

THE SOLOS



PD: A performer (Trevor Dunn) stands in a dark studio. His hands gesture up towards a window, where the sunlight streams in. There is a faint outline of the trees outside.

Dancehouse and Weave Movement Theatre present, as a part of the 2024 Melbourne Fringe Festival.

DANCEHOUSE D/

MELBOURNE
FRINGE
FESTIVAL

CREATIVE VICTORIA

THE SOLOS

Developed in collaboration with a team of established industry leaders, six members of the Weave Movement Theatre ensemble perform their first-ever stand-alone dance explorations for 2024 Melbourne Fringe Festival audiences. 27 years in the making, “**The Solos**” offers Melbourne art lovers a rare opportunity to experience the remarkable artists behind one of Naarm’s most cherished performance groups in their premiere solo performances.

Building from their acclaimed 2023 production “**Sense of Place**”, these powerful solo works stem from the individual stories spotlighted during that season. Performers **Anthony Riddell, David Baker, Emma Norton, Uncle Greg, Janice Florence** and **Trevor Dunn** will come together in exciting partnerships with highly respected artists **David Woods, Leesa Nash, Michelle Heaven, Milly Cooper, Peter Fraser, Dale Gorfinkel, Zya Kane**, and **TAN Kang Wei** to hone their craft as soloists, and bring six unique works to the stage.

“These are original pieces from people whose stories are universal, and stem from diverse minds, bodies, and experiences”, explains Weave Movement Theatre Artistic Director **Janice Florence**. “They do not focus on disability but instead spotlight the passions, quirks, memory, and heart of this group of solo artists with wild imagination, a sense of the absurd, and poetry of the ordinary.”

Launching in 1997, Weave Movement Theatre are a bold, diverse dance/theatre company made up of disabled and non-disabled performing artists. Committed to providing high level training opportunities and powerful performances, they aim to challenge conventions and subvert audiences’ expectations, paving the way for inclusive practices to become the norm. Making the stage an area for dynamic and exploratory practice - a space to challenge power and celebrate movement.

Dates

Wed 2 - Sat 5 October 2024
6pm - 7pm (approx. 60 mins)

Wed 2nd & Fri 4th Oct

Anthony Riddell
David Baker
Janice Florence

Thu 3rd & Sat 5th Oct

Uncle Greg - Installation
Emma Norton
Trevor Dunn

Auslan Interpreted performance
Thu 3rd & Fri 4th Oct

Venue

150 Princes Street, North Carlton VIC 3054

[Dancehouse Site](#)

*Wheelchair Accessible & toilets are available on site

Booking

[Booking Site Humanitix](#)

03 9347 2860

Ticket price

Fan \$40

Full \$30

Concession \$25

Members/Locals \$20

MobTix \$20

Companion Card Free

Warnings for the performances on Thu 3rd & Sat 5th Oct

#1 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people should be warned that the first performance contains the image, voice and name of a First Nations Australian who has died.

#2 The third performance contains depictions of sensitive content relating to World War II.

CREDITS

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Janice Florence

CO-CREATORS & PERFORMERS

Anthony Riddell

David Baker

Emma Norton

Janice Florence

Trevor Dunn

Uncle Greg

MENTORS & ARTISTIC DIRECTIONS

David Woods

Leesa Nash

Michelle Heaven

Milly Cooper & Na'im Fine Fine

Peter Fraser & Dale Gorfinkel

Zya Kane & TAN Kang Wei

CREATIVE TEAM

Media design & logistics: TAN Kang Wei

Lighting design: Emma Lockhart-Wilson (development) & Kris Chainey (Premiere)

PRODUCTION TEAM

Sound edit & operation Na'im Fine Fine

Stage Manager Swann Biguet

Disability & Production support Tania Perez

Production Manager Taka Takiguchi (滝口貴)

MARKETING

Publicist: Sassy Red PR (Eleanor Howlett)

Photographer Paul Dunn

Video documentation and edit TAN Kang Wei

Web & Graphic Design Taka Takiguchi

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Creative Victoria

Dancehouse

Auspicious Arts Projects

SPECIAL THANKS

Cobie Orger (Media design for development)

Leanne Bird

Swann Biguet and Rebecca Jensen for supporting mentors

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

“**The Solos**” project has been an ambitious undertaking for Weave artistically and logistically. As well as the exciting work by Weave artists and their Mentors, I must give huge thanks to everyone behind the scenes who has helped to pull the many elements together. It has been a momentous year full of possibility for Weave and its artists and also a year informed by times of sadness and loss.

