

DANCEHOUSE D/

PERFORMED IN-SEASON 2022

Production Information & Specifications



Image by Gregory Lorenzutti

SAD EYES

By Amelia Jean O'Leary

Thu 27 — Sat 29 March 2025

Sylvia Staehli Theatre

<https://www.dancehouse.com.au/whats-on/sad-eyes/>

Disassembling colonial narratives, one gesture at a time. SAD EYES reveals the choices we must make to transform the worlds we live in.

ABOUT THE WORK

— *What if we rebuild the engine?*

What are your politics? What do you value? How can we shift the fantasy to reality? What if this work becomes the world we choose to live in?

This new First Nations-led work leans into dual perspectives of youthful and cultural functionality of femininity in society.

Through dance and storytelling, *SAD EYES* draws to the surface the complicated intersections of politics, identity and environmental concern to ultimately reframe a conversation on choice and action.

Within an “Australian” context, Amelia Jean O’Leary disassembles the structures around themselves in an effort to shift and destroy colonial narratives.

Credited Performers & Collaborators

Choreographer: Amelia Jean O’Leary

Dancers/collaborators: Jiawen Feng, Keia McGrady, Katherine Lanterna, Sam Osborn & Amelia Jean O’Leary

Sound Design: Amelia Jean O’Leary

Set Design: Savanna Wegman

Costume Design: Maya Anderson

Lighting Design: Giovanna Yate Gonzalez

Stage and Production Manager: Georgina Bright

Documentation

SAD EYES trailer:

<https://vimeo.com/1072735570>

Full Archive:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1NFB7qdVYHre2vvMUfWKLXqdrF09XHB19/view?usp=drivesdk>

Images:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/18LATrBmv54_X4PSTPFMZrVvyKWWAtr71?usp=sharing

ARTIST/ PRODUCER CONTACT

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<https://www.instagram.com/ameliaa.jeann/>

Vimeo:

<https://vimeo.com/user122241230?fl=pp&fe=sh>

Assets

Gregory Lorenzutti

Acknowledgements

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Warnings

SAD EYES by Amelia Jean O'Leary contains haze, loud sounds and smoking herbal cigarettes

Bios

Amelia Jean O'Leary is a proud queer First Nations Gamilaroi & Wadawurrung Yinarr multidisciplinary dance artist, choreographer, storyteller, and director based on Gadigal Land. Her work weaves movement, film, sound, and design to honour kinship, memory, and Country through bold, truth-centered storytelling. Amelia's growing body of work — including *Ngambaa*, *STAUNCH BASF*, *A Certain Mumble* and *Sad Eyes* — reflects a practice grounded in cultural truth-telling, collaboration, and care. She is prolific, rapidly emerging across national and international circuits, creating transformative performance experiences that celebrate resilience, sisterhood, and the power of embodied stories.

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

SAD EYES is a bold, First Nations–led dance/theatre work exploring colonial legacy, identity, environmental concern, femininity, and personal agency. Through movement, storytelling, and installation, the work asks: What if we rebuild the engine?—inviting audiences to reflect on their politics, values, and the worlds we choose to imagine.

The 50-minute performance unfolds as a continuous, atmospheric experience, designed for indoor venues with controlled lighting, haze, immersive sound, and suspended set elements. Though non-participatory, the work creates an intimate and confrontational viewing environment, suited to audiences aged 15+.

Ideal for contemporary dance, Indigenous arts, queer and feminist programming, and socially engaged festivals, *SAD EYES* resonates across diverse communities. Presenters should note the use of haze, herbal-cigarette smoke, and occasional elemental materials, plus the need for safe load-in/out and culturally sensitive framing.

Touring Party

Lead Artist: Amelia Jean O’Leary (Sydney, Australia)

Performers: Jiawen Feng, Keia McGrady, Katherine Lanterna, Sam Osborn (Melbourne, Australia)

Stage & production manager: Georgina Bright (Melbourne, Australia)

Staging

Traverse stage layout

black tarkett to be provided by venue

3x shell pools dimensions (945mm W, 210mm H, 1100mm D)

- Rigged with fishing line at 3 different heights

2x shell pools on the ground (unfixed)

- one filled with water (+ charcoal)
- one filled with dirt

white fabric and plastic draped out of shells (plastic to be replaced with fabric/biodegradable option)

white vanity + stool (430mm H, 300mm diameter)

dimensions of vanity (1450mm H, 400mm W, 750mm L)

4 panel screen divider

In-depth staging information:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1H3FiYK3wweJKorgsHeuXDSlptSAGmzb/view?usp=sharing>

Lighting

Needs a **full blackout-capable indoor venue** with standard dance lighting (fresnels, profiles, LEDs).

Requires **strong side-lighting** for traverse staging (extra profiles or booms may be needed).

Needs **high-output LED wash fixtures** to light suspended set elements.

One **moving-head profile** (or equivalent) preferred for spotting and beam effects.

Haze machine required (venue to supply).

Rig must allow for clear overhead and diagonal lighting angles.

In-depth lighting requirements:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/14XvMUHZu4Lfw6iqrCVaf4MOmTa63qrZh/view?usp=sharing>

Audio-Visual

Full-range PA system suitable for contemporary dance/theatre

Mixing desk with **2–4 channels**

QLab or equivalent playback system

Special FX

Haze machine + fluid (presenter to supply)

Safe rigging points for suspended set elements

Access to water supply for filling ground shell pool

Consumables

Performance Consumables

- Herbal cigarettes
- Activated charcoal
- Dirt / coconut soil (2 × packs)
- Water (for shell pool)

- Vermicelli noodles (dyed black)
- Black food dye
- Chewing gum

Technical Consumables

- Haze fluid (for venue-supplied haze machine)
- Gaffer tape / spike tape
- Cleaning materials for post-show reset (as needed)

Presenter Provides

- Indoor venue with blackout + black Tarkett
- Minimum space: **8m × 6m × 4m**
- Traverse seating + safe rigging points
- PA system, mixer, **QLab**, haze machine
- Ability to isolate smoke detectors
- Access to water + venue tech support
- Detailed Presenter Guide:
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1pNoGz1olmG9d6BCjMA1i-mElvMh7QeqY/view?usp=sharing>

Artist Provides ...

- All set pieces (shell pools, vanity, stool, screen divider)
- All props and consumables (herbal cigarettes, charcoal, soil, noodles, etc.)
- All costumes and practical lighting for the vanity
- Playback files and sound design
- Full choreography, performance, and stage management team
- Rigging materials for suspended shells (excluding venue rigging points)
- Detailed Artist Guide:
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1x10niUkxzHBhLP-fgti0m3g1OYrVrZVi/view?usp=sharing>

FULL TECH RIDER:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1AHhy-aK6cWkK3yJH5OknwBq9GgPCf_ta/view?usp=sharing