

SYD FEST 19

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SHÀNGHǎI MIMI

SHÀNGHAI MIMI PTY LTD AND FINUCANE & SMITH
AUSTRALIA | WORLD PREMIERE

SHÀNGHǎI MIMI

SHANGHAI MIMI PTY LTD AND FINUCANE & SMITH
AUSTRALIA | WORLD PREMIERE

RIVERSIDE THEATRE
10–20 JANUARY
70 MINS

Artistic Director Moira Finucane

Musical Director/Pianist John McAll

Original Concept/Creative Producer Douglas Hunter

QINGHAI AEROBATIC TROUPE

Acrobats Wang Yuhuan, Wei Youjuan, Zhao Longjuan

Lamaocuo, Dong Guoan, Fan Zengtao, Zhou Zijun

Coaches Wang Zhigang, Wu Yonghong

Acrobatic Director Sun Hao

Dancers Simon Abbe, Ernest Ngolo

MUSICIANS

Singer Sophie Koh

Bass Hiroki Finn

Drums Brooke Custerson

Trumpet Toby Mak

Clarinet/saxophones Brennan Hamilton-Smith

Piano John McAll

CHOREOGRAPHY

Simon Abbe & Wu Baoyong

DESIGN

Set & Costume Design EugyeeneTeh

Lighting Design Jenny Hector

Commissioning Presenters Sydney Festival

THANKS

Costume glamour contributed to by:

Jewels: Angela Clark & Boutique Beads

(authentic vintage Polish jewels)

Faux furs: Gun Shy

(collections from Hollywood to Cirque de Merde)

Handmade bespoke shoes: Preston Zly

(handstitched design dreams)

Cutting Edge Couture: Keon Couture

(the legend of luxe sharp)

Sydney Festival thanks David Mathlin and Camilla Drover
for their support of *Shanghai Mimi*.

CREATORS' STATEMENT

Travelling beyond the Gobi Desert to meet a troupe of acrobats that had never collaborated with foreigners before, the words “perhaps you’d like to work with a more cosmopolitan troupe?” rang in my ears. I looked down on the vast Yellow River and determined to keep an open mind; after all we had auditions around China. I needn’t have bothered. The Qinghai Acrobatic Troupe captured my heart within minutes, with intriguing and adventurous personalities already jumping out at me across culture, shyness and form, a unique “I didn’t expect that” style, a real family ethos, a powerful work ethic, and a kindness to stray cats... Well, long story short, we all fell in love.

All of us were inspired by the grit, glamour and wild possibilities of jazz-crazed cosmopolitan 1930s Shanghai. We banded together with extraordinary Cameroon dancers, a beloved maestro, a genius Australian/Chinese indie pop star, a bunch of lost 1930s Shanghai jazz tracks discovered in a Mumbai warehouse, a red hot and spiked up jazz band, and wildly acclaimed designers.

Across five countries and seven languages, we bring you something wild, romantic, nostalgic, and very now: just like Shanghai herself. The Club is open! Welcome!

Moira Finucane

It all started with the music. A bunch of lost 1930s Shanghai jazz tracks discovered in a Mumbai warehouse that grabbed me by the heart and wouldn’t let go. It didn’t take long for the idea for Shanghai Mimi to take shape: an exotic jazz-infused cabaret set in heady 1930s Shanghai exploding with Chinese acrobats. But the real magic began when I introduced director Moira Finucane to the Qinghai acrobats, and then, when musical director John McAll came on board, well, the rest is history.

Douglas Hunter

Moira Finucane rides the boundaries of genre and form as a director, creator, performer and writer. She is hailed in Australia as a “national treasure” (*The Age*), in Cuba as “the magnificence of Total Art” (*Cuba Tribune*) and in London as “outrageous & unforgettable” (*The Times*). The ‘salons of humanity’ she creates span major gallery installations to surreal dramas to the world’s most awarded ‘provocative variety’ show. They are renowned for their exquisite humanity, bold rule breaking, lifting-up of lesser heard voices, and astonishing audience hospitality.

Her company Finucane & Smith has increasingly become an Australian leader, breaking new ground from Beijing to Buenos Aires, across 15 countries, in five languages, winning 13 awards. Her Mandarin-language Australian gothic *The Flood* premiered at Shanghai Grand in 2018 to universal acclaim, and her *Provocative Variety Glory Box* is now in its 15th year, with 13 countries and 400,000 audience members under its glittering belt.

SHÀNGHǎI MIMI

SHANGHAI MIMI PTY LTD, FINUCANE & SMITH
AUSTRALIA | 世界首演

河畔剧院

1月10-20日

70分钟

导演 Moira Finucane

音乐总监、钢琴演奏 John McAll

制作人、创意总监 Douglas Hunter

青海杂技团

杂技演员

王郁环

魏有娟

赵隆娟

拉毛措

董国安

范增涛

周子君

杂技指导

王志刚

吴永红

杂技总监 孙浩

舞蹈演员

Simon Abbe, Ernest Ngolo

乐队

歌手 Sophie Koh

贝斯 Hiroki Finn

鼓手 Brooke Custerson

小号 Toby Mak

萨克斯风：上海传奇 Brennan Hamilton-Smith

钢琴 John McAll

编舞

Simon Abbe

吴宝勇

舞美设计

布景及服装设计 Eugyeene Teh

灯光设计 Jennifer Hector

悉尼艺术节委约作品

演出介绍/导演的话

飞机飞至戈壁滩上空，来到这个之前从未和外国团队合作过的杂技团，我耳边又出现了那句话：“也许你应该找一个有更多国际合作经验的杂技团。”我看向下方奔腾的黄河，决定还是保持开放的心态。已经在中国那么多地方进行了选拔，我不应该担心的。我几乎是在见到青海杂技团演员们的瞬间就被他们吸引了。在他们羞涩的外表下我看到了他们敢于挑战的内心，他们之间如家人般亲密，他们用心表演，他们对流浪的小猫充满爱心……简而言之，他们“太让我惊喜了”，我爱上了他们。和我们一起创作的，还有来自喀麦隆的卓越舞者、可爱的音乐大师、澳籍华裔流行歌星、一支炙手可热的爵士乐队……我们来自5个不同国家，说着7种不同语言，却都被在孟买仓库发现的20世纪30年代老上海风格的爵士乐所感染，共同演绎出这部狂放、浪漫、复古却又现代的作品。正如上海本身一样。演出开始！欢迎您的到来！

Moira Finucane

一切都是从音乐开始的。当我听到孟买仓库发现的那些上世纪30年代上海爵士乐时，我便再也无法忘记。不久，我就有了 Shanghai MiMi 的演出构想：中国杂技演员在异域爵士乐的伴奏下，带来老上海风格的表演。但当我与导演 Moira Finucane 见到青海杂技团的演员时，奇迹才真正开始。接着，随着音乐总监 John McAll 的加入，剩下的就是要书写历史了。

Douglas Hunter

导演介绍

Moira Finucane 是享誉全球的导演、创作人、演员、作家，在澳大利亚被称为“国宝” (The Age)，在古巴被称作“伟大的全能艺人” (Cuba Tribune)，在伦敦被誉为“非凡、难忘” (The Times)。其作品跨越多个艺术领域，包括画展陈列、超现实主义戏剧以及屡获嘉奖的综艺晚会等，以精致、创新、积极、热情著称。她所创立的公司 Finucane & Smith 是澳大利亚首个业务跨越从北京到布宜诺斯艾利斯的15个国家，5种语言，荣获13项大奖的公司。她所执导的中文版澳大利亚哥特戏剧 “The Flood” 于2018年在上海大剧院全球首演，她的综艺晚会 “Glory Box” 已经在13个国家连续演出15年，观众总数超过40万。

鸣谢

演出服饰赞助

珠宝 Angela Clarke & Boutique Beads

人造皮草 Gun Shy Design

高级服装定制 Keon Couture

纯手工制鞋 Preston Zly



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ALSO AT SYDFEST 19



SYDNEY SYMPHONY UNDER THE STARS

SYDNEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA | AUSTRALIA

19 JANUARY
THE CRESCENT
PARRAMATTA PARK
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