Note from the Artistic Director

PYT’s creative practice involves intensive conversation and collaboration. It is a listening practice that utilises radical kindness to talk openly and rigorously about some of the most difficult subjects of our times. There is an urgency to PYT’s work, to tell contemporary Australian stories that promote the perspective and creative language of young artists in Western Sydney.

Our 2019 program marks a number of firsts for PYT. We have a new major partnership that deepens our connections across Western Sydney. We will be travelling across the country with our first ever national tour, and PYT will be presenting our third show at the Sydney Opera House.

As a second generation migrant and Forgotten Australian, I am incredibly proud and excited to announce PYT’s major strategic partnership with the Parramatta Female Factory Precinct Memory Project (PFFPMP). WOMEN OF PARRAMATTA will be developing leading practices of memory, care, cultural and social healing.

After two years with Maria Tran in residence at PYT, we will now be working with her on her first ever solo work for the stage; ACTION STAR. We welcome Mt Druitt artist and FUNPARK alumni Daisy Montalvo as FUNPARK’s new Program Coordinator.

Our PYT Ensemble program is literally bursting at the seams with 22 new members. The program has literally tripled in three years, highlighting a critical explosion of emerging arts practice in the region.

The future of Australian performance is beautiful & bright. See you in Fairfield…

Karen Therese
Beyoncé meets the women’s marches meets Australian Idol.

PLAYLIST is a powerful dance theatre work exploring the state of feminisms through pop culture and music. Full of suburban dreams and pop star fantasies, it’s a pop culture call to action about the critical issues of our times.

PLAYLIST is an unmissable experience.

‘Electrifying and every synonym thereof’.
Sydney Arts Guide

16–19 May Sydney Opera House
National Tour

**JUMP FIRST, ASK LATER**

Co-Produced by PYT I Fairfield & Force Majeure
Tour produced by Performing Lines

Director & Choreographer Byron Perry  
Tour Directors Karen Therese  
and Larissa McGowan  
AV Design Sean Bacon  
Sound Design Luke Smiles  
Performers Ivana Djakovic, Alejandro Scarone, Tristan Hodder, Joe Cabone, Lucia May and Cheryn Frost

JUMP FIRST, ASK LATER is a high-octane urban portrait of the streets of Western Sydney. Featuring members of the Dauntless Movement Crew (DMC), the work tells the stories of six young champions of Fairfield’s underground parkour and street-style community. Merging urban freestyle forms with contemporary dance, JUMP FIRST, ASK LATER explores the poetics of violence, migration, redemption and ultimately the collective freedom they discovered by mapping their city through dance.

“Astonishing work. It is an extremely recommended experience for all ages. Inspiration plus. Exhilarating.” **Kevin Jackson, Theatre Diary**

**Winner** Helpmann Award 2017  
**Winner** Australian Dance Award 2017

17 May – 28 June  See website for more details  

Image Credit: Alex Wisser

New Work

**ENFLAME**

Co-Produced by PYT I Fairfield & Branch Nebula

Collaborating Artists Lee Wilson and Mirabelle Wouters in collaboration with the performers  
Creative Consultant Karen Therese  
Performers Ebube Uba, Cheng Tang, Lucia May and Cheryn Frost

ENFLAME is an unannounced, guerrilla-style intervention for events, festivals, foyers, conferences and openings.

 Constructed as a modular series of actions, ENFLAME deals with perceptions of cultural identity and the exclusion of young people from a refugee background. Faced with young performers challenging the way in which they are exoticised by the art world, the audience is asked to consider the experience of being labelled and categorised, and how dominant white creative spaces can be exclusive.

Enflame has been tested at MCA and the TNN Theatre Gathering in 2018.
PYT I Fairfield and the Parramatta Female Factory Precinct Memory Project (PFFPMP) will forge a pioneering new multiyear partnership to explore the Australian experience of institutions for women and young people.

WOMEN OF PARRAMATTA is about place. It is an activation of sites of conscience connecting Forgotten Australians, Stolen Generations, refugee and asylum seeker communities across Western Sydney. This partnership presents a series of performance evenings, cultural and community events and major works, transforming a former institution into a women’s gathering place. WOMEN OF PARRAMATTA will be developing leading practices of memory, care, cultural and social healing.
New Work In-Development

**ACTION STAR**

Created & Produced by PYT I Fairfield

**Director** Karen Therese  
**Choreographer** Larissa McGowan  
**Performer & Co-Devisor** Maria Tran

**ACTION STAR** is PYT I Fairfield’s major new solo performance work by international kung fu action movie star and stuntwoman, Maria Tran.

