

**pyt**

**fairfield**

**2019**



## 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**





Major Presentation

# PLAYLIST

Created & Produced by PYT I Fairfield  
Presented by Sydney Opera House

**Director** Karen Therese **Choreographer** Larissa McGowan  
**Dramaturg** Kate Armstrong-Smith **Design** Zanny Begg  
**Sound** Jasmine Guffond and Gail Priest **Stage Manager** Patrick Howard  
**Performers & Co-Devisors** Ebube Uba, May Tran, Tasha O'Brien,  
Mara Knezevic and Neda Taha

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



Image Credit: Alex Wisser

## National Tour

# JUMP FIRST, ASK LATER

Co-Produced by PYT | 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, Jimmy James Pham and Patrick Uy



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 | Fairfield & Branch Nebula



*Image Credit: Peta Addy*

**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.



## Major Partnership

# WOMEN OF PARRAMATTA

with the Parramatta Female Factory Precinct Memory Project (PFFPMP)

**Collaborating Organisations** Darug Tribal Aboriginal Corporation, Darug Custodian Aboriginal Corporation, Parents Café, STARTTS, Parramatta Mission.

PYT | 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.

## Program of Works

**THE LONG TABLE SERIES** Bringing together Western Sydney artists, activists, arts institutions, First Nations elders and young leaders in a dinner party atmosphere as a public forum.

**ANCIENT CULTURES/NOW** Burra Matta women meet Baghdad women in a cultural exchange discussing ancient practices in creative women's healing spaces.

**FORMS** A site responsive work featuring the PYT Ensemble on young people's experience of Australian institutions.

**THE GARDEN EXCHANGE** The Parents Cafe will collaborate with the PFFPMP to assist in the development of a community garden and social enterprise on site.

**SLEEPLESSNESS** A new solo performance work by Karen Therese exploring the intergenerational impact of care-leavers across three generations of women.



Image from 'Parra Girls Past, Present'.  
Commissioned by the Big Anxiety Festival  
& Produced by PFFPMP



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.



*Image Credit: Katy Green Loughrey*

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.

*Image Credit:  
Eliam Royalness*



## PYT Residencies

PYT will support three new works-in-development through its residency program.

*Image Credit: Karen Therese*

# 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.

## Community Programs



*Image Credit: Karen Therese*

# 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.



## Professional Development



Image Credit: Alex Wisser

# 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:

Abbie Gallagher, Adam Yoon, Amira Halabi, Angela Johnston, Bedelia Lawrence, Bernadette Fam, Beryl La, Brianna McCarthy, Erin Middleton, Hannah Lai, James Kerr, Karmeen Yalda, Keith Robinson, Kirra McGoldrick, Lilliano Occhuito, Matt Cavagnino, Sean Foster, Shawn Spina, Stephanie Barahona, Vanessa Michell and Zoe Tomaras.

# 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.

## 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



Image Credit: Alex Wisser



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PACKER FAMILY  
FOUNDATION



CURIOUSWORKS