29 March 2017

**Phillip Adams BalletLab** **Temperance Hall**

One of Australia’s leading dance companies, Phillip Adams BalletLab (PABL) is delighted to announce its first headquarters, Temperance Hall, 199 Napier Street, South Melbourne; Melbourne’s newest contemporary art and performance venue for creation, residency, exhibition and performance.

Temperance Hall is the first artist-led interdisciplinary complex in Australia comprising a main hall, studios and residential apartment. Temperance Hall will be a vital artist hub in Melbourne, unlocking artistic potential and supporting risk-taking contemporary culture. It will be an experimental home for PABL to make and present work alongside others’ through a curatorial framework shaped by Adams’ artistic interests beyond dance.

‘The Temperance Hall for me is a performance centre that activates the entire facility with movement, thinking and art rather than isolating it as a theatre,’ says Phillip Adams. ‘I aim,’ he continues ‘to exhibit movement and art that make beautiful the body with challenging aspects and confronting imagery - a nod to the original Warhol “Factory” mentality as such, radically exploiting tradition with popular and unorthodox aesthetics; keeping audiences nourished, guessing and inspired and returning for more stimulation. Temperance Hall meets the performance space, gallery and museum smack bang in the middle of the black and white box paradigm. Temperance Hall stands as an exemplary 21st Century performance site where you get to see the artists of today make and present their expressions of tomorrow.’

2017 will see an enviable program of premiere work, national and international collaborations, artist commissions, residencies, education initiatives and exhibition. The launch of a new Contemporary Art Award, the BalletLab McMahon Contemporary Art Award will bring a deeper engagement with the visual arts sector.

The first International Artist-in-Residence program brings NewYork based writer, director and choreographer Jack Ferver for a two-week residency (27 April – 9 May). This is his first visit to Australia and he will perform his acclaimed work, ***Mon Ma Mes (Revisite’),* 4-7 May 2017**

Jack Ferver is a highly sought after figure in the New York performance and theatre scene. His work *Chambre,* recently received a New York Bessie nomination for best performance.

Ferver frequently collaborates with visual artist Marc Swanson, costume designer Reid Bartelme, composer Roarke Menzies, and dramaturg Joshua Lubin-Levy. His works have been presented in leading New York City performance venues and museums, across USA and in France. As an actor, he has appeared in numerous film, television and theatre projects. [www.jackferver.org](http://www.jackferver.org)

PABL program highlights include: *EVER* (4 dancers, 8 musicians) a new collaboration with Melbourne Chamber Orchestra and fashion designer Akira Isogawa; Education program *Shaker Maker*, in partnership with Ausdance VIC; *Séance* a new opera dance work with an esteemed cast of mature dance artists, extraordinary visual artist Julia de Ville and composer Daniel Jenatsch; a number of international guest artists: Jack Ferver (USA) and Korinsky (GER) in 2017 and Antonio Ramos (USA) in 2018; *People of Cities* (AUS/BRA) 2016-2017 international exchange project; plus a number of other initiatives.

PABL at Temperance Hall is supported by Creative Victoria, the Australian Council for the Arts, Working Heritage, Helen Macpherson Smith Trust, COALAR, City of Port Phillip, KEN, Dr Marcus McMahon, 3DEEP, Igor Sapina, La Luna and Split Rock TIRO.

Background information on Temperance Hall and Phillip Adams BalletLab follow this release

**PABL presents Jack Ferver *Mon Ma Mes (Revisite’)* at Temperance Hall, 199 Napier Street, SouthMelbourne,4-7 May 2017. Bookings -** <https://www.trybooking.com/271688>

[www.balletlab.com](http://www.balletlab.com)

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**BACKGROUND**

**Temperance Hall**

South Melbourne Temperance Hall was built in 1888 by the Emerald Hill Total Abstinence Society – just one of the influential temperance movements that shaped social life in nineteenth-century Melbourne.

As well as the Abstinence Society, the hall has been used by a huge number of social clubs, political parties and societies and by 1880, the hall was able to accommodate up to 400 people for alcohol-free concerts, dances and performances. Groups using the hall included the YMCA, the South Melbourne Thistle Club, the South Melbourne Harmonic Society, the Emerald Hill branch of the Labor Party and friendly societies such as the Manchester Unity Independent Order of Oddfellows.

The South Suburban Canary Society held monthly ‘feather’ shows where members inspected the birds on display. The South Melbourne Football Club is said to have formed at a meeting held in the hall in 1874.

Temperance Hall has a longstanding relationship with the Melbourne arts community and has previously provided space for hire for independent artists. However, the site has not been utilized for public performance/programming for almost two decades.

**BalletLab**

At Phillip Adams BalletLab (PABL), everything begins with the body. We think visually and physically to create and curate new and unmediated experiences that contest the boundaries of contemporary arts practice. We are a seminal interdisciplinary dance organisation and leading platform for rigorous creative exploration. PABL actively fosters relationships with leading artists and organisations to leverage projects between performance and museum/gallery contexts.

Firmly embedded in the matrix of Australia’s dance, performance and arts communities, PABL play a vital role in the local ecology. Our approach has no boundaries, creating art without compromise, questioning convention, inspiring experimentation and innovation. This is transformative creativity led by Adams, which tests and measures attitudes of programming, artistic communities and audiences. Established in 1998, PABL has achieved over 18 years of acclaimed dance, performance and arts practice from its home city Melbourne, cultivated through the unique vision of Artistic Director, Phillip Adams.

**Phillip Adams**

**Artistic director, choreographer, performer, artist**

Founder and Artistic Director of BalletLab, forming the company upon his return home from New York in 1998.

A graduate of Victorian College of the Arts, his performing arts background spans a 30-year career in contemporary dance. Phillip lived and worked in New York for a decade after being awarded the ANZ International Fellowship Award in 1988, working with leading dance companies and many independent choreographers before returning to Australia.

Nearly two decades on, his achievements and qualifications cover a range of creative ventures including commissions, touring, awards, residencies, mentoring and a highly-regarded body of artistic works.