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EX- PLICIT

CONTENTS

We pay our respects to the Dharawal people who are the traditional custodians of the land, whose deepening connection to culture and customs have cared for this country for over 60,000 years. We acknowledge Elders past, present and emerging for their immense spiritual connection to place which was never ceded.

Dharawal land has always been recognised as a meeting place for people from other lands, and in this spirit we respectfully continue this tradition through the bringing together of our communities through arts and culture.

Always was and always will be Aboriginal land.



Performance Dates

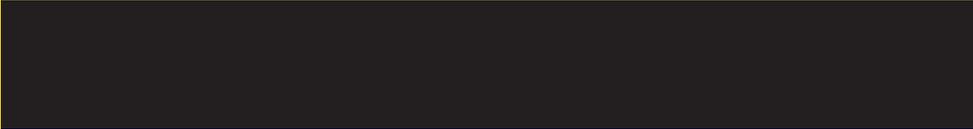
Wednesday 6 January – preview 7.30pm

Thursday 7 January – opening night 7.30pm

Friday 8 January – 6pm and 8.30pm

Saturday 9 January – 4.30pm * and 7.30pm

**Accessible Performance – tactile tour, audio description,
auslan interpreter, relaxed*



FOREWORD

Welcome to the world premiere of *Explicit Contents* by Rhiannon Newton as part of Sydney Festival 2021. Campbelltown Arts Centre is thrilled to be able to present this work to a live audience after what has been an extraordinary year. Having worked with Rhiannon on a previous collaboration with Singaporean choreographer, Elysa Wendi, we felt that it was an opportune time to commission a new major work that spoke to environmental issues of the day through an artist lead process. Rhiannon is a talented emerging artist in the current dance landscape and *Explicit Contents* demonstrates her conceptual, thoughtful, provocative work continuing to challenge audiences and creating an immersive landscape. *Explicit Contents* poses two bodies as both attractor, and repeller forcing object visceral responses between

environments, both hard and soft. These physical intersections push us to ask "what impacts are humans having on their environment, *but what do these impacts feel like?*"

Campbelltown Arts Centre prides itself on commissioning and supporting the development of exciting and innovative new dance works and we wish Rhiannon and the creative team all the best with the premiere season. I would like to thank Anthea Doropoulos and the Campbelltown Arts Centre staff for bringing this new work into the real world.

