

# DAREBIN ARTS SPEAKEASY

AND MELBOURNE FRINGE PRESENTS

# APOCRYPHA

OOZING FUTURE



Darebin  
Arts

# DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

**MITCH JONES**

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, OOZING FUTURE

Jean Genet once demanded of town planners that theatres should only be built in the shadow of cemeteries. This was how he proposed to emphasise the existential importance of the ritual space where we digest life and create meaning through image, action and story. The act of playing (both tragic and comic) is given substance by its relationship to our inevitable end. How suitable then, that Coburg cemetery lies just a little further down Bell Street from where you now sit...

*Apocrypha* takes Genet's fascination with the social outsider and turns it into a reclaimed mythology, filled with secular miracles. Those who are not given meaning by the central narratives of control, must create their own, and herein we propose to do just that. We are not satisfied by the sanitised caricatures of our communities, used to sell more memberships to the death cult of capitalism. So, this is an iconoclastic journey that focuses not on our heroism but on our flaws, treasuring these as the proof that we are not mass produced.

The elements that we use here are surprise and beauty, and our language is the universal tongue of visual poetry. In this dream state you are invited to recognise yourself, and create your own interpretations. But for me, this show is about how to live with kindness, hope and care for others, even while feeling that you don't fit in. In a selfish world, empathy is a radical act. Ultimately it is what keeps us out of the cemetery and amongst the living.

# ABOUT

## ALT-CIRCUS FOR THE UNHOLY

Apocrypha (a-) n. Hidden writings, works outside the accepted canon of scripture, social outsiders who do not fit the norm.

Enter the world of Apocrypha, the new ensemble show from circus provocateur Mitch Jones (AutoCannibal, Slava's Snowshow, Circus Oz) that journeys beyond the canon of mainstream culture.

See the tightrope walker dance along rusty chains, while the acrobat spins hula hoops which blacken his body with painted scars and contortionists balance precariously on weeping bluestone boulders.

Inspired by cult cinema, erotic fiction and the work of Jean Genet, this stunning new work of alt-circus explores the limits of our bodies, finding moments of beauty among the outcast and the unholy.

With a jaw-dropping cast including Adam Malone, Rindi Harradine, Kristian Santic, Kyall Shanks and Chloe Fazikas, Apocrypha is a death-defying exploration of desire and counterculture that will linger long after the final curtain falls.

Running time: approx. 70mins, no interval.

Show warnings: this production contains nudity, sexual content and the use of smoke and haze.

## CREATIVE TEAM

Creator & Director: **Mitch Jones**

Performed by: **Adam Malone, Rindi Harradine, Kristian Santic, Kyall Shanks and Chloe Fazikas**

Set & Costume Designer: **Romanie Harper**

Composer & Sound Designer: **Bridget Chappell**

Lighting Designer: **Gina Gasgoine**

Production Manager: **Alison Neville**

Stage Manager: **Daikota Garrett**

Rigging Designer: **Mitch Jones & Christian Schooneveldt Reid**

Show Rigger: **Kat Renehan**

Producer: **Dans Maree Sheehan**

Image by: **3Fates Media**



The project is presented as part of Melbourne Fringe' Pulse Program of curated works.

This project received additional support from Creative Victoria and Creative Australia. Mitch Jones wishes to thank Circus Oz and the National Institute of Circus Arts for their initial support of the work's development.

# OOZING FUTURE

Since 2018 Oozing Future has been developing new audiences for contemporary circus by centring theatricality, production design and diverse teams of artists within our practice. We call our combination of experimental apparatus and multi-disciplinary practice 'Alt-Circus', and we use this label as a provocation to continue exploring how physical performance can create meaningful theatrical experiences. Our shows have toured around Australia and gained us an artistic reputation for making bold and insightful work that intrigues and entertains.

# DAREBIN ARTS SPEAKEASY

Darebin Arts Speakeasy is Darebin City Council's award-winning year-round independent performance and development program. For 10 years, the program has curated and invested in contemporary dance, circus, theatre and multi-disciplinary artists whose works offer audiences a dynamic and diverse mix of stories that matter to the community, celebrate cultural diversity and reflect the times we're living in.

Darebin Arts has backed many of the groundbreaking artists and companies that make Melbourne's art sector so iconic: RAWCUS, Ilbjerri Theatre Company, The Hayloft Project, Little Ones Theatre, Stephanie Lake Company, Elbