

Presented by Arts House

Pile of Bones

Stephanie Lake Company

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Image: Jeff Busby

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7:30pm, Tue 15 – Sat 19 Aug
2pm, Sat 19 Aug
60 mins

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artshouse.com.au

Creative Team

Choreographer / Director:

Stephanie Lake

Dancers:

Marlo Benjamin, Samantha Hines, Harrison Ritchie-Jones & Jack Ziesing

Composer:

Robin Fox

Lighting Designer:

Matthew Adey

Costume Designer:

Harriet Oxley

Production Manager:

Glenn Dulihanty

Producer:

Freya Waterson

Stephanie Lake Company

Chair:

Jerril Rechter

Board Members:

Robin Fox, Vivia Hickman & Matthew Lutton

Artist Statement

'Pile of Bones' was the original name of what is now the capital city of Saskatchewan, the Canadian province I grew up in. It was so named for the huge piles of buffalo bones that were stacked high on the site. Later, Pile of Bones was thought to be an odd name for a town so it was given the 'regal' name Regina.

Pile of Bones examines nurture, darkness, suppression, and desire. From the quietest embryonic origins, the work gradually intensifies towards a pulsing, rapturous end. All elements - sonic, visual and physical - amplify over time.

The work follows a logic that is emotional rather than linear. There is rupture and disquiet as the four dancers travel together through an unpredictable landscape. Bodies are encrusted in fluttering armour and caught in sticky webs. Inner demons and angels have influence over their actions. The piles of bones are reliant on each other but also rail against that dependence. Bodies twitch, melt and writhe in dream-like scenarios.

Birth and rebirth and birth again, new selves constantly emerge. These precarious selves undulate through states, through stability and instability, move as if they're learning how to walk again. New micro societies are built and demolished, new rules and rituals to observe, new ways to fail and succeed.

Animal-like, the performers herd, protect and attack. They are attracted and they are repelled. Are they human? Animal? Robots? Are they from the past or the future? *Pile of Bones* attempts to shine a light on the absurdity and deep pleasure of human existence and the drive to create, produce, consume. To what end?

We are all walking piles of bones, destined for the same place.

— *Stephanie Lake*

Stephanie Lake

Choreographer

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Stephanie Lake is an award-winning choreographer and dancer. Her performance career spans seventeen years, touring extensively with Lucy Guerin Inc and Chunky Move and she was a founding dancer in Balletlab. Stephanie's dance works have been presented in major festivals and venues around Australia and have toured to France, Germany, Hong Kong, Denmark and the UK. In 2014 Stephanie won both the Helpmann Award and Australian Dance Award for Best Choreography and the Green Room Award in 2011. She was the recipient of a Sidney Myer Creative Fellowship and the Dame Peggy van Praagh Choreographic Fellowship. In 2013 she was appointed inaugural Resident Director of Lucy Guerin Inc.

Stephanie has been commissioned by Chunky Move, New Zealand Dance Company, Sydney Dance Company, Queensland Ballet, Dancenorth, Tasdance, Expressions and Frontier Danceland (Singapore). She collaborates across theatre, film & TV, visual art and music video and has directed large-scale public works involving over 1000 participants.

Marlo Benjamin

Dancer

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Marlo Benjamin is an Australian based freelance Contemporary dancer, who has worked and performed with many Australian Dance companies and choreographers since graduating from the Sydney Dance Company's Pre Professional Year in 2015. Some of these include, Chunky Move, Australian Dance Theatre (& Tanja Leidtke), Sydney Dance Company, Force Majeure, Sydney Theatre Company, Stephanie Lake Company, Gideon Obarzanek, Adam Wheeler and Martin Del Amo.

Samantha Hines

Dancer

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Samantha Hines was born in Sydney, Australia. She studied contemporary dance full time at both Sydney's Ev and Bow and New Zealand School of Dance and in her final year was hired by Australian Dance Theatre. While with Australian Dance Theatre Samantha performed and toured extensively with the company throughout Australia, Europe and Asia. In 2013 she embarked on the Australian tour of *G, Proximity* at the Arts Centre Melbourne along with two European tours of *Proximity* in 2013 & 2014.

