University of Melbourne, graduating in 2019. During her time at the VCA, de Ruyter worked with various choreographers including Prue Lang, Sue Healey, Alisdair Macindoe and Larissa McGowan. Whilst studying, de Ruyter performed in the National Gallery of Victoria's 'Leap into the Modern' exhibition, in a remount of Gertrude Bodenwieser's *Demon Machine* by Dr Carol Brown. Upon graduation, de Ruyter was awarded the Orloff Family Charitable Trust Scholarship in Dance for excellence.

Piaera Lauritz (Performer) is a Naarm/Melbourne-based dancer, choreographer and internationally screened filmmaker. Recent performances include *Billy Soy: a silly boy* at Out of Bounds (Temperance Hall and Lucy Guerin Inc), *Bodylex* by Rhys Ryan, and *A Midnight Visit* by Broad Encounters. Piaera's dance films have been screened at festivals in 8 countries, with her 2019 work (*like a*) *Less Dense Brick* winning Best Film at Multiplié Dance Film Festival in Norway, and *Softer Terracotta* a 2020 semi-finalist at Dumbo Festival in New York. She has been supported by the Dr Phillip Law Travel Scholarship, City of Yarra, City of Port Phillip, Ian Potter Cultural Trust and

philanthropists Rosemary Forbes and Ian Hocking. Visit www.piaeralauritz.com.

Emma Riches (Performer) is a Naarm/Melbourne based artist working in experimental dance. Working as a performer, choreographer and teacher, she is interested in how these roles intersect and inform each other. Emma has presented short choreographic works at Temperance Hall, Dancehouse, The University of Melbourne, Melbourne Fringe Festival and LASALLE College of the Arts (Singapore). As a dancer, she has worked with Jo Lloyd, alice will caroline, Siobhan McKenna, Phillip Adams, Victoria Hunt and has performed small roles with Polito, Lucy Guerin Inc and BalletLab. Emma is a graduate of the Victorian College of the Arts (BFA Dance 2015) and a former artist in residence at Schoolhouse Studios. IG: [@emriches](https://www.instagram.com/emriches)

Robert Downie (Sound Designer) is a composer, producer and sound designer seeking to combine the memories of days past with visions of the future. He has written scores for numerous contemporary dance works, theatre shows, and short films, and has had music featured on TV shows. He is also an active member in the Melbourne music scene, with song-writing, mixing, mastering and production credits on over 40 records. Visit www.robertdownie.com.

John Collopy (Lighting Designer) is a lighting designer working across Melbourne, Sydney, Perth and Brisbane. His credits for dance include *Bodylex* (Rhys Ryan, Dancehouse 2021), *Dark Points* (Die Angle, Melbourne Fringe 2019) and *Inside* (Milly Cooper, Undercover Artist Festival Brisbane 2017); and for circus, *Sensory Decadence* (One Fell Swoop/Gasworks) and *Kilter* (One Fell Swoop/White Night). The bulk of John's design is for theatre, where his credits include various works for The Bloomshed (*The Nose*, *The Market is a Wind-Up Toy*, *Paradise Lost* and *Animal Farm*). His other most recent credits include *Slut* (The Burrow), *New Balance* (Before Shot/Theatre Works), *Thigh Gap* (La Mama), *WRATH* (KXT/Melbourne Fringe), *Rust* (Midsumma) and *Helping Hands* (A_tistic/La Mama).

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Bodylex is a 45 minute dance-theatre work featuring 3 performers presented in a black-box theatre with a stage space of approximately 9x9 metres. The preferred seating configuration is traverse (two seating banks facing each other), however end-on seating (one seating bank) is possible. The performers begin moving with sound before the audience enters the theatre. Once the theatre doors close, the first 15 minutes are performed in total blackout using light only from a prop. There is one segment of the work that features a voiceover in English. There is no audience participation. The target audience is one interested in dance, law, politics and/or contemporary art.

Touring Party

Rhys Ryan (Melbourne)
Anika De Ruyter (Melbourne)
Piaera Lauritz (Melbourne/Paris)
Emma Riches (Melbourne)
John Collopy (Melbourne) – Tech Operator

Staging

- Minimum stage dimensions: 9x9 metres
- Height clearance: 4 metres
- Black Tarkett flooring over sprung or wooden floor
- Traverse seating / two seating banks in opposition (alternatively, can present end-on / single seating bank)
- Black curtains or walls on sides (and rear of stage if end-on seating configuration)
- Wings / side stage space not required
- Total blackout required
- Props supplied by artist: 5m thin timber plank; SM58 microphone and 20m XLR cable (prop only – not connected to sound system); blindfold

Lighting

- 3x3 grid of top light wash gelled in LEE 200
- 4 x high sidelights (approx. 2.5m off floor) gelled in LEE 200
- 4 x LED pars as floor sidelight (or as booms)
- General cool front wash

Audio-Visual

- 4.1 surround sound (preferred)
- Sub-woofer
- QLab file supplied by artist
- Original soundtrack (no licensing required)

Special FX

- Hazer

Consumables

- 3 x 9v batteries per show
- Black electrical tape (as needed)
- Hazer refill liquid (as needed)