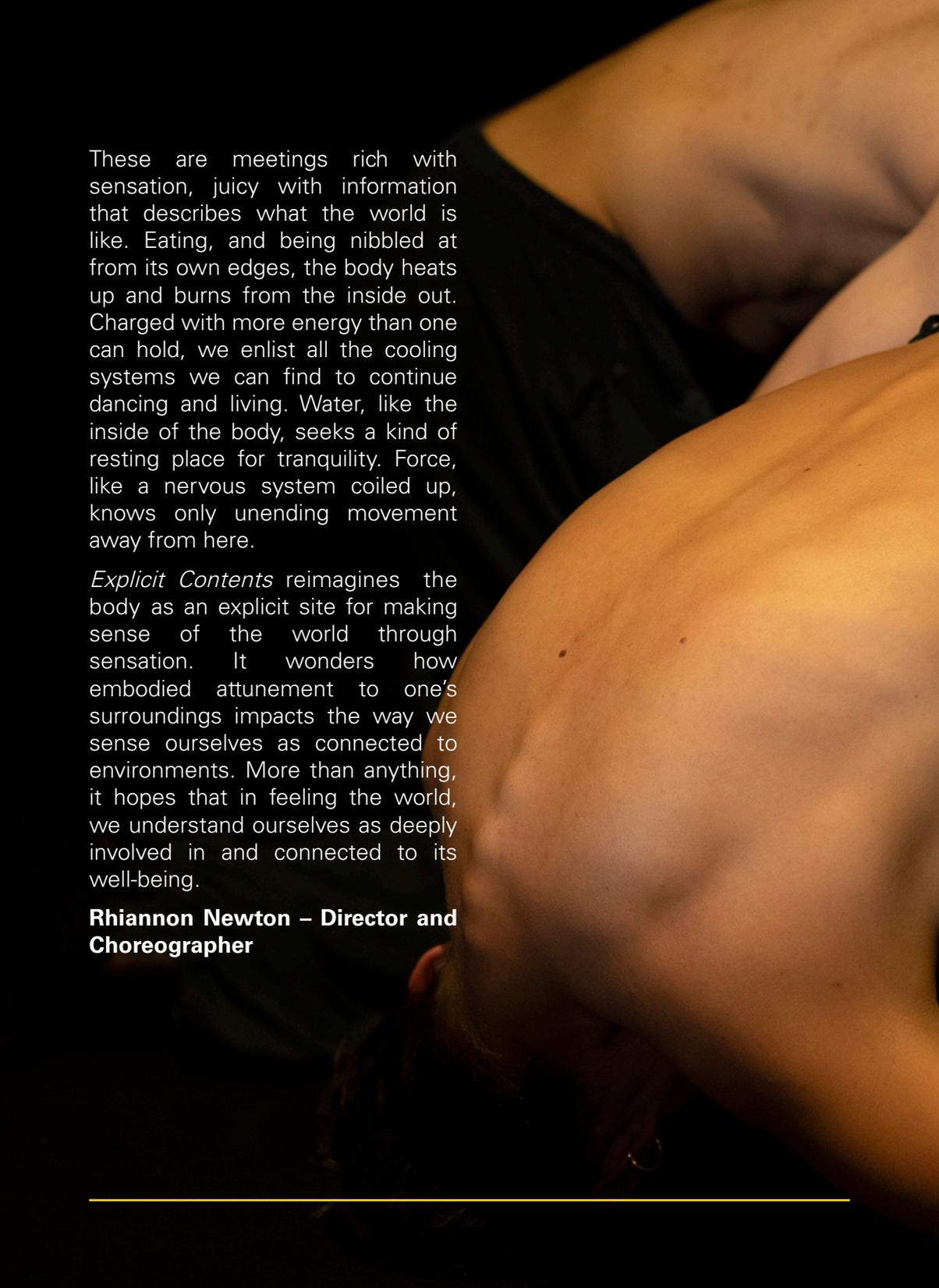
Michael Dagostino – Director

ARTIST STATEMENT

The edge of the body has disappeared; the environment has seeped inside and come to live amongst body parts; the nervous system feels its way far beyond the skin.

Explicit Contents is an attempt to understand how we, as bodies, continue the world around us. I remember diving into the ocean and sensing how all the water molecules in my body momentarily were suspended amongst millions of watery others. Temporarily we continued each other. In a series of encounters between two bodies and the world around them, *Explicit Contents* aims to make these connections between bodies and environments not only visible, but viscerally real.

The zone of the body, like the zone of the theatre, is a place for entrances and exits, meandering and feeling. At certain speeds bodies blur into their surroundings, what *moves* and is *moved* becomes confused. Lines of action announce some surfaces as solid. One material meets another and pushing against it realises its own density and strength of will.



These are meetings rich with sensation, juicy with information that describes what the world is like. Eating, and being nibbled at from its own edges, the body heats up and burns from the inside out. Charged with more energy than one can hold, we enlist all the cooling systems we can find to continue dancing and living. Water, like the inside of the body, seeks a kind of resting place for tranquility. Force, like a nervous system coiled up, knows only unending movement away from here.

Explicit Contents reimagines the body as an explicit site for making sense of the world through sensation. It wonders how embodied attunement to one's surroundings impacts the way we sense ourselves as connected to environments. More than anything, it hopes that in feeling the world, we understand ourselves as deeply involved in and connected to its well-being.

Rhiannon Newton – Director and Choreographer

CREATIVE TEAM

Director and Choreographer

Rhiannon Newton

Performer

Ivey Wawn

Performer

David Huggins

Music and Sound Design

Peter Lenaerts

Dramaturg

Lizzie Thomson

Lighting Designer

Karen Norris

Costume Designer

Agnes Choi

Outside Eye

Nikki Heywood and Victoria Hunt

Producer

Anthea Doropoulos

Assistant Producer

Nikoletta Minns

ARTIST BIOS

Rhiannon Newton – Director and Choreographer

Rhiannon is an Australian dancer and choreographer who grew up on Dunghutti land (Kempsey) in regional NSW. Her artistic work draws attention to ecofeminist ways of understanding bodies as inextricably entangled with the world. From Gadigal land (Sydney) Rhiannon makes contributions to community and culture through creation, performance, collaboration, teaching and curation. She leads the artist-run venue, ReadyMade Works and the lecture-performance series, Talking Bodies.

