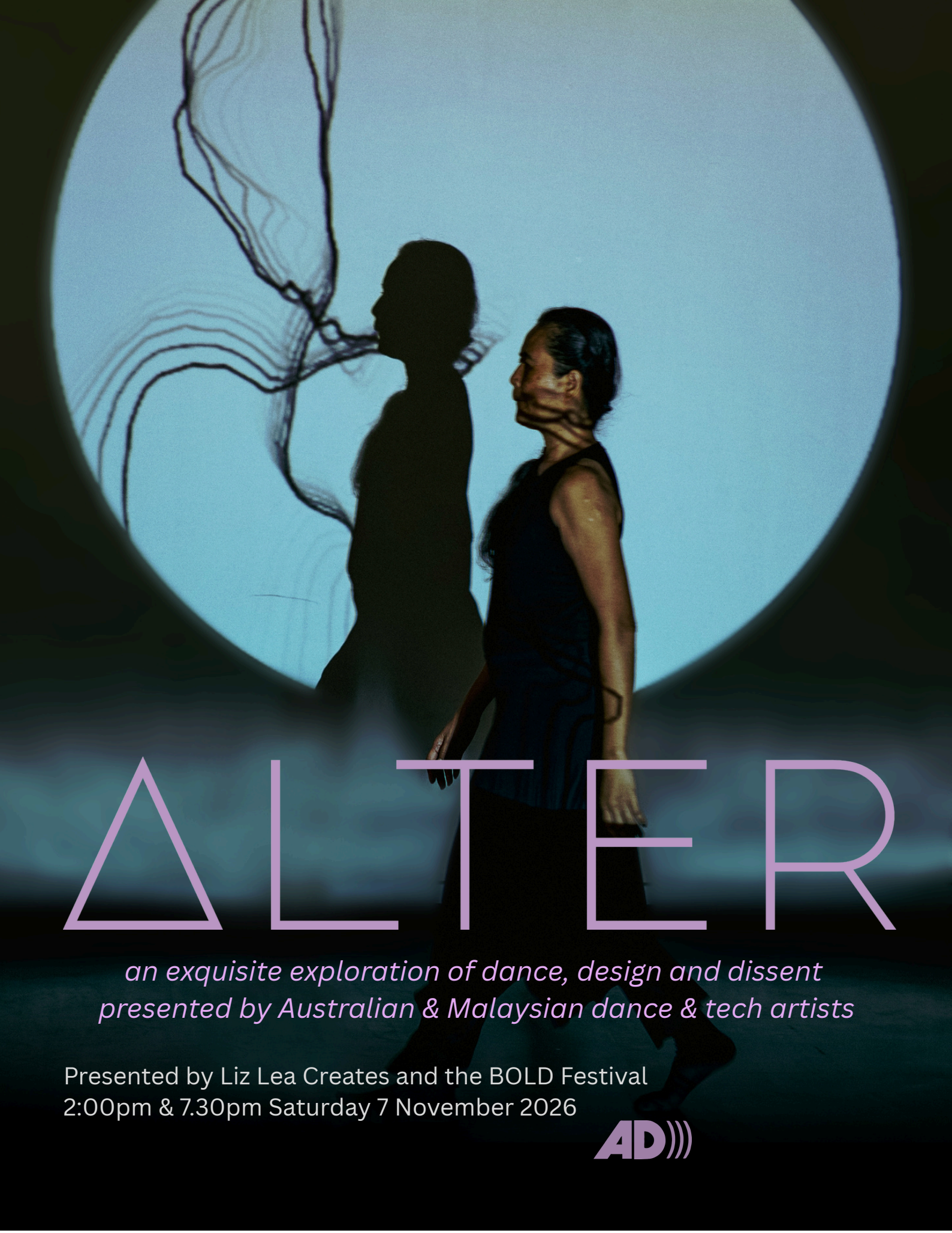


ALTER

an exquisite exploration of dance, design and dissent
presented by Australian & Malaysian dance & tech artists

Presented by Liz Lea Creates and the BOLD Festival
2:00pm & 7.30pm Saturday 7 November 2026

AD

Supported by ACT Government · CRAFT+ DESIGN CANBERRA FESTIVAL · Australian Government Creative Australia · BELCO ARTS · Supported by Ainslie and Gorman Arts Centres · Liz Lea Creates · MAITREE · STELLAR CHAMAELEON CO. · BOLD · Sidestage PRODUCTION SERVICES

ALTER

7th November

ALTER is a double bill of immersive dance and design exploring the interplay between body, identity and cross-cultural exchange between Australian and Malaysian artists.

a beautiful offering of ephemeral visual art, illustrating the power of dissent through real and alternate realities.

This double bill is a collaboration between Malaysian and Australian artists with a focus on the exploration of indentity through connection with new and responsive technology. Over a 3 years period the dancers and creative technologists have developed a collabotative language.

3 is a meditation on time: a monochromatic aesthetic driven by the impact of the minutiae of physical and emotional change. The dancers interact with live technology, choreographing and interacting with visuals and the projected environment.

Pause

Virtual View empowers people living with disability through new technology. In motion capture suits dancers animate 3D avatars creating a live surreal filmic portal shifting in perception and identity. The avatars in the film have been created by Katie and Yu En in residence in Penang and in this iteration their avatars have been filmed. In 2027 we will return to Penang and work with the Motion Capture suits and a present a series of live performances.

Directors: Liz Lea & Peta Khan
Choreography: Liz Lea and company
Performers:
3 - Luvenia Kalia, Aida Redza, Jareen Wee
Virtual View - Lim Yu En, Mia Rashid, Aida Redza, Katie Senior, Jareen Wee
Creative Technologists: Low Zi Xiang and Steve Voon
Lighting Design: Karen Norris
Composer and Musical Director: Kay Ansah
Technical Director: Roni Wilkinson
Sound Operator: Kyle Sheedy
Production Manager: Anni Doyle
Sidestage Production Services: Craig Dear

ALTER is presented by The BOLD Festival and Liz Lea Creates as part of the 2026 Craft + Design Festival, supported by ACT Government and Creative Australia. Rehearsal space par Arts Capital and Belco Arts

Liz Lea is a nationally and internationally recognised dance artist, choreographer and producer based in Australia. Over three decades she has toured her work internationally and been commissioned in India, UK, Europe, Australia, South Africa, Singapore, USA and Kuwait. Liz was the 2017 ACT Artist of the Year and received a 2017 Australian Dance Award. She directs two Festivals - DANscienCE where dance and science meet and BOLD, which celebrates the legacy of dance across all identities. Liz was Artistic Director of Canberra Dance Theatre from 2010-16 where she founded the GOLD Company, worked for Ausdance ACT from 2-16-2019 becoming Creative Director and a 2019 Asialink Resident with Maya Dance Theatre, Singapore. She has toured her one woman show RED internationally, most recently in India. Liz directs The Stellar Company, a non-for-profit arts organisation and recently launched the Chamaeleon Collective, Canberra's first inclusive dance company. The next generation of artists being invested in by the current generation of artists living with and without disability. Liz offers Audio Description services and has described for Sydney Dance Company, Sydney Opera House, Dan Daw Creates, Rebus Theatre and The Stellar Company. In October she leads a team to the Sydney Opera House in partnership with Sing Australia and presents the bOLD Festival in partnership with the Craft + Design Festival in November where her new company work ALTER will premier.

I am an artist committed to inclusiveness, working with dancers of all ages, abilities and ethnic groups and forever acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which my work is created and performed.

Peta Khan: XR director and creative producer is an XR director and creative producer passionate about developing new artistic work in collaboration with artists and communities that challenges stereotypes and shifts perceptions. Peta is the cofounder of Maitree (www.maitreehouse.com) and has more than 15 years experience producing multimedia works and overseeing teams of artists and technologists to create authentic and original outcomes. Peta's recent immersive projects include Cloudlines (2022) supported by the Australia Council for the Arts as a multi artform, networked VR performance work co created by Australian and Malaysian artists and Biotic X a VR performance exploring climate change migration.