Maria Tran has a black belt in tae kwon do, a blue belt in hapkido and a brown belt in kung fu. By 2013 she was working internationally in blockbuster movies in China and Vietnam. In 2016, Maria won the Breakout Female Action Performer of the Year in Los Angeles. In Australia she is known for pioneering and developing the female martial-arts action film genre from her home base in Fairfield, Western Sydney.

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**Choreographic Residency**

**WHY IS IT ART?**

in partnership with Critical Path

WHY IS IT ART? is a choreographic research residency supporting Western Sydney emerging choreographers Eliam Royalness and Maria Tran to examine and expand their ‘non-traditional’ dance and movement practice with facilitator Larissa McGowan. Eliam’s hip hop dance style and Maria’s practice in martial arts will be put under the microscope as the artists research how these forms may translate within the frame of contemporary dance.

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Image Credit: Katy Green Loughrey

Image Credit: Eliam Royalness
PYT will support three new works-in-development through its residency program.

**DORR-E DARI**

*A Poetic Crash Course in the Language of Love*

*Created by* Mahdi Mohammadi and Jawad Yacoubi with Paul Dwyer

Jawad and Mahdi want to know what love is. Don’t we all? Time to switch off the dating apps, step out of the nightclub for a night, and get in tune with the rhythms of a thousand-year-strong tradition of courtly Dari love poetry. Rest assured: there is a verse for every condition of the heart, no matter how catastrophic.

**CARPET STORIES**

*Created by* Najee Tannous

CARPET STORIES uncovers the LGBTQI narrative of bravery and courage. A multi-disciplinary work that empowers the authentic experiences of Middle Eastern Australians and refugees seeking liberation.

**JACKSON STEWART: SHOWREEL**

*Created by* Jackson Stewart

Due to not having an actual showreel, Jackson Stewart will present his full range of abilities.

For his residency, Jackson will continue to develop his suite of comic characters to bring together a stand-up performance of pure fun.

**FUNPARK**

A unique skills development program that provides opportunities for young people in Mt Druitt aged 12–18yrs to participate in performance and visual arts workshops.

**WEAVING WORKSHOPS**

In collaboration with Guntawang Aboriginal Resources and the Parents Cafe, PYT will facilitate a series of Aboriginal weaving workshops and cultural exchange between local Iraqi and Aboriginal women. This will culminate in a public exhibition of the works created.
Staff & Board

Artistic Director Karen Therese
Executive Director Katy Green Loughrey
Artistic Associate Margie Breen
Administration and Communications Coordinator Daisy Montalvo
Venue Technician David Robertts
Artist-in-Residence Maria Tran
Co-Pilots Erin Middleton, Lap Nguyen and Zoe Tomaras
Business Strategy Consultant Middleton Arts
Graphic Designer Mickie Quick
Publicist The Press Society
Book Keeper Zubayer Quayyum, Keeping Company

Co-Chairs Sharni Jones and Antonia Seymour
Treasurer Susie Vongkeneta
Members Donna Abela, Eiman Al Ubudy, Stephen Boyle, Bec Dean

PYT ENSEMBLE

The PYT Ensemble provides intensive skills development for outstanding emerging Western Sydney artists. The Ensemble will work with a range of professional arts practitioners across 2019 to increase their networks, broaden their skills and to provide a variety of performance and career opportunities.

The 2019 PYT Ensemble:

PILOTS

Led by Facilitator and Community Cultural Development practitioner Margie Breen, PILOTS is a performing arts training program which engages young people aged 14–18yrs, many from refugee and migrant backgrounds.

Currently PILOTS is running in two local Intensive English Centre high schools and weekly after school sessions at PYT I Fairfield. This successful program engages over 50 young people a week and is assisted by our young CO-PILOTS.

CO-PILOTS

CO-PILOTS is an Education and Leadership program for emerging Western Sydney artists aged 20–28yrs. These young leaders are selected from our PYT Ensemble Program to train with Margie as teaching artists.