Rhiannon's recent projects, *Long Sentences* (Baltic Circle Festival, Helsinki 2019); *Place Without Form* (Trois C-L, Luxembourg 2019); *Choreographed Readings* (Dance Massive, Melbourne 2019) and *We Make Each Other Up* (Dancehouse, Melbourne 2018), emphasise relational ways of knowing and

interdependence between humans and their environment. Rhiannon has developed her practice in residencies, international exchange projects, commissions and fellowships such as, The Unconformity (Queenstown, 2020), The Australia Council HIAP Residency (Helsinki, 2019), Dancehouse Housemate Commission (Melbourne, 2018), Dance Massive (Melbourne, 2017, 2019), Create NSW Emerging Performing Artist Fellowship (2018), Critical Path Responsive Residency (2016, 2018, 2020) and Movement Research (New York City, 2011, 2019).

David Huggins - Performer

David Huggins began dancing while completing his psychology degree in Aotearoa New Zealand. After graduating with a Bachelor of Dance from the VCA, University of Melbourne, he worked with Russell Dumas' Dance Exchange in Melbourne, performing nationally and internationally with the company for nine years.

David has also worked for other artists including Douglas Wright, Xavier Le Roy, Rhiannon Newton and Martin Del Amo. Aside from his work as a dancer, he has begun to explore his own choreographic interests through various residencies, and recently presented his first full-length work, *Once More, with Feeling* in New Zealand.

Ivey Wawn - Performer

Ivey Wawn (1990) is a dancer working and living primarily on Gadigal Land (Sydney). She makes performances mainly for live audiences and performs regularly in the work of other artists from a range of disciplines. She is committed to dance as a potential form of resistance; to social abstraction and commodification, making work about labour, being together, sensation, magic, and about the commodity form among other things. She is supported to continue working as an artist by a secondary income in

hospitality and continues to study a Bachelor of Political Economic and Social Sciences at the University of Sydney since 2016. Ivey's work has been supported by Arts House, the Australia Council for the Arts, Critical Path, DirtyFeet, First Draft Gallery, Kaldor Public Art Projects, Liquid Architecture, Next Wave Festival, Performance Space, ReadyMade Works, Underbelly Arts Festival among other institutions. More importantly though, her practice is supported by the comradeship, work and intentions of her friends and colleagues both inside and outside of artistic practice.

Peter Lenaerts – Music and Sound Design

Peter Lenaerts is a Belgian sound artist active in the fields of performance, contemporary dance, & film. Lenaerts is fascinated by empty spaces and invisible or acousmatic sound. Sound that doesn't scream for attention but sneaks into the listener's ear unnoticed. Sound without ego, pure sound, with a focus on the medium rather than the maker. He was resident sound artist at the 2018 Hong Kong Arts Festival where he created music for Vortex by choreographer Wayson Poon. Other recent work includes *Non-Place* (2019) & *MicroSleepDub* (2015-2016). Apart from his own work,

he has created soundtracks and composed music for choreographers and performance artists like Mette Ingvarsten, Andros Zinsbrowne, Salva Sanchis, Daniel Linehan, Eszter Salamon, ao. He strongly believes that in a culture dominated by visuals, nothing is as powerful, intense, and rewarding as simply listening.

Karen Norris – Lighting Designer

Karen Norris has extensive experience as lighting designer for Theatre/Dance and Music throughout Australia and Europe. Based in London and Nice -1998 to 2008. Recent designs: *Terrain*, *Lore-Bangarra Dance Theatre*, *NAISDA Francis Rings & Sani Ray*, *Songs Not To Dance To* and *Champions* Martin del Amo, *On View* Sue Healey, *CELLA* Germany SF 2018 & *Dance Massive* 2019 & *HIPS* Narelle Benjamin, *Winyanboga Yurringa* Andrea James Moogahlin, *KOTAH!* Atamira Dance Company NZ, *Barbara and the Camp Dogs* Belvoir Street, *The Appleton Ladies* Potatoe Race & *The last Five Years* Ensemble Theatre, *Blak Box* Barangaroo & SF 2019 Melbourne 2020 Urban Theatre, *Broken Glass* SF 2018 - *The Weekend* Liza-mare Syron SF2019 - New Zealand Festival 2019 Moogahlin, *RED* Liz Lea Dance, *Rainbows End* Darlinghurst Theatre, *plenty serious TALK TALK* Vicky van Hout, *Blak Drop Effect* Bankstown

Arts Centre and *Silence* Karul Projects *BlakDance* and *Sunshine Super Girl* Andrea James Performing Lines.

Victoria Hunt – Outside Eye

Victoria was born on Yugambah Country, Surfers Paradise, Queensland. She currently lives in the unceded land of the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation (Sydney). Her ancestral affiliations are with Te Arawa, Ngāti Kahungunu, Rongowhakaata, English, Irish and Finnish. She works across performing and visual arts as a dancer, choreographer, director, photographer and film maker. She is a founding member of De Quincey Co. since 2000, performing in over 40 productions.

Her work reinstates the power of Indigenous creativity through unravelling the complexities Indigenous people face within the politics of recognition, respect, responsibility, repatriation and remembrance. Central to this is the honoring of Whakapapa (kinship/lineages), mana wahine, atua wahine

and indigiqueer knowledges. Her work is a gradual binding of intimate collaboration between artists, elders and communities. She is the recipient of numerous awards and their work has travelled nationally and internationally to critical acclaim.

Their short film TAKE, in collaboration with producer/editor Margot Nash, won the Mana Whenua award at the Wairoa Maori film festival and has screened extensively across six continents.

Agnes Choi – Costume Designer

Agnes Choi is a multi-disciplinary creative based in Sydney, Australia. Since graduating from the UTS Fashion & Textiles Honours degree in 2018, Choi has worked across several mediums including fashion design, acting, styling and costume design. With her dance and drama background, Choi is always finding ways to merge her worlds through narrative and artistic expression such as costume design for *Explicit Contents* for C-A-C as part of Sydney Festival 2021, and often roots her work in cultural, environmental and social discourses. Choi has recently been featured in i-D Asia (2018), Vogue Australia (2019, 2020) and RUSSH Magazine (2020) for her work in fostering positive changes for the future of the Australian fashion and cultural landscape.

Lizzie Thomson – Dramaturg

Lizzie Thomson is a choreographer, performer and researcher living and working on Gadigal and Wangal lands of the Eora Nation. Her choreographic work is driven by interests in affinities between dance and language, as well as in the political potency of practices of attention. Lizzie is currently undertaking a PhD in dance theory at the University of NSW. Her writing on dance has been published in books, journals and exhibition catalogues. Over the past 20 years, Lizzie has performed throughout Australia and Europe with many artists including Rosalind Crisp, Agatha Gothe-Snape, Mette Edvardsen and Jane McKernan.

Nikki Heywood – Outside Eye

Nikki Heywood is a performance creator with a focus on embodiment, writing and voice. She has informed a generation of performance artists over several decades leading and participating in collective creation and collaboratively devised projects, running skills based workshops for students and emerging practitioners and assisting the creative process of many artists as mentor and dramaturg.

Heywood's work has toured nationally and internationally. Major influences of her creative approach include Body Weather, somatic practice Body-Mind Centering and a longstanding improvisational practice. She has had considerable interaction with other national and international artists through ongoing association with Critical Path and has undertaken intense periods of studio based research on experimental generative practices. In 2017 she was awarded a Doctorate of Creative Arts from University of Wollongong. Her recent practice involves writing for sound based performance work with musician Mark Cauvin.



THANK YOU

A special thank you to the dancers David Huggins and Ivey Wawn. A massive thank you to the creative team Peter Lenaerts, Lizzie Thomson, Nikki Heywood, Victoria Hunt, Karen Norris and Agnes Choi for making the work a reality. Thank you to Campbelltown Arts Centre for this wonderful opportunity in this challenging time. Special thank you to Anthea Doropoulos for the support and care to make this work a possibility.

STAFF LIST

Director	Michael Dagostino
Business & Engagement Manager	Mouna Zaylah
Head of Curatorial	Adam Porter
Creative Producer – Contemporary Dance	Anthea Doropoulos
Creative Producer – Contemporary Music	Kiri Zakinthinos
Creative Producer – Contemporary Performance	Lily Balatincz
Curator Contemporary Visual Art	Emily Rolfe
Visitor Experience Coordinator	Zana Lopez
Assistant Creative Producer, Performance, Music & Dance	Nikoleta Minns
Collections Officer	Hannah James
Production Team Leader	Paul Welch
Education Officer	Edwina Hill
Creative Learning & Engagement Officer	Timothy George
Arts & Cultural Liaison Officer	Brenden Broadbent
Media & Communications Officer	Danielle Farrugia
Design & Communications Officer	Ashley Murray
Arts Administrator	Sharon McAndrew
Visitor Experience and Retail Officer	Louise Snowdon



Campbelltown Arts Centre
One Art Gallery Rd Campbelltown
Open daily, 10am – 4pm
02 4645 4100
C-A-C.com.au



Campbelltown Arts Centre is proudly owned by the people of Campbelltown. A cultural facility of Campbelltown City Council, assisted by the NSW Government through Create NSW and by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body. Campbelltown Arts Centre receives support from the Crown Resorts Foundation and the Packer Family Foundation. Photos by Rafaella Pandolfini.