Maitree (www.maitreehouse.com) is a digital studio with offices in Australia and Malaysia. We specialise in the codesign and creation of authentic digital content and thought provoking immersive reality experiences connecting people, places and communities. Our artistic work centres on exploring how we can utilise XR immersive storytelling using virtual, augmented and mixed realities to build inclusive and accessible storyspaces in the metaverse. In Malaysia, Maitree has founded the Cahaya XR (https://www.cahayaxr.com/) initiative with local artists. Cahaya XR provides a platform for original narratives and experiences from Malaysian and South East Asian communities to be created and shared using innovative XR storytelling. From virtual (VR) and augmented reality (AR), to mixed reality experiences and mobile storytelling, we believe immersive storytelling and its intersection between the arts, culture, local stories and technology can be used to hold space for underrepresented voices and shape the future of inclusive dialogue and experiences in the Metaverse. As a social impact organisation and in line with the UN sustainable development goals, Cahaya XR strives to use immersive media and storytelling as tools to address real world challenges and drive social impact. We collaborate with organisations and communities in SE Asia to produce immersive XR experiences sharing local stories. We also provide access to XR tools, mentorship and production support to artists, creators and communities so they can create and share their own narratives. In the future we aim to create access to funding and distribution pathways for creators from the SE Asian region, so we can start to see more SE Asian stories on the global stage and greater representation in the Metaverse.

Luvenia Kalia: Dance Artist and XR Arts and Cultural Producer: with over two decades of experience in dance and performance, Luvenia Kalia has had a fulfilling, independent career as a multidisciplinary artist. Some of Luvenia's recent works include the SKIN, Cloudlines, and Pencak Mirage, the latter two integrating XR and audio-visual elements into the performance. Luvenia is currently the Arts and Culture Producer at Maitree House, and is pursuing an IInternational Master's program in Dance Knowledge, Practice, and Heritage (Choreomundus), a program that investigates dance and other movement systems as intangible heritage. She has also been an active community-based arts facilitator with Arts-ED, a non-profit organisation that serves to provide innovative community-based arts and culture education in rural and urban communities. Luvenia holds a Diploma in Dance from Lasalle College of the Arts, Singapore and a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance with a concentration in Performance and Choreography from Slippery Rock University, USA. She currently manages the immersive arts and cultural work at Maitree. She also cofounded MAC - the Multidisciplinary Arts Organisation in Pennsylvania, USA and works closely with Penang based ArtsED in facilitating Arts Education outreach programs.

Aida Redza is a Malaysian dance artist, choreographer and socially engaged performance maker based in Penang. She works through the role of the penjaga (guardian), initiating creative projects that nurture, heal and transform by bringing art closer to people and the realities of everyday life. Her practice explores movement, ritual, memory, environment, cultural heritage and community, with a particular concern for human rights, environmental justice, safety and wellness. She is interested in the conservation of culture and heritage not simply as preservation of the past, but as a living process of remembering, transmitting and reinterpreting knowledge through the body. Her work investigates how traditional practices, rituals, stories and embodied knowledge can continue to evolve and remain meaningful in contemporary life. Aida works with diverse communities, including youth, underprivileged groups, special needs, mothers and older adults, using dance as a means to listen, connect, raise awareness and stimulate change. She is Founder of WindRiver Productions, Artistic Principal of Studio Pentas, and President, Artistic Director of Euphoria Penang Modern Dance Ensemble, and an Advisor Panel of Georgetown Festival. Her works include Moved By Padi, Semangat – Restu Padi, Reclaim, Hanyut, Seruan Nadi, Ssegar Angin, Angin Ombulan and Ilmu, presented nationally and internationally. In 2018, she was named a Kakiseni GameChanger at the BOH Cameronian Arts Awards.

Jareen Wee, Dance artist and access support: Naarm (Melbourne) based contemporary dance artist Jareen Wee has been free-lancing since her graduation from the New Zealand School of Dance in 2018. In the most recent years, Jareen has performed in works and programs presented by Stephanie Lake Company (ESCALATOR), Melbourne's RISING festival (The White Waters), Melbourne Fashion Festival (National Graduate Showcase), Lewis Major ('Maliphant X Major', Adelaide Fringe Festival), Latrobe Regional Gallery (Spectral Seas exhibition), Chunky Move ('Δ: Archipelago (Change from Aotearoa))', The Stellar Company (Stars in 3D), Dancehouse (Now Pieces #4) and Inspired by Breathing (Shadows Dancing & Humming Bodies). She has also previously danced and collaborated closely with Freya List, Liz Lea Dance Company, Malaysia based immersive VR company Maitree House, InPlay Projects, Jennifer Ma & Collaborators, House of Sand, James O'Hara, and musician Hayden Calnin. Jareen's own works have received recognition in both the New Zealand Fringe Festival (Flying Down Sand Dunes - Parkin development award) and the Melbourne Fringe Festival (Let Fall - ShowSupport grant and best Dance nominee). She teaches and choreographs at various institutions including The Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School, Transit Dance and Jason Coleman's Ministry of Dance. Jareen's interests lie in collaborating with musicians, filmmakers and other specialists to create meaningful connections and multisensorial experiences. Jareen is also a certified yoga teacher.

