



**pyt**

**fairfield**

**2020**

## Note from the Artistic Director

It's 2020 and PYT Fairfield are ready for the new decade. With kindness and care we hope to make a huge impact on the lives of our young artists and the broader Australian community.

Our smash hit show from 2019, PLAYLIST is heading on a huge 23-venue national tour, managed by Arts on Tour. I am super proud to be premiering our new major work ACTION STAR, performed by Fairfield artist Maria Tran. Maria is one of Australia's most exciting and dynamic artists. It's a dream for the company to present her first ever solo performance work.

PYT have a series of new works in development; Mahdi and Jawad (TRIBUNAL) are back with their very own work DORR-E DARI, and PYT are developing our first queer work CARPET STORIES with artist Najee Tannous, inviting a new partnership with Settlement Services International.

PYT are continuing our research into matriarchal leadership, women's activism and healing with our partners the Parramatta Female Factory Precinct, with the outcomes of this partnership being presented as part of the 22nd Biennale of Sydney: NIRIN.

I am also incredibly proud to announce that FUNPARK, now in its seventh year, will also be part of the Biennale, led by PYT's Daisy Montalvo.

The PYT community is stronger than ever, and we look forward to this new decade. Together, we need to actively explore and practice kindness and compassion to create transformative cultural experiences, and to build a positive future for all Australians.

See you in Fairfield.

**Karen Therese**

*Cover Image: Film still. Film by Zanny Begg.*



*Image Credit: Katy Green Loughrey*



## New Work

# ACTION STAR

Produced by PYT Fairfield

**Performer/Co-Devisor** Maria Tran **Choreographer** Larissa McGowan  
**Director** Karen Therese **Associate Artist** May Tran **Sound** James Brown and Jack Prest  
**Film** Zanny Begg **Dramaturg** Kate Armstrong-Smith **Project Assistant** Therese Chen

Premiere season to be announced soon

Fusing martial arts, dance, storytelling and film, ACTION STAR is a new solo dance-theatre work that details the life and work of celebrated Western Sydney artist and international action movie star, Maria Tran.

Maria is known for developing the martial arts action film genre in Australia, via the Asian diaspora communities of Western Sydney. Her work is pivotal to the creative development of the Australian Vietnamese film movement that challenges gender stereotypes and the exploration of 'female action'.

*Maria Tran - Winner of the 2013 Award for Breakout Action Star – Female: Action on Film Festival Los Angeles.*



*Image: Film still. Film by Zanny Begg.*



**Major Partnership**

# WOMEN OF PARRAMATTA

**Co-produced by PYT Fairfield and Parramatta Female Factory Precinct**

PYT Fairfield and PFPP have forged a pioneering new partnership to explore the Australian experience of institutions for women and young people. The partnership employs collaborative artistic practice as a major way for the Stolen Generation and Forgotten Australians to connect with each other. WOMEN OF PARRAMATTA will produce a series of performative outcomes across 2020 that explore matrilineal leadership, female activism and healing.

**In 2020, WOMEN OF PARRAMATTA will present:**

# STORIES WE NEVER TELL

**Presented by the 22nd Biennale of Sydney: NIRIN**

STORIES WE NEVER TELL is a site-responsive performative walking tour of the former Parramatta Girls Home.

Audiences will be led on an intimate journey of women's stories from contemporary Australia. Each building on the Parramatta Female Factory Precinct site is inscribed with the marks, memories and experiences of women and will be activated by storytellers including former Parragirls, Stolen Generations and artists.

**7–9 May** Parramatta Female Factory Institutions Precinct

# FORMS

STORIES WE NEVER TELL will include the presentation of FORMS, a new performance installation exploring young people's responses and lived experiences of contemporary institutions.

**Creative Team** Karen Therese, Linda Luke and members of the PYT Ensemble

**In Development**

# SLEEPLESSNESS

**Co-produced by PYT Fairfield and Parramatta Female Factory Precinct**

Part mystery, part documentary, part forensic investigation, SLEEPLESSNESS explores the experiences of three generations of women from 1920s Budapest to Western Sydney today, calling to account everything that we know about identity, institutions and the legacy of women.

**Creative team** Karen Therese, Anthea Williams, Anna Liebrezeit, Zanny Begg, Martin del Amo and Patrick Howard



National Tour

# PLAYLIST

Produced by PYT Fairfield

Managed by Arts On Tour

**Director** Karen Therese **Choreographer** Larissa McGowan  
**Set Design** Zanny Begg **Sound** Gail Priest and Jasmine Guffond  
**Lighting Designer** Amber Silk **Dramaturg** Kate Armstrong-Smith  
**Associate Artist** Kilia Tipa  
**Performers/Co-Devisors** Ebube Uba,  
May Tran, Tasha O'Brien, Mara  
Knezevic and Neda Taha

*'It is about creating a new  
vision of a future ... an entirely  
unpretentious theatrical  
exploration of a modern  
feminism... humorous...  
essential... true.'*

**Suzy Goes See**

After major success with seasons at Sydney Opera House  
and PYT Fairfield, **PLAYLIST** will be touring across Australia

Beyoncé meets the Women's marches.

PLAYLIST is a compelling dance-theatre work exploring the state of  
feminisms in pop culture and music today. Full of suburban dreams  
and pop star fantasies, it is a call to action about the critical issues  
of our times.

**Helpmann Nomination**

Best Visual or Physical Theatre  
Production

**Tour Dates** March – June 2020

See website for more details



Image Credit: Alex Wisser



Special Presentation

# FUNPARK

Presented by the 22nd Biennale of Sydney: NIRIN

In partnership with the FUNPARK Coalition

FUNPARK is a mini arts festival celebrating the culture and experience of young people in the community of Bidwill, Mt Druitt.

Now in its 7th year, FUNPARK is committed to long-term change for young people and their families through this unique cultural program.

FUNPARK transforms Bidwill into a cultural FUNPARK – a public art space, a playground incorporating performance, installation, activism, critical debate and social engagement.

**Key Creative Leader** Daisy Montalvo with Karen Therese **FUNPARK Coalition** Bidwill Uniting, Blacktown Arts Centre, CuriousWorks, Learning Ground and PYT Fairfield



Image Credit: Credit unknown



New Work In Development

# DORR-E DARI:

## A POETIC CRASH COURSE IN THE LANGUAGE OF LOVE

Produced by PYT Fairfield

In partnership with University of Sydney



Image Credit: Karen Therese

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.

The development of DORR-E DARI has been supported in 2019 by the PYT Residency program, Adhocracy produced by Vitalstatistix and Crack Theatre Festival.

**Co-Creators/Performers** Mahdi Mohammadi and Jawad Yaqoubi  
**Director** Paul Dwyer **Video Artist** Sean Bacon

New Work In Development

# CARPET STORIES

Produced by PYT Fairfield

In partnership with Settlement Services International (SSI)



Image Credit: Katy Green Loughrey

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

The first stage development was supported by the PYT Residency program in 2019.

**Creator/Performer** Najee Tannous **Director** Martin del Amo  
**Performer/Co-Devisor** Mustafa Al-Mahdi

**PYT Residencies**

# ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE

**BERNADETTE FAM**



Bernadette is an emerging Arabic-Australian interdisciplinary storyteller. Since graduating from Sydney Theatre School in 2017, she has been a member of PYT Ensemble, NToP's Playwrights of Parramatta, KXT's Step Up, and Q Theatre's Originate.

Bernadette is a recipient of the 2019 Create NSW Young Creative Leader's Fellowship, and is excited to join the PYT family as their 2020–2021 Artist-in-Residence developing her first full-length work: THE LOVE SONG OF.

**PYT Residencies**

# COMPANY-IN-RESIDENCE

**DANCE MAKERS COLLECTIVE**

Dance Makers Collective (DMC) are Western Sydney's only professional dance company, established in 2012 to provide a platform for independent dance makers to collaborate and develop dance works. DMC have a unique working model where all 9 members contribute to the making, performing, producing and community engagement arms of the company.

[dancemakerscollective.com.au](http://dancemakerscollective.com.au)

**Artist Mentorship**

## ERIN MIDDLETON

**Mentor** Anthea Williams

Under the mentorship of director/writer/dramaturg Anthea Williams, emerging playwright Erin Middleton is developing her second play. As yet untitled, the work will be a modern, female-focused reimagining of the Ancient Greek myth of Medusa, exploring its links to contemporary female experiences of beauty, the body, power and rage.

## WHY IS IT ART? CHOREOGRAPHIC RESEARCH

**In partnership with Critical Path**

WHY IS IT ART? is a three-year partnership that explores contemporary dance practice in Western Sydney and aims to make space for different movement practices in our culture to share and work together. Three dance artists will come together to examine and expand their 'non-traditional' dance and movement practices and consider how these practices sit in relation to contemporary art contexts.





## Professional Development

# PYT ENSEMBLE

The PYT Ensemble provides intensive skills development for up to 25 outstanding emerging Western Sydney artists. Throughout the year the Ensemble works with a range of professional arts practitioners to increase their networks, broaden their skills and to provide a variety of performance and career opportunities.

**2020 PYT Ensemble** Angela Johnston, Bedelia Lowrencev, Beryl La, Carmin Younadam, Charmaine Sharp, Erin Middleton, Glynn Megaritty, Henry Nguyen, Ivan Karezi, Jeno Kim, Kate Bobis, Keith Robinson, Lana Filies, Lilliana Occhiuto, Melody Knapp, Miriam Mbayyid, Monikka Eliah, Nyasha Kanyimo, Rhayne Fountain, Roel Fiala and Shawn Spina.



Image Credit: Alex Wisser



Image Credit: Ali Mousawi

## Professional Development

# PILOTS

Led by Community Cultural Development practitioner Margie Breen, PILOTS is a performance training program which engages young people aged 14–18 years, many from refugee and migrant backgrounds. Currently, PILOTS runs in three local high schools and at weekly after school sessions at PYT Fairfield. PILOTS engages over 65 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. These young leaders are selected from our PYT Ensemble to train with Margie Breen as teaching artists.

**2020 Co-Pilots** Bernadette Fam, Erin Middleton, James Kerr, Lap Nguyen, May Tran, Neda Teha and Zoe Tomaras.

## Staff & Board

**Artistic Director** Karen Therese

**Executive Director** Katy Green Loughrey

**Artistic Associate** Margie Breen

**Company Manager** Alice Hatton

**Administration and Communications Coordinator** Daisy Montalvo

**Associate Choreographer** Larissa McGowan

**Casual Venue Technicians** Nyasha Kanyimo, David Robertts, Shawn Spina, Amber Silk

**Co-Pilots** Bernadette Fam, Erin Middleton, James Kerr, Lap Nguyen, May Tran, Neda Teha and Zoe Tomaras

**Artist-in-Residence** Bernadette Fam

**Company-in-Residence** Dance Makers Collective

**Business Strategy Consultant** Vicki Middleton, Middleton Arts

**Graphic Designer** Mickie Quick

**Bookkeeper** Keeping Company

**Co-Chairs** Sharni Jones and Antonia Seymour

**Treasurer** Susie Vongkeneta

**Members** Donna Abela, Stephen Boyle, David Capra, Juliette Hill and Nicole Namesh



*Image Credit: Alex Wisser*



PYT Fairfield

pyt.com.au

Fairfield School of Arts, 19 Harris St, FAIRFIELD NSW 2165  
PO Box 274, FAIRFIELD NSW 1860  
p: 02 9724 6077 e: admin@pyt.com.au



Create NSW  
Arts, Screen & Culture



PACKER FAMILY  
FOUNDATION



biennale of sydney



CURIOUSWORKS