The two year Projects grant from Creative Victoria has enabled us to build these performances from the development and staging of “**Sense of Place**” in 2023, to continue on to create these collaborations between each performer and the incredible artists they have chosen as Mentors. It has enabled creative growth for Weave and its artists and an unprecedented opportunity to make their own work.

The show includes stunning visual theatre, using digital projection, film and striking physical imagery. It will be an absorbing, funny, sad, amazing, surprising, entertaining, mind opening show. Huge thanks to the backstage team who have carried out the complex logistics needed to make this show happen.

Thanks to Dancehouse for their generous support, as ever and to Creative Victoria for allowing us time and space to sustain this work.

We hope to see you there.

Janice Florence
Artistic Director
Weave Movement Theatre
October 2024

“Two arms moving independently” by **Antony Riddell**

Antony navigates a world where he discovers teeth marks on the sun and protozoa that could be algae or animal. He responds with body, soul, and curiosity; with shape-shifting movements that expand and implode, lines that morph into images, and utterances that travel all over the place.

Artistic credits

Dance, drawings, utterances: **Antony Riddell**

Projected story and graphics from Antony’s “Human Storage Facility and Recapitation”

Sound production: video projection and editing: **Dale Gorfinkel**

Mentor & Director: **Peter Fraser**

Special thanks: **TAN Kang Wei, Cobie Orger and Chelsea Byrne**

About the Artists

Antony Riddell is a performer, poet, novelist and visual artist. Antony has performed with Weave Movement Theatre since 2000. He was involved in the punk and fringe music industry in Sydney and Melbourne playing with bands such as Nada and Volvox and performs regularly at spoken word nights across Melbourne. Antony is a trained visual artist from the Sydney College of the Arts. He exhibited a solo exhibition at Blindside Gallery in 2015 called Fingerprints on the Surface of the Brain, collaborating with Christopher LG Hill and Liquid Architecture to present a performance program for the exhibition. Antony is a prolific writer and has self-published over 15 books. In 2018 he was awarded the Writeability Fellowship through Writers Victoria to develop his manuscript *The Sun Is Not Fun*. In 2019 he was highly commended for Writers Victoria’s Publishability Fellowship. Antony’s absurdist characters from his writing are often used as the basis for scripts or dialogue for Weave’s performances.

Peter Fraser has 30 years experience in site-specific performance, dance and improvisation and music/installation collaborations. He enjoys trying to ‘unfeel’ the split between body and environment. He has worked with Tess DeQuincey Ensemble, Rosalind Crisp, BORDERS (a 3-year project with Murray River artists) and has ongoing connections with Sounds Like Movement (duo with Dale Gorfinkel), About Now (movement research group) and Environmental Performance Authority (co-founder). He’s been friends with Antony for yonks.

Dale Gorfinkel is a musician, artist and facilitator. He has been a fan of Antony’s music for decades. Dale is the founder of Out Hear, providing inclusive sound-making and recording services, especially to those who experience disability and other barriers to access. He works with individuals as well as in partnership with other organisations including Arts Access Victoria, Yooralla, Arts Project Australia, Merri-bek Council, and Austin Hospital. (outhear.com)

“Shifting Ritual” by David Baker

Everyone has a ritual where we do things day by day like getting out of bed, going to work, home. For some of us there might be situations that have changed into the unknown. In ways that no one expects. Sometimes people go on to other adventures... This piece explores those notions - shifting from natural into abstract ways of being and moving - as shown through AV, sound, and stylised movement.

David has worked with Milly on a number of projects and is thrilled to be working with her on this mentorship where they have continued to explore their devising process. Doing a one person show has always been a dream of David's and he is living it. David would like to thank Weave and Milly for making all this possible.

Artistic Credits

Performer & Poetry on AV: **David Baker**

Mentor & Director: **Milly Cooper**

Projection design support: **Kang Wei TAN**

Music composition: **Na'im Fine Fine**

About the Artists

David Baker completed Ignition theatre Training (2005, NMIT), VCAL Arts and Multimedia (2007, Swinburne TAFE) followed by a Diploma of Theatre Arts (2009, Swinburne TAFE). David performs as a still walker and balloon artist at various events across Melbourne. In 2011 David completed a two year Internship at Red Stitch Actors Theatre, The Laramie Project ASM when this production was remounted at the Fairfax Studio, Melbourne Arts Centre in 2012. David is a founding member of Rollercoaster Theatre. In 2013 he was a member of the cast of “Casa Del Crip,” a pilot sit com about people with disabilities. He was selected for a Professional Development opportunity at the Unlimited UK Arts Festival in London in 2012 where David learned techniques for body mapping, which he shared in masterclasses in Melbourne in 2012/13. In 2016 David had performed with Wielding Theatre Inside 2016, Curveball 2020 this show was later remounted in 2022 when it was Performed at the La Mama Courthouse both shows were Directed by Milly Cooper. David is employed as an Usher at The Melbourne Arts Centre. David joined Weave in 2015 has been involved in many of there projects and showings.