Lim Yu En, Dance and visual artist: Yu En has been dancing for 10 years and specialises in Bharata Natyam and hip hop. She is highly creative and self sufficient. She dances with her group in Kuala Lumpur and at numerous performance opportunities. Most recently she danced for the king of Malaysia and his family as their birthday celebrations.

Mia Rashid is a contemporary dancer based in Canberra with Bangladeshi and Australian heritage. She attended Newtown High School of the Performing Arts and continued her dance education at the Queensland Ballet Academy, Classical Ballet 121 Sydney, Joffrey School of Dance Chicago and recently, ADDA Barcelona. More recently, she performed as Anna II in Operantics' Seven Deadly Sins in Sydney, and worked with RAPP lab Canberra on two short films with a UR 10 robot. She has is working on a new multidisciplinary work combining opera, shadow puppetry and dance with Lights On Theatre. She dances woth Australian Dance Party and The Stellar Company

Katie Senior, Dance and visual artist: a Canberran artist and athlete with Down Syndrome. She has been dancing and performing since age five and represents Australia as a paralympic swimmer. She has choreographed and performed two solos since 2010: All For One was performed at Belconnen Arts Centre to celebrate International Day of People with Disability in 2011 and In The Corner Where The Shadows Meet was for 'Short and Sweet Dance.' It was Katie's first choreographic and dance mentorship project with Liz Lea was funded through the Australia Council's Jump! program. Katie is also an actress. She is a member of Rebus Mixed Ability Theatre Company and was lead actress in Beautiful, a movie directed by Genevieve Clay and produced in Canberra. Beautiful featured in the Other Film Festival in 2012. Katie and Liz spent all of 2017 working together on a mentoring program which led to the duet' that extra 'some'. This took place under the auspice of Belconnen Arts Centre's IGNITE program. The work premiered in Ausdance ACT's Escalate II. Katie was awarded the honour of being the 2017 ACT Dance Artist of the Year and nominated as Young Person of the Year at the 2018 Inclusion Awards. Katie runs dance classes across Canberra and was a founding member of the Dream Team. She went on to establish the Xtreme Stars Dance Group for adults who live with disability and is a founding member of the Chamaeleon Collective. Katie participated in Stellar's Virtual View project in Penang and recently performed and spoke at the World Down Syndrome Congress, Brisbane.

Low Zi Xiang (罗资翔) is associated with/founder of Blackbody Emission, a Malaysia-based creative technology studio founded in 2022. The company specialises in immersive projection systems, multi-sensory content design and interactive spatial experiences, working across visual art, real-time systems and custom-built technological environments. Blackbody Emission's capabilities include 2D/3D real-time content design, projection mapping, multi-projector immersive environments, TouchDesigner, sensor integration, interactive systems and custom immersive-control systems. It also has an in-house laboratory for immersive-system testing and prototyping. Its listed clients include Petronas, Toyota, BYD, Coca-Cola and CelcomDigi. Zi Xiang himself studied at the Guangzhou Academy of Fine Arts, graduating in 2020 with recognition as an Outstanding Graduate. His graduate research included hybrid cultural performance solutions, which is particularly relevant to ALTER's intersection of performance and technology.

Steven Voon: Maitree XR Developer and Creative Technologist is Maitree House's lead XR Developer and Creative Technologist with Unity 3D as his main tool for creativity. He is passionate about building meaningful immersive XR experiences and exploring how XR can be utilised to improve the way we interact with people and nature. Steven was a key mentor and unity developer for Cahaya XR: First edition, a mentorship and showcase program catered for Malaysian artists to explore XR creation as well as one of the artists for Cloudlines, a collaboration between Malaysian and Australia artists to create an XR installation that incorporates elements of VR, projection mapping, live performances, music, visual art and design. He finds great joy in guiding and sharing knowledge with people who are new to XR and witnessing people experience XR for the first time as it motivates him to explore this field.

Born in Ghana and raised in Canberra, Australia, **Kojo 'Kay' Ansah** is an ARIA-nominated artist (Citizen Kay), producer, and audio engineer. Beginning his professional career in 2014, Kay naturally gravitated toward recording, producing and mixing his own songs, a passion that soon extended to working with other artists and creatives. Simultaneously, as 'Citizen Kay', he was touring the country, landing main-support slots with legends like Ice Cube, finding himself in constant rotation on radio, and sharing festival stages with some of the biggest names around. Kay later pivoted from his constant touring schedule to channel his creative energy into being a mix engineer and producer. In 2024, he co-founded a small commercial studio space

(Lake City Recording), continuing to serve through delivering music with purpose and intent. He has worked with countless creatives from all walks and styles, from Hip-Hop to Chinese Opera, and first-time creators to established global artists. Driven by a sense of curiosity, Kay continues to expand his horizons and is never afraid to explore new creative possibilities.

Karen Norris is a lighting designer of Moriori Māori/Australian descent. Her evocative and collaborative practice spans theatre, dance, and interdisciplinary performance, often engaging with First Nations-led projects and stories of place, memory, and resistance. Having designed widely across Australia and Europe, her work is grounded in cultural connection and experimentation. Dance & Theatre Credits Karen has a prolific dance practice, notably with Bangarra, designing The Dreaming, SKIN, Terrain, LORE, Yuldea, Horizon, and Dance Clan, Sheltering DanceX (The Australian Ballet), Flora Bangarra- Australian Ballet, Sydney Dance Company, NAISDA, Asia TOPA Gapu Ngupan). The Visitors STC & Mooghalin, Choir Boy NTofP, Barbara and the Camp Dogs Belvoir, Sunshine Supergirl, Swim- Andrea James, The Visitors Sydney Theatre Company and Moogahlan Performing Arts, Healing Scars Mooghahlan, The Drovers Wife The Australian Opera. She collaborates extensively with independent artists - Narelle Benjamin, Vicki van Hout, Sue Healey, Kristina Chan, Thomas E Kelly, Jasmin Sheppard, Raghav Handa, Katina Olsen, Rhiannon Newton and Liz Lea. Karen has been a long-time collaborator with Liz Lea, working together across both the UK and Australia. Inflight, Seeking Biloela, Kathrada 50/25, InSync Livid, Magnificus Magnificus, 120 Birds, RED, and The Point, creating visually rich and highly acclaimed works that have toured nationally and internationally

Tammi Gissell First Nations advisor is a long-time horizon hunter descended from Murruwarri & Wiradjuri peoples in north western NSW. She is a freshwater woman from Stone Country with cultural responsibility to the Baaka River and Mt. Gundabooka. Since 2020, she's applied her understanding of Indigenous knowledge systems to the development of culturally appropriate caring as collections coordinator, First Nations at the Powerhouse Museum; as well as for a number of theatrical projects. Tammi has written for the National Association for the Visual Arts (NAVA), QLD Art Gallery of Modern Art, Australian New Zealand Arts Journal, Venice Journal of Environmental Humanities, Critical Path Institute, Performance Paradigm, Archives & Manuscripts Journal and Precarious Movements: Choreography and the Museum. Her workNgara pinta-rru thirri'laa (that truth while dancing) was commissioned by the Art Gallery of New South Wales.

Roni Wilkinson; Technical Director, is a Lighting Designer, Technician and Production Manager with over 20 years industry experience spanning corporate, live, and theatrical events. Roni spent 20 years at the Canberra Theatre Centre primarily employed as a freelance lighting technician and mechanist, with 5 years employed as the Technical Producer. During that period Roni had the opportunity to work with companies including Sydney Dance Company, Bangarra Dance Theatre and Australasian Dance Collective. With national and international touring opportunities provided to them, they were incredibly fortunate to work with some of the most highly skilled professionals in the industry. Now based in Melbourne, Roni is currently the Technical Stage Manager for CDP and Alternative Facts, and Technical Director for Liz Lea Creates and The Stellar Company. Outside of their theatrical work, Roni works within the AV Service Delivery team at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre.