

# DANCEHOUSE D/

PERFORMED IN-SEASON 2022

Production Information & Specifications



Image by Trudi Treble

## ***Pictures & Ghosts***

By Arabella Frahn-Starkie

Dancehouse, 8-10th September 2022

<https://www.dancehouse.com.au/whats-on/pictures-and-ghosts-arabella-frahn-starkie/>

Platform Arts, 6-7th October 2022

<https://platformarts.org.au/events/pictures-and-ghosts>

**Pictures & Ghosts** gathers the recollections and traces of a dance. From stark photographic memory to a distant sense of nostalgia.

# ABOUT THE WORK

Pictures & Ghosts gathers the recollections and traces of a dance. From stark photographic memory to a distant sense of nostalgia, performer Arabella Frahn-Starkie draws upon the relationship between dance, and the means of documenting and archiving performance through video, photography, and notation.

The documentation floods across multiple screens creating silhouettes and visual obstructions, layering the use of analog and digital technology. Arabella's marking, blurring and overwriting of the documentation, works to undercut the accuracy and solidity of the documentation, giving her tactile control of images of herself as she reasserts authorship over her visual reproduction.

In Pictures & Ghosts, Arabella invites audiences into her process of retracing a dance that may otherwise have sunk into her bodily memory, never to be seen again. The performance is a contemplation on the possibilities and pitfalls of archiving dance, and for Arabella, it is a reminder that no time spent dancing is inconsequential.

---

## *Credited Performers & Collaborators*

Arabella Frahn-Starkie, Performer and Choreographer  
Trudi Treble, Photographer  
Meg Duncan, Director  
Bonita Carzino, Cinematographer  
Robert Downie, Composer  
Giovanna Yate Gonzalez, Lighting Designer

## *Documentation*

Full Length Version:  
<https://vimeo.com/763090779>  
Password: pictures&ghosts

**ARABELLA FRAHN-STARKIE**  
**+61450781536**  
**a.frahnstarkie@gmail.com**  
**[www.arabellafrahnstarkie.com](http://www.arabellafrahnstarkie.com)**  
**Instagram: @bellaramallama**  
**<https://vimeo.com/arabellaarabellaarabella>**

## *Acknowledgements*

Pictures & Ghosts was supported by Dancehouse and Platform Arts for presentation. The development for the work was supported by Platform Arts and the Victorian College of the Arts.

# BIOS

**Arabella Frahn-Starkie** is a dance artist and researcher. She is passionate that the skills of dancing and choreographic thinking can be useful in just about any situation. 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. As a dancer she has worked with an array of incredible choreographers, visual artists, and researchers including Rebecca Jensen, Jo Lloyd, Siobhan McKenna, Sandra Parker, David Rosetzky, Dr Katie Lee, and Dr Petra Gemeinboeck. 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.

**Trudi Treble** is a photographer based in Naarm. Her interests involve fashion, art, documentary and travel, and she aims to combine the four elements in a unique and innovative way in her work, particularly centring around the human form. Past group exhibitions include Australian Bushfire Appeal Print Sale (Online, 2020), Hypercopy (Albert St Gallery, 2019), Interaction/Intervention (RMIT, 2018) and Ballarat International Foto Biennale (Ballarat Town, 2017). Trudi and Arabella have an ongoing working relationship, having worked together on multiple cross-disciplinary projects over the past four years. Trudi completed her Bachelor of Photography at the University of Westminster in 2020.

**Meg Duncan** is a filmmaker from Narrm (Melbourne, Australia). Often foregrounding queer stories and feminist issues, Meg establishes rich landscape of desire, sending her characters' experiences across the skin of the audience. Meg has directed short films, music videos and experimental installation works. In 2020, Meg was supported by the Harry Hains Memorial Fund to produce her short film script Haze which was completed in 2021 and debuted at Mardi Gras Film Festival in 2022. Her previous short Lavender (2018) has screened around the world in festivals such as the Berlin Female Filmmakers Festival, where she was awarded the Unique Voice Award, and the Chicago Feminist Film Festival. Meg recently completed a BA of Fine Arts (Film and Television. Hons) at the Victorian College of the Arts.

**Robert Downie** is a composer, producer, and sound designer seeking to combine the memories of days past with visions of the future. Along with writing scores for contemporary dance works, theatre shows, and short films, he is also an active member in the Melbourne music scene with song-writing, mixing, mastering and production credits on over 50 records.

# TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Pictures & Ghosts is a 50-minute solo contemporary dance work. The work is made for a theatre space with audiences seated in a seating bank, front on, for the duration of the piece. The work incorporates a combination of analogue and digital projection and sound sources. The technology used includes an overhead projector, a cinema projector, a tape machine, a guitar amp, and a theatre PA system.

Pictures & Ghosts appeals to a broad audience as it seamlessly incorporates filmic and photographic elements, making it cross-disciplinary in nature. The work is highly visually driven and creates a considered and contemplative atmosphere that gives time and space for audiences to foster an understanding or even an emotional connection to the abstract movement and phrase work by Arabella Frahn-Starkie. This attention to pace and care for detail in the movement is the main objective of the work. The work has shown to please both new and seasoned dance audiences in previous performances of the work.

## **Touring Party**

Arabella Frahn-Starkie, Melbourne. (Choreographer/Performer)

Robert Downie, Melbourne. (Composer/Tech)

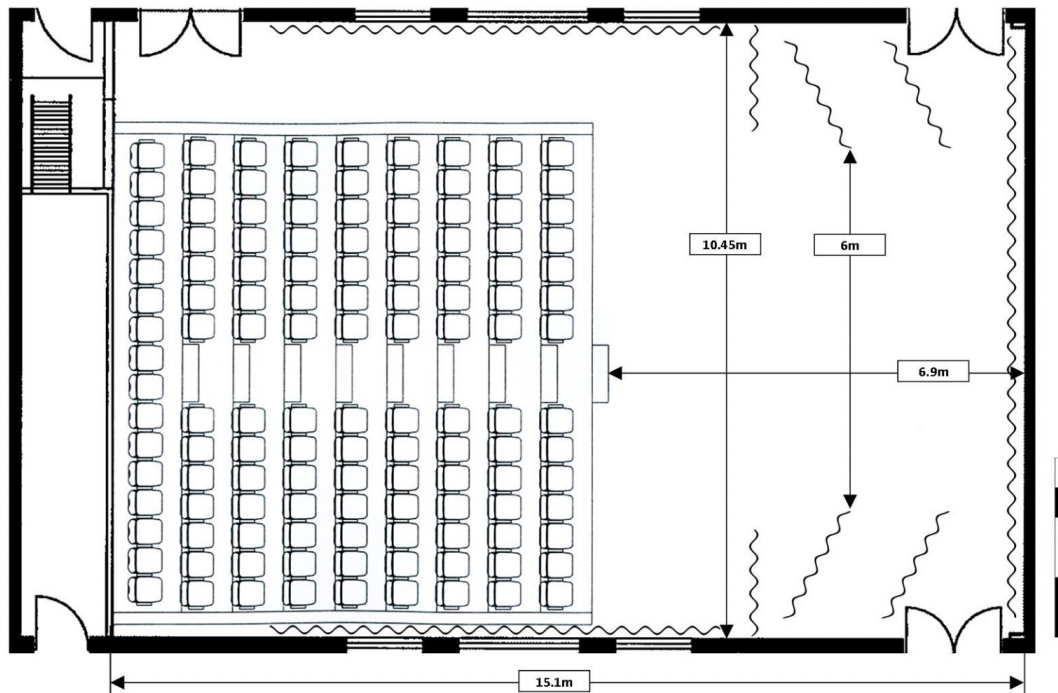
## **Staging**

The work can be flexible to fit the stage dimensions for any Blackbox theatre. The floorplan shared on the following page is just an indication of ideal stage dimensions.

The flooring for the work is flexible, it can either be performed on floorboard or on tarket. No curtains are necessary. If the theatre has curtains permanently installed, they can be utilized.

The work incorporates a large theatre flat that ideally can be maneuvered by a single person. The theatre flat made originally for the piece is 2mx2m, however, this size is also flexible should it not be possible to provide one of that size.

There is a publication '*On Pictures & Ghosts*' made alongside the work featuring written pieces, poetry, and photography surrounding the making of the work. This can be made available for purchase pre or post show. We also have the original soundtrack recorded onto cassette tapes that can also be made available for purchase.



## Lighting Requirements (LX Plan attached)

*Pictures & Ghosts uses a basic rig with some specials.*

**3x Frontlight:** Even wash light reaching edges of the stage / Open white

**1/2x Backlight:** Even wash light filling the space / Open white

**Highsides:** 3 lights in each side, even in the space overlapping mostly in the middle / L201

**Rig Specials:** All 4 profiles to be wide and sharp. Arabella Frahn-Starkie will be in the space to focus.

**Floor lights:** H stands

- 2 Par 64 with L152 focus to the floor projector
- 1 Profile focuses on the cyclorama, sharp edge and shape as a square.

**Lighting Fixtures** \*Please, venue to provide similar equipment.

2\* Par 64

8\* Selecon Fresnel (Better 9 to have 3 each bar)

8\* Selecon PC

2\* Selecon Acclaim ZoomSpot 18-34deg

3\* Selecon Acclaim ZoomSpot 22-44deg

(Profiles can be the same beam angle)

## **Accessories**

- \*All fixtures with barndoors
- \*Enough Lee 201

## **Control**

1\* Lighting Console (preferable ETC/ Designer has ETCNomad in case)  
Depending on the venue stock, the lighting designer might edit the lighting plan to improve the rig. This is just a basic option considering DANCEHOUSE's stock and venue.

**Please contact Lighting designer for any additional information or concerns.**

Giovanna Yate Gonzalez  
Giovanna.yate@gmail.com  
0452487338

## **Vision/ Projection Requirements**

Pictures & Ghosts requires a projector, preferably rigged, to project onto a white cyclorama covering the full upstage wall of the performance space.

Due to the importance of the projection on the piece, the brightness will be important as well as the quality in the image.

## **Special FX-**

Pictures & Ghosts does not contain any special effects. There are no haze/smoke or flashing lights in the show. Just at one LX cue, there is a sudden lighting change as snap.

If you have any requirements, please communicate with choreographer Arabella Frahn-Starkie.

## **Presenter Provides**

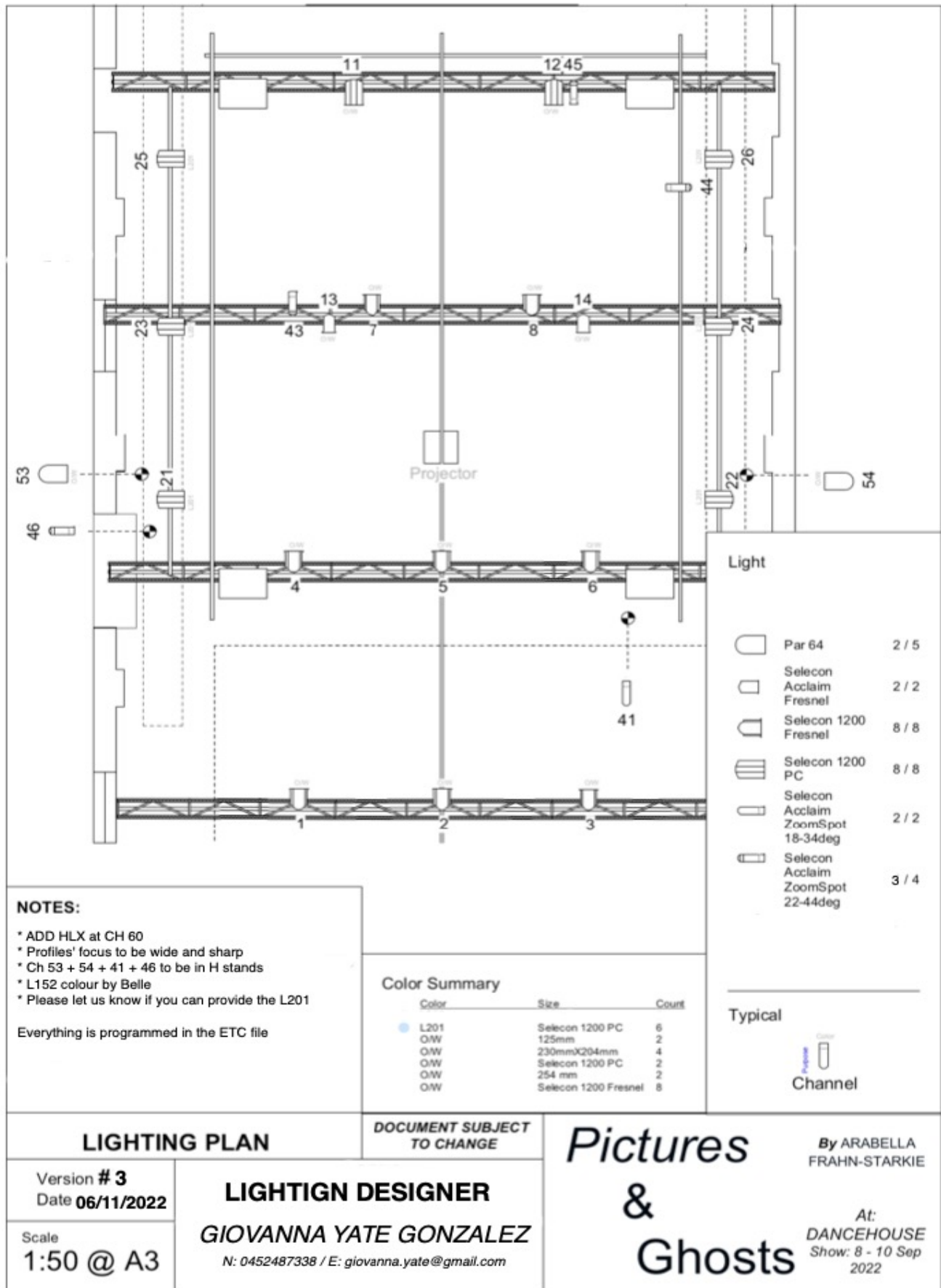
- Projector
- Theatre Flat
- Bump in/Lighting Plot Technician
- Theatre PA System

## **Artist Provides**

- Overhead projector (separate from rigged projector)
- All other props affiliated with the performance
- Tape machine/small amp
- Show technician



# Lighting Plan



## Documentation Images of Pictures & Ghosts



*Image by Gregory Lorenzutti*



*Image by Michaela Ottone*





*Image by Michaela Ottone*



*Image by Michaela Ottone*



*Image by Michaela Ottone*

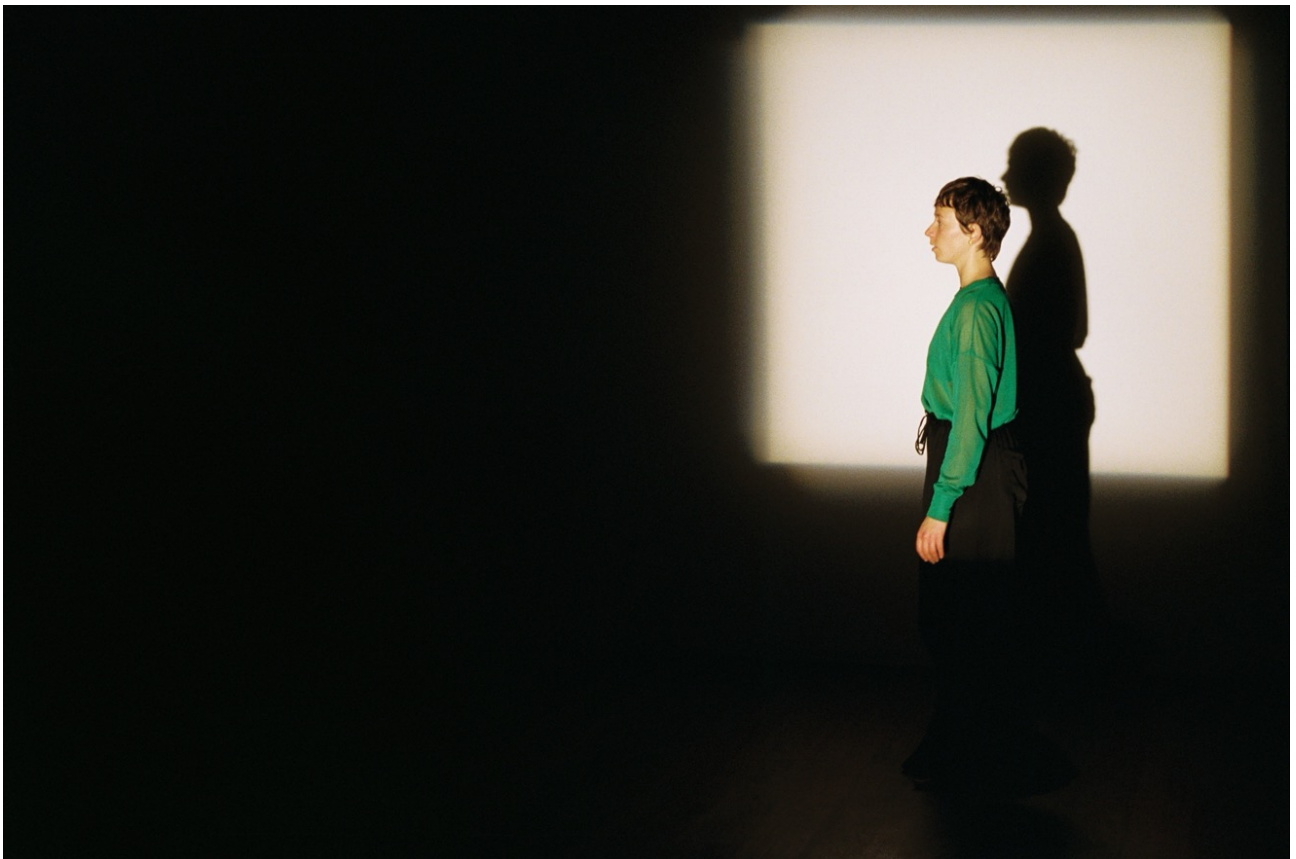


*Image by Ben Hoffman*





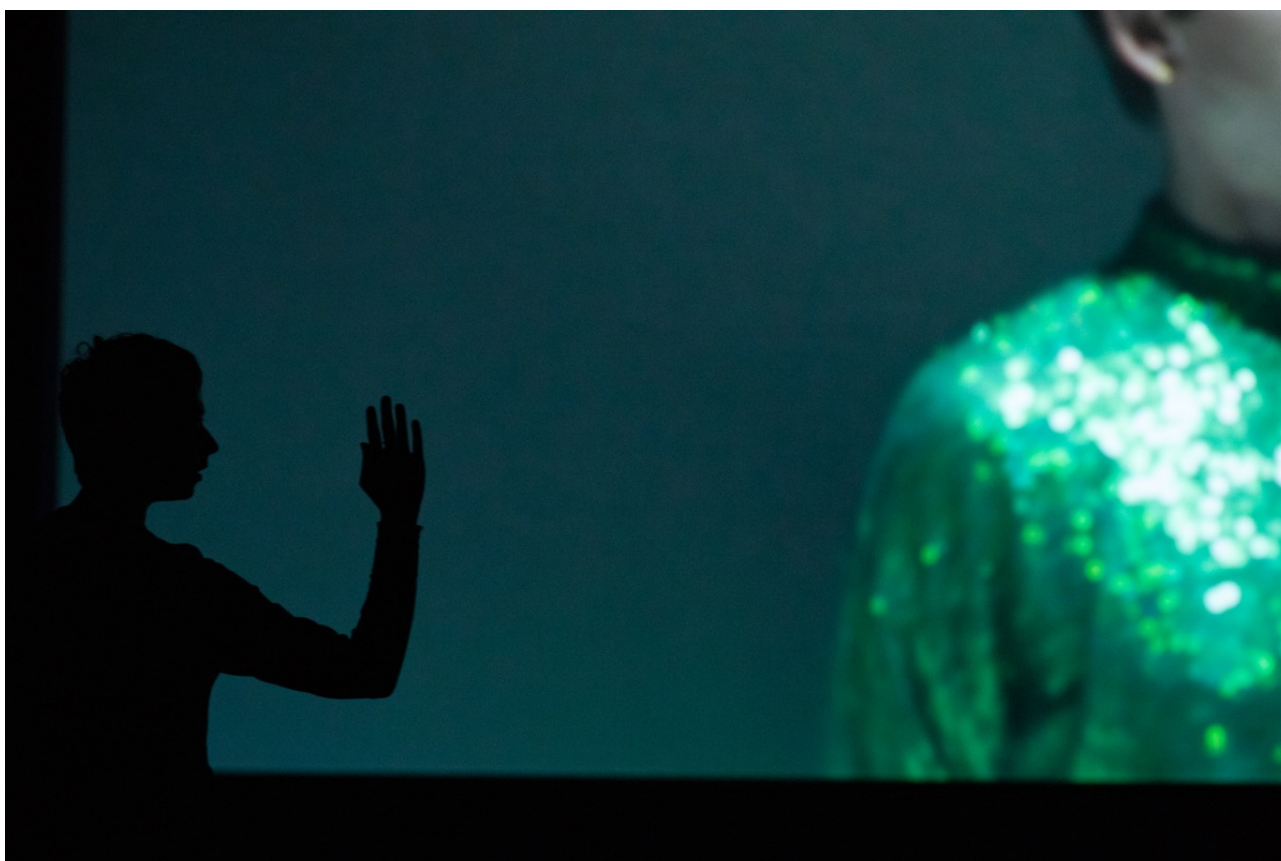
*Image by Michaela Ottone*



*Image by Michaela Ottone*



*Image by Michaela Ottone*



*Image by Ben Hoffman*





*Image by Takeshi Kondo*



*Image by Michaela Ottone*





*Image by Meg Duncan & Bonita Carzino*



*Image by Ben Hoffman*