Milly Cooper is a Melbourne-based theatre director, practitioner and workshop facilitator with a background in physical and text-based theatre, music, dance and clowning. They regularly work alongside people with disabilities, young people, and the elderly as both an independent artist and under ‘Wielding Theatre’ company. She is a graduate of the Masters of Directing for Performance at the Victorian College of the Arts. She completed an Honours degree at Monash University that investigated inclusive theatre-making methodologies and devising processes with disabled and non-disabled artists. In 2023 Wielding Theatre’s Curveball was nominated for the Green Room Award for ‘Best Set and Costume Design’. Since 2023 Milly has been Artistic Director of the City of Voices, a community theatre group that has been running in South Melbourne for over 30 years. In 2024 Milly presented An Organised Odyssey (Testing Grounds) and will be traveling to Tokyo to co-facilitate a 6 week long international performance lab with Gekidan Kaitaisha.

“A pleasant haunting” by **Janice Florence**

Michelle and I have developed this version of a personal story that grew from my four generations Carlton-dweller family story in “**Sense of Place**” in 2023, but this time focusing on larger than life childhood characters in old migrant, working class Carlton involved in my then growing instinctive, unknowing pull toward the arts. It is 'Faction' mainly fact with a bit of fiction, using movement, visual image, music and a phantom story-teller.

Many thanks to Michelle Heaven for a great collaboration and also to Bec Jensen stepping in towards the end when Michelle had many dance demands.

Artistic Credits

Performer: **Janice Florence**

Mentor & Director: **Michelle Heaven**

Supporting Mentor: **Rebecca Jensen**

About the Artists

Janice Florence is the Artistic Director and Co-Founder of Weave Movement Theatre. She trained in dance in Australia and the USA. For 10 years, she was a performer, teacher and researcher with State of Flux, one of the first Australian companies to include a dancer with a disability. With Weave she has produced 20 seasons and sometimes directed shows for the company. She often performs with the company. She has curated respected guest artists to collaborate with Weave. Janice has had residencies with Karen Nelson, exponent of ‘diverse dance’ and Joan Skinner in the USA and with Blue-Eyed Soul, Touchdown and CanDoCo in the UK. Janice is the recipient of the inaugural 2019 Disability Arts Award for an Established Artist from the Australia Council for the Arts. Janice is a committed advocate for access in the Arts.

Michelle Heaven is a choreographer, performer, and collaborator. Creating and dancing alongside others enriches her life. Her performance career spans working nationally and internationally with artists and companies such as Gideon Obarzanek (Chunky Move), Lucy Guerin, Helen Herbertson, Leigh Warren, Michael Kantor, Phillip Adams (Balletlab), Sandra Parker, Sue Healey, Polyglot Theatre, Black Hole Theatre, Victorian Opera, Ben Cobham (Bluebottle) and Walter Dunderville (N.Y.a). Her independent work has been presented at Melbourne Festival, Beijing Dance Festival, Dance Massive, The Substation and Castlemaine State Festival. Michelle is a Helpmann Award nominee, multiple Australian Dance Award nominee and recipient of several Victorian Green Room Awards. Michelle is also a qualified Child PlayTherapist.

“I don't feel pain when I'm painting or performing.” by **Uncle Greg**
(visual and audio art installation)

Warning: First Nations People are warned that this description includes the name of someone who has died.

A personal story of family and country lost and regained by a resilient, prolific First Nations Disabled artist, who made art for the joy of it.

“This is my sense of place. I am sharing with you where I feel the most like myself and stories that have been a part of my life.” - Uncle Greg

Artistic Credits

Performer (in the videos) & Painter: **Uncle Greg**

Mentor & Director: **Zya Kane**

Videographer & edit: **TAN Kang Wei**

About the Artists

Uncle Greg was a Yorta Yorta man, who was a visual artist and performer. He joined Weave in 2011 and had been involved in all Weave performances till June 2024. Uncle Greg was an accomplished artist who was awarded the Creative Victoria Award for Excellence at the Koorie Art Show in 2016. In 2017 Uncle Greg won Best Achievements in Arts (Visual) at the Funds in Court Inspire Awards, by the Supreme Court of Victoria. Uncle Greg has been involved in the promotion of the Bunjilaka Aboriginal Cultural Centre at Melbourne Museum and the Aboriginal Heritage Trust at Federation Square.

