



Sydney
Festival
2024

HOPE HUNT AND THE ASCENSION INTO LAZARUS /

WOLVERINE



Photo by Nat Cartney

HOPE HUNT AND THE ASCENSION INTO LAZARUS

Oona Doherty / Northern Ireland

Sydney Dance Company, Neilson Studio

10 - 13 January

45 mins



CAST AND CREDITS

Choreography Oona Doherty

Direction and diffusion Gabrielle Veyssiere

Performer Sandrine Lescourant -Mufasa

DJ and Car Driver Maxime Jerry Fraisse

Light Technician Lisa Marie Barry

Original Music Maxime Jerry Fraisse

Production OD Works - Gabrielle Veyssiere and Oona Doherty

ABOUT THE SHOW

The performer mutates into separate entities. Morphing from one character to the next. Through

speech, movement, and sound we are twisted and contorted through ideas of masculinity, morality and nostalgia. Through wet forgotten roads of memory; the hunter takes the audience with him.

He hits and swerves at extreme stereotypes of cultural and social class. The masks of men as a form of personal defense against the self and the world we live in today. The consequences of boredom on the psyche are ripped open through physical labour on stage.

Teetering on the fine lines between comedy and tragedy. To find the importance of self-belief. No matter where you are from, what class you are placed. There are essential needs of love ingrained in all of us. Removing the masks of ego and cultural affectations we hope to find a common ground of truth and hope.

HOPE HUNT AND THE ASCENSION INTO LAZARUS

Oona Doherty / Northern Ireland

Fade to white

Lazarus rising as the concrete bird of Paradise. An attempt to deconstruct the stereotype of the concrete disadvantaged male, and raise it up into a Caravaggio bright white limbo. It looks to make the smicks, the spides, the hoods, the gypsies, the knackers into the birds of paradise. It is a hunt for hope.

A MESSAGE FROM THE CREATORS

Hope Hunt lies between the lines of physical theatre, social proclamation and dance. A thumping black golf, headlights on, sits in waiting. Music thumping from its metal shield. A man who is many men leaks in out of the metal beat, his story.

OONA DOHERTY

Heavy with fury, swagger and humanity, award-winning artist Oona Doherty's dance theatre work is a panacea in our current age of crisis: distinctive, visceral and intense, it frames a fundamental belief in dance as a catalyst for social change. Doherty is singular in her ability to transcend the boundaries between flesh and soul, audience and stage. We are excited to welcome her to Sydney Festival with this special performance of her iconic work *Hope Hunt*.

OD WORKS

The company OD Works was created in 2021 to carry the projects of choreographer Oona Doherty (choreographer and artistic director) accompanied by Gabrielle Veyssiere (co-director and producer) since 2016 and Jenny Suarez since 2023 in administration.

We have built up a stable, permanent team to develop long-term projects.

For years, OD Works has been mounting company-produced tours, working closely with the various teams in the venues. The company works with loyal collaborators, both technical and artistic, who contribute to the various pieces produced by OD Works.

GOVERNMENT PARTNER



WOLVERINE

Dance Makers Collective
WORLD PREMIERE

Sydney Dance Company, Neilson Studio
10 - 13 January
40 mins



CAST AND CREDITS

Choreographer and Performer Emma Harrison

Composer Amy Flannery

Dramaturg Miranda Wheen

Lighting Designer Benjamin Brockman

Producer Carl Sciberras

Costume Designer Eliza Cooper

ABOUT THE SHOW

This work is an eruption born out of exhaustion. What do we have to become to survive? Keys in between the fingers, howling at the moon, and transforming into something bigger than yourself, were the starting

points used to embody the chaotic and unbridled power of women and beasts.

Like a phoenix rebirthing from the ashes, the Wolverine transforms as means of survival. Drawing references from iconography, cinema and folklore, the interchanging personas of the werewolf, the woman and the Wolverine shed light on the fatigue of survival, the formidable power of feminine rage and joy, and the constraints imposed on women's bodies by unyielding systems and structures.

Interrogating interconnected systems of violence, gender and class, this work takes hold of the dominant narrative, and rewrites its ending.

WOLVERINE

Dance Makers Collective
WORLD PREMIERE

DANCE MAKERS COLLECTIVE

Dance Makers Collective (DMC), based on Dharug country (Western Sydney), is the only collective-led dance company in Australia. With a mission to build dance communities, DMC brings people together by working with and between dance theatre, contemporary dance and social dance.

Since its inception, DMC has presented 18 dance productions, in theatres, halls, galleries, parks, street corners, balconies, on YouTube and Instagram, in almost every state and territory, and delivered an expansive program engaging thousands of people from all ages and backgrounds to participate in dance for pleasure. In 2023, DMC celebrated its 10-year anniversary, and meaningfully employed more than 100 Australian artists.

EMMA HARRISON

Emma Harrison (she/her) is a performer and maker living on Gadigal country, after a nomadic upbringing throughout central Queensland and regional NSW. Emma's multidisciplinary practice encompasses contemporary dance, sung and spoken voice, film and theatre. Recent credits include *The Lost Boys* (Little Eggs Collective, 2023, directed by Craig Baldwin and Eliza Scott), Tra Mi Dinh's *(UP)HOLDING* (2023) and Australian tours of DMC's *The Rivoli* (2022, 2023) and *DADS* (2021). Her works have been presented by March Dance Festival, Art Month Sydney, Bondi Feast, Crack X Festival, Strut Dance WA, Sydney Fringe Festival, Fremantle Arts Centre, DirtyFeet Out of the Studio and DMC.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Dance Makers Collective (DMC) acknowledges and thanks the traditional custodians, the Darug/Dharug peoples, whose unceded lands we have the privilege to create and work on.

We express our heartfelt thanks to Sydney Festival, particularly Olivia, for her commitment to our work and the whole Festival's championing of Australian dance. This project was cultivated in a residency at The Dance Space in Brighton (UK), hosted by South East Dance, who's partnership was crucial to the creation of this work. DMC is supported by the NSW Government through Create NSW and our 2024 program has been assisted by the Australian Government through Creative Australia, its arts funding and advisory body. Emma expresses her thanks to the incredible people who have helped bring this work together. Thank you to Miranda Wheen, Amy Flannery, Benjamin Brockman, and Carl Sciberras for helping bring this work to life and trusting my process and chaos. Enormous love and gratitude to Harry Copas, Tra Mi Dinh, Emma Riches and The Lost Boys' crew, for their eyes and hearts, impeccable questions, and support.

GOVERNMENT PARTNER