In 2015 she performed in three European tours of *Multiverse*, as well as the Australian national tour of *Be Your Self*. Samantha has performed in the world premiere seasons of Daniel Jaber's *Nought* (2013), Garry Stewart's *Multiverse* (2014), *Habitus* (2016) and *Beginning of Nature* (2016). She is now working with Dancenorth where she performed in Lucy Guerin and Gideon Obzanerak's show *Attractor* (2017) for which she was nominated for a Helpmann Award.

Harrison Ritchie-Jones

Dancer

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Harrison Ritchie-Jones graduated from the Victorian College of the Arts with a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Dance) in 2014. In 2013, he was awarded a Victorian College of the Arts Undergraduate Most Outstanding Creative Scholarship. He has worked with, and performed in creations by Stephanie Lake, Graeme Murphy, Rebecca Hilton, Lucy Guerin, Phillip Adams, Prue Lang, Shian Law, Rebecca Jensen and Alice Heyward, in commissions by Chunky Move, Tasdance, Lucy Guerin Inc and The Australian Conservatoire of Ballet. He has also performed in the frame of Ludwigshafen Pfalzau (Germany), Pieces For Small Spaces at Lucy Guerin Inc (Melbourne), and Murray White Room Gallery (Melbourne).

Jack Ziesing

Dancer

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Jack began dancing in Canberra at Quantum Leap Youth Dance Company before starting his tertiary training at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts. Joining Expressions Dance Company in 2011 under artistic director Natalie Weir, Jack was fortunate to perform in many of Weir's signature award winning works. He toured extensively nationally and internationally and collaborated with other companies including Queensland Ballet, Opera Queensland, Cathy Sharpe Dance Ensemble, LDTX/Beijing Dance, Singapore Dance Theatre and Guangzhou Modern Dance Company. He has collaborated and performed with Kate Weare (USA), Chrissie Parrot, The Farm, Lucy Guerin Inc, STRUT, Dancenorth and created several of his own works for QL2 at the Australian Choreographic Centre in Canberra. Jack is a multiple nominee for both the Australian Dance Awards and the Helpmann Awards for Best Dance Performance by a Male.

Robin Fox

Composer

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Robin Fox is an audio-visual artist working across composition, performance, public artworks and installation among other things. His laser works have been touring internationally for over a decade and have featured in festivals in well over 50 cities. Current projects include the development of a new laser work *Single Origin*, which will premiere at Unsound Festival Krakow in October, the film score for *Guilty* (working title) - a feature documentary about the last 72 hours of Myuran Sukumaran's life and his work as founding director of MESS (Melbourne Electronic Sound Studio) an organisation that gives the public access to the history of electronic music machines. In dance he has worked with Lucy Guerin (*Dark Chorus, Motion Picture, Conversation Piece, I'm Trying to Tell You*), Gideon Obarzanek (*Mortal Engine, Connected*), Antony Hamilton (*RGB, Drift, Keep Everything*) and Stephanie Lake (*Dual, A Small Prometheus, Aorta, Dream Lucid, Double Blind*) among many others.

Matthew Adey

Lighting Designer

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Matthew Adey is a production designer and theatre artist from Melbourne, Victoria. He works under the moniker House of Vnholy, specialising in the creation of live performance, set and lighting design, installation and sculpture. Adey graduated from VCA with a Bachelor of Fine Arts - Theatre Production in 2011. HOV's performance installations include *MONO-*, *HOMME* with Rebecca Jensen, *Death Summit* at Dark Mofo, *The Spectre of Death Looms Large...* at Metanoia and *MYTH* to premiere at Underbelly Arts Festival in September 2017. Design collaborations in the performing arts include *Crossing* at Dark Mofo, Phillip Adams Balletlab, Jo Lloyd and Nicola Gunn, Atlanta Eke, Antony Hamilton, Shian Law, Natalie Abbott, Sarah Aiken, Rebecca Jensen, Melanie Lane, Lilian Steiner, Matthew Lutton and Malthouse Theatre, Red Stitch Actors Theatre, MKA, Elbow Room and Michele Lee.

