

THE PULSE

Sydney
Festival
2022

Gravity & Other Myths



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Gravity & Other Myths
Roslyn Packer Theatre
6 - 9 Jan, 70 mins

CAST

Benton Adams-Walker, Chris Carlos, David Trappes, Dylan Phillips, Ellen Grow, Emily Gare, Jascha Boyce, Jo Curry, Joren Dawson, Joshua Strachan, Lachlan Binns, Lewie West, Lewis Rankin, Lisa Goldsworthy, Lyndon Johnson, Martin Schreiber, Maui Ryan, Maya Tregonning, Mieke Lizotte, Rachael Boyd, Sarah Gray, Shani Stephens, Simon McClure, Tom Adams-Walker.

Choir: Young Adelaide Voices' Aurora, Sydney Philharmonia Choirs' VOX

CREDITS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Director: Darcy Grant

Lighting & Set Designer: Geoff Cobham

Composer: Ekrem Eli Phoenix

Conductor: Christie Anderson

Original Creative Ensemble: Alyssa Moore, Amanda Lee, Andre Augustus, Annalise Moore, Axl Osborne, Benton Adams-Walker, Chris Carlos, Dylan Phillips, Emily Gare, Ellen Grow, Jackson Manson, Jacob Randell, Jascha Boyce, Joanne Curry, Jordan Hart, Joren Dawson, Joshua Strachan, Kevin Beverley, Lachlan Binns, Lachlan Harper, Lewis Rankin, Lewis West, Lisa Goldsworthy, Lyndon Johnson, Margot Mansfield, Martin Schreiber, Maya Tregonning, Megan Giesbrecht, Rachel Boyd, Shani Stephens, Simon McClure, Tom Adams-Walker

Company Producers: Jascha Boyce, Jacob Randell, Darcy Grant

Executive Producer: Torben Brookman

Sound System Design: Mik Lavage

Production Manager: Belinda Respondeck

Technical Director: Marko Respondeck

Image Credit: Darcy Grant

ABOUT THE SHOW

World-renowned acrobatics and physical theatre company Gravity & Other Myths returns to the festival stage with its most ambitious work yet. A pulsing, monolithic work of scale that unites audience, acrobat and choir into a single organism for a moment in time...

"A shimmering mass of 22 acrobats and 26 choir members unite and divide, becoming spectacular systems and organisms of muscle, bone and voice"

The home-grown company that has conquered the world brings together all three of its core ensembles plus a choir. *The Pulse* is the wholly Australian work of scale that we've been longing for. The Helpmann award-winning creative team responsible for *Out of Chaos* - director Darcy Grant, designer Geoff Cobham and composer Ekrem Eli Phoenix - reunite to extend and amplify the signature spirit of this unique company: visceral, poetic, heart-stopping feats... Dispatched by your best mates.

"Epic passages of seemingly impossible levels of cooperation and humanity, repeat, stretch, blossom and decay alluding to forces much greater than ourselves."

Watch as a mountain of bodies crumble into an ocean of voice and towering human structures move with precision through an ever-changing web of ropes and elastic. Cobham's sentient lighting design, combined with Grant's inspired crowd management and Phoenix's driving score, create an intricate, organic synchronicity of human movement and sound, all to the beat of your own pounding pulse!

It's the heart-starter we all need.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

In January 2020 all three of GOM's ensembles were touring far flung regions of the world. A month later we had all 34 staff grounded in Australia and very little idea what might happen next.

Stripped of our most precious commodity as physical artists - Human Touch - our disorientation was, like everyone's, very real. The silver lining of course is that we essentially ended up with a funded company for the first time ever.

From this space of silver lined disorientation we began an optimistic 14 week process of project development codenamed: There's no I in Quarant-team. 42 creative tasks distributed electronically to 30 artists, returned and distilled (we almost broke Google Drive) into potent departure points for creating a new work with absolutely no guarantee of a future.

Enter Adelaide, Sydney and Darwin festivals and the MFI (Major Festival Initiative) who, through a great deal of hard work, got this behemoth of a work funded. This is me clocking our privilege and saying a big fat thank you to everyone who helped birth this beast.

The complexity of the process that lead us to the finished work is, in many ways, reflected in the work itself. At its heart *The Pulse* is a story of cause and effect. It aims to enlarge the importance of human touch and connection and act as some kind lens through which to stare at the world and appreciate its scale from both a cellular and celestial viewpoint.

I hope you enjoy *The Pulse*.

Darcy Grant.

ABOUT GRAVITY & OTHER MYTHS

Gravity & Other Myths (GOM) is an acrobatics and physical theatre company pushing the boundaries of new circus. Formed in Adelaide, Australia in 2009, GOM has rocketed to stellar acclaim with a series of disarmingly accomplished ensemble works. GOM utilises an honest approach to performance, to create work with a focus on human connection and acrobatic virtuosity.



Australian Government
Major Festivals Initiative

This project has been assisted by the Australian Government's Major Festivals Initiative, managed by the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body, in association with the Confederation of Australian International Arts Festivals Inc., commissioned by, Adelaide Festival, Sydney Festival, Darwin Festival and GWB Entertainment Pty Ltd.



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