Zya Kane is passionate about the transformative power of theatre, Zya Kane is a seasoned Theatre Maker, Director, and Inclusive Arts Practitioner with over 25 years of international experience. Thriving on the intersection of contemporary performance, community engagement, and the transformative essence of play, her work focuses on crafting immersive, participatory experiences that transcend conventional boundaries. She is deeply committed to fostering collaboration, creating intimate moments, and exploring the complexities of the human experience through themes of absurdity, satire, playfulness, sensitivity, reflection, and intimacy. Zya's works reflect a journey marked by dedication to artistic inclusivity, collaboration, and the profound impact of multi-sensory engagement.

“In the forest with ocean in movements” by **Emma Norton**

Imagine you are asleep, floating in the ocean. You may wake up alone and feel lost. Reaching out with gentle hands, you may feel afraid. So, you hold your heart beat in your hands and remember where you come from and what you love.

“Music is like my heart breaking into pieces. I felt like the rose was inside my heart and I want to break inside.” - Emma Norton

Artistic Credits

Performer: **Emma Norton**

Mentor & Director **Leesa Nash**

About the Artists

Emma Norton is a dancer and emerging choreographer. She joined BoilOver Inc in 2008, with performances including The Boy Who Could Fly and All kinds of Fairytales. Emma starred in the short film, Skin Touching Sky, which toured The Other Film Festival and International Festival of Short Films, Oskia Bright, UK. In 2013, she was a street performer at Sunfest and created an improvised performance. Emma completed theatre studies at Melbourne Polytechnic's Ignition Theatre in 2014 and co-devised/performed in Strange Stories, operated the sound for Westside Circus' show Homebodies and performed in Rawcus' Flashmob at Federation Square. Emma was a key speaker at the Have a Say Conference and is a committee member of BoilOver Inc. Emma joined Weave in 2015.

Leesa Nash works across the arts, disability, education and outdoor health sectors. She advocates for inclusion by people of all learning styles and lived experience, and has presented on inclusive practice at industry events. In 2002, she initiated the inclusive youth theatre company, Family Dog Theatre FDT, directing performances 2002-2010 and Bow WOW! Festival 2007-2009. Leesa coordinated Melbourne Polytechnic's Ignition Theatre 2005-2018, directing shows 2005-2010. In 2015 she completed MIECAT's Postgraduate Diploma in Experiential and Creative Arts Practice and Forest Therapy in 2020. She currently facilitates sensory, somatic and creative nature-based, practices for connecting with ourselves and the wild world. Leesa performed with Weave 2001-2003.

“Untermensch” by Trevor Dunn

A person enters a room. Turns on the lights. Takes off hat, jacket and bag hanging them up on a coat stand. Looks behind a curtain. Looks out of a window. Dances. Takes off shoes and talks about their loves. Trims finger nails. Lies down and dreams. Dances on the floor. Speaks about their hates. Gets up and makes tea. Puts shoes on. Drinks tea while looking out window. Looks behind a curtain and sings a lullaby. Contemplates a military jacket. Recites Ozymandias by Shelley. Turns off lights. Exits.

Artistic Credits

Performer: **Trevor Dunn**

Mentor & Director: **David Woods**

About the Artist

Trevor Dunn graduated with a Bachelor of Dramatic Arts from the Victorian College of the Arts/Melbourne University in 1995. Trevor was a co-founder of Weave Movement Theatre, and has performed in all Weave productions since 1997. Trevor has taught drama and dance to young adults with disability at the Art Life program at Footscray Community Arts Centre and has worked alongside many well-known improvisation teachers such as Al Wunder and Nick Papas. Most recently Trevor performed in ‘A Normal Child’, directed by David Woods, performed at the Northcote Town Hall

David Woods | Director, Actor and Playwright and the Co-Artistic Director of Ridiculusmus theatre company. David trained at The Poor School and has a PhD in drama from the University of Kent. As an independent artist and with Ridiculusmus, Circus Oz, Rising Festival and Back to Back theatre he has made over 20 main stage works that have toured globally and been awarded the Ibsen Prize for theatre and the Golden Lion from Venice Biennale.