UTS BIG THINKING FORUM

DISPLACEMENT AND DIASPORA: WHO WE ARE AND HOW WE LIVE TOGETHER

UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY SYDNEY

THE GREAT HALL

22 JANUARY

6PM

These panel discussions bring artists and experts from various disciplines together to explore the ideas that inspire their works.

What impacts upon Australia’s national identity? How do we coexist? Can there be harmony in diversity? Is there more that unites than divides us? Drawing on themes from Festival shows including *Old Stock: A Refugee Love Story, Counting and Cracking* and *A Ghost in My Suitcase*, this talk explores the migrant experience in Australia and complex questions of identity, assimilation and belonging.

SPEAKERS

CHRISTIAN BARRY (*OLD STOCK: A REFUGEE LOVE STORY*)

Christian Barry is a multi-award-winning director and theatre-maker from Halifax, Nova Scotia. Christian is a co-founder and artistic co-director of 2b theatre company and was nominated for four individual Drama Desk Awards in 2018, including Best Director, as well as receiving a nomination for Best Production. He won a Dora Mavor Moore Award (Toronto Alliance for the Performing Arts) for Outstanding Production and was nominated for an Outstanding Director Dora Award. Other select awards: three Theatre NS Merritt Awards for Outstanding Direction (nine nominations); two for Outstanding New Play; and two for Outstanding Lighting Design. His directing credits for 2b theatre company are *Old Stock: A Refugee Love Story, The God that Comes, Homage, Revisited, The Russian Play, The Story of Mr. Wright, East of Berlin, Manners of Dying*, and *Cherry Docs*. His productions have played at renowned venues and festivals including the Bristol Old Vic, Edinburgh Fringe, Sydney Festival (Invisible Atom, 2011), Tarragon Theatre, Citadel Theatre, Magnetic North Festival, PuSh, Pittsburgh International Festival of Firsts, Noorderzon, Aarhus Festival, Theaterformen Hanover, Luminato, World Stage, and }59E59 (Off Broadway in New York City).

VERITY FIRTH (UTS)

Verity Firth is the Executive Director, Social Justice leading the newly established Centre for Social Justice and Inclusion at the University of Technology Sydney. She is currently spearheading the University’s Social Impact Framework, a first of its kind in the Australian university sector.

Ms Firth has over 15 years of experience at the very highest levels of government and the not for profit sector in Australia. She served as Minister for Education and Training in New South Wales (2008-2011), focusing on equity in education and how to best address educational disadvantage in low socio economic, rural and remote Indigenous communities. Following that she was the Chief Executive of the Public Education Foundation. Verity was previously

NSW Minister for Women (2007-2009) and Member for the state seat of Balmain from 2007-2011. Before her parliamentary career, Ms Firth worked as a lawyer and was Deputy Lord Mayor of the City of Sydney.

LACHLAN MCDANIEL

Lachlan McDaniel belongs to the Kilari Clan of the Wiradjuri Nation. He has been engaged by a range of sectors to assist organisations to improve their engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. His experience extends to political campaigning and improving organisation’s Indigenous engagement in the not-for-profit and corporate business sector. He has completed a Bachelor of Arts/Laws at Macquarie University and has studied internationally at the University of Calgary and the University of Arizona. He is currently studying a Masters by Research at UTS, investigating Wiradjuri cultural revitalisation.

MODERATOR

PROFESSOR ALAN MCKEE (ASSOCIATE DEAN, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, UTS)

Professor Alan McKee is an expert on entertainment and healthy sexual development. He has published in journals including the Archives of Sexual Behavior, the International Journal of Sexual Health, the Journal of Sex Research and Sex Education.