Harriet Oxley

Costume Designer

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Harriet Oxley has designed and created costumes for many acclaimed Australian dance artists. Aside from her previous collaborations with Stephanie Lake, she has worked with Lucy Guerin Inc, Dancenorth, Chunky Move with Anouk Van Dijk and with Gideon Obarzanek, Sydney Dance Company with Gideon Obarzanek, Michelle Heaven, Ros Warby, Victoria Chiu and Sean Curham (NZ). For Victorian Opera Harriet has designed many productions including the co-production with Circus Oz *Laughter and Tears* and the co-production with Chunky Move *Assembly*. Her design for *Angeliq* won the Green Room award for design for opera in 2010. Harriet has also designed for Tamara Saulwick, Dislocate Physical Theatre, NICA, VCA's music theatre department, and the big-budget musical *Moonshadow*. Harriet is a graduate of VCA theatre design and Fashion at RMIT.

Biographies

Glenn Duhanty

Production Manager

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Glenn Duhanty has worked as a production manager, both nationally and internationally, for over 15 years. Collaborators include Lucy Guerin Inc, Antony Hamilton, Belvoir St Theatre, Melbourne and Sydney Festivals and a variety of other companies and artists. Glenn is one of the founding members of First In Last Out, and this is his second production for the Stephanie Lake Company.

Freya Waterson

Producer

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Freya Waterson is a Melbourne based Producer working across art-forms. She has previously held key roles at Insite Arts, Melbourne Fringe and the UK's largest documentary forum, Sheffield Doc/Fest. She has also worked internationally for Aurora Nova (Edinburgh), the London Film Festival, and for pervasive games producer, Hide&Seek.

For Insite Arts she worked across the company's independent and project-based activity, supporting the development, presentation and touring of their artist's work in Australia and internationally. She was an Associate Producer of Hobart's MONA FOMA in 2011 and 2012.

As an independent producer, Freya now works with choreographers Stephanie Lake, Antony Hamilton and Melanie Lane, and performance-maker, Tamara Saulwick.

Thank You

Stephanie Lake Company would like to thank Angharad Wynne-Jones and all at Arts House; our exceptional dancers, creatives and production team, and Lucy Guerin Inc and Chunky Move for studio residencies.

Thank you to Lauren Langlois from the original cast, Allan Lake for the title, Brenda Lake for all the babysitting and Wally de Backer, Tony Osmond and MESS for access to amazing instruments.

Thanks to the Board of Stephanie Lake Company - Jerril Rechter, Vivia Hickman, Matthew Lutton and Robin Fox, and to our secondees Rose Philpott, Francesca Meale, Viola Iida, Olivia McPherson, Christina Guieb, Emma Riches, Jacqueline Trapp, Sarah Mealor, Holly Newsome, Tiana Lung, Sam Hall, Mitchell Aldridge and Olympia Kotopoulos.

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Thank you to Robin Fox for everything and Scarlett and Sapphire for their contributions to the popping candy recordings, and for being the best daughters in the world.

Arts House, as a key program of the City of Melbourne, is Melbourne's contemporary centre for performance and interactive artforms. We support new and diverse ways to make and experience art which is participatory and experiential, interdisciplinary and trans-disciplinary, curated through a balance of provocation, responsiveness and collaboration with artists and audiences.

For more information, please contact us on the details below.

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Arts House acknowledges the traditional land upon which we are located, of the Wurundjeri and Boon Wurrung people of the Kulin nation, and pay our respect to Elders both past and present and, through them, to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

