

2021 SYD
FEST



MUSICAL MICROPARKS

ENSEMBLE OFFSPRING

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ERSKINEVILLE VILLAGE

15–17 JANUARY

120 MINS

PERFORMERS

Hani Abdile/Jason Noble

Claire Edwardes / Mindy Meng Wang [Digitally Streamed]

Marlene Cummins/Bree van Reyk

Emily Flannery/Lamorna Nightingale

Bonnie Stewart/Freya Schack-Arnott

Michelle St Anne/Will Hansen

Creative Director Michelle St Anne,
The Living Room Theatre

Realised by Lucy Mihaljevic,
The Living Room Theatre

Website

www.ensembleoffspring.com



MINDY MENG WANG (GUZHENG/VOICE) & CLAIRE EDWARDES (PERCUSSION)

MOTHER

Our original show, where Mindy is beamed from her new hometown in Melbourne due to the current border closures, is about a daughters' relationship with her mother. Using China's yellow river as a metaphor for sadness, missing home and losing connection with ones' mother due to physical distance, our show explores what distance can do to both mother and daughter. We also explore the challenge of a mother wanting success and freedom for her daughter while also wanting to hold her close. The show features original music by Mindy and Claire along with a drum solo which Claire first played whilst studying at the Sydney Conservatorium as a daughter still living at home, just before moving to Rotterdam. Maria Rilke's poem *I Am Much Too Alone in This World, Yet Not Alone* is also drawn upon. Read more about Mindy Meng Wang [here](#).

Featuring

Side by Side by Michio Kitazume (drum solo)

Original songs by Mindy Meng Wang

Original improvisations by Claire Edwardes

MICHELLE ST ANNE (SPOKEN WORD) & WILL HANSEN (DOUBLE BASS)

AND THE CURTAINS ARE BLOWING SLOWLY...

"And the Curtains are Blowing Slowly..." is the product of the latest collaboration between Michelle St. Anne (The Living Room Theatre) And Will Hansen (Double Bassist, Composer). Consisting of several original scenes and texts by Michelle and an ethereal improvised accompaniment by Will, *"And the Curtains are Blowing Slowly..."* showcases musical solos by double bassist and dramaturg alike. Our work explores alcoholism, violence against women, and musing over your earliest recollections in this lucid series of physical and sonic allegories.

Featuring original music and content by Will Hansen and Michelle St Anne

ABOUT ENSEMBLE OFFSPRING

Ensemble Offspring are Sydney's musical mavericks, uniting innovative Australian instrumentalists with a broad collective of collaborators to champion the music of tomorrow. Together we explore new ideas through living music that leaps across art form. Driven by discovery, Ensemble Offspring presents intricately crafted experiential performances that transcend genre and place, tapping into the innate curiosity and adventurous spirit of our audiences. Featuring a core line up of world class musicians (on violin, cello, flute, clarinet, piano and percussion), Ensemble Offspring also provides opportunities to a broad range of Australian artists and creators, nurturing emerging and traditionally under-represented musicians (including female identifying and First Nations artists) to build a thriving culture for the 21st century.

Claire Edwardes, Artistic Director

Read more about the musicians of Ensemble Offspring [here](#).

BONNIE STEWART (VOICE/DRUMS) & FREYA SCHACK-ARNOTT (CELLO/NYCKELHARP)

Bonnie (Ireland/Aus percussionist and singer-songwriter aka. Bonniesongs) and Freya (Denmark/Aus cellist and nyckelharpist) present imaginative songs set to beautiful strings, percussion, harmonies and loops. Since their first collaboration at a creative intensive workshop in Tasmania, they've been mixing Bonnie's angelic and new edge folk-pop with a wide range of dramatic and beautiful cello techniques. They can be heard on Bonnie's live EP *Strings* release along with violist Sascha Bota, and their collaboration is most recently featured on Bonnie's *Energetic Mind* album. Here they showcase a set of new music drawing on their culturally diverse backgrounds, featuring Freya's Swedish folk instrument the Nyckelharpe. The repertoire will include traditional Irish and Scandinavian folk songs as well as an original piece inspired by their friendship and meeting place. Read more about Bonnie [here](#).

Featuring original arrangements of Norwegian, Danish, Finnish and Irish folksongs

LAMORNA NIGHTINGALE (FLUTES) & EMILY FLANNERY (DANCE)

MUNGALA

Mungala is the word for clouds in composer Brenda Gifford's Yuin country - the South Coast of NSW. The music and dance evoke the experience of watching the clouds build across the sea from a cliff top at Wreck Bay. The clouds dance across the sky bringing thunder and then the relief of gentle rain. After the rain the marshland plover bird lays her eggs. The Masked Lapwing or Spur-winged Plover is named because each of its wings is armed with a yellow spur at the 'elbow' which makes it look like it is carrying yellow spears. They use these spurs when diving at potential predators or intruders during breeding season, while chicks are running around or when the eggs are just about to hatch. Original dance by Emily Flannery – read more about her [here](#).

Featuring works *Mungala & Plover Bird* by Brenda Gifford (developed with electronics by Lamorna Nightingale)

AUNTY MARLENE CUMMINS (VOICE) & BREE VAN REYK (VIBRAPHONE)

DOWN UNDER BLUES

Aunty Marlene Cummins (a Guguyelandji and Woppaburra woman, singer, sax player, women's rights + ex-Black Panther activist, storyteller, artist and broadcaster) and Bree van Reyk (a drummer/percussionist/composer/sound artist of Sri Lankan/European heritage who grew up on Ngannawal land) are collaborating together for the first time with a performance that pays tribute to the legacy of Indigenous jazz and blues song women of this country, starting with the legendary Georgia Lee. Lee's 1962 album 'Georgia Lee Sings the Blues Down Under' is significant not least because of Lee's vocal artistry, but also as it was the first long playing record released in this country by a woman, by an Indigenous artist, and in stereo. Aunty Marlene holds an enormous amount of knowledge about Indigenous jazz and blues music in this country, and the songs from Lee's album '*Down Under Blues*' and '*Yarra River Blues*' feature in this set alongside '*Pemulwuy*' - a tribute to the great warrior written by Aunty Marlene out of respect and appreciation for the Gadigal people, whose lands have been her home for many years. Read more about Aunty Marlene [here](#)

Featuring original arrangements of:

Down Under Blues - as sung by Georgia Lee (Bob 'King' Crawford)

Yarra River Blues - as sung by Georgia Lee (Bob 'King' Crawford)

Pemulwuy by Marlene Cummins

Source regarding Lee's album: Brenda Gifford, National Film and Sound Archives, [aso.gov.au](#)

JASON NOBLE (CLARINETS) & HANI ABDILE (SPOKEN WORD)

THE ROSE

In this collaboration Hani and Jason explore connection to place whether it be Erskineville, Somalia or Australia. Hani's poems tell the story of her journey across the ocean as a refugee, and the relationship between two generations of women, the younger of whom is searching for a sense of home. Jason grew up in Port Macquarie, and between Hani and Jason they have 21 siblings! The pair use their shared connection to Erskineville and the beacon that is the Rose of Australia Hotel as the theme for their final musical poem. Read more about Hani [here](#).

Featuring original words & music by Hani Abdile & Jason Noble

This Beautiful Ocean

Wood Valley

Oh Sweet Rose

CREDITS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to Sydney Festival and the City of Sydney for their generous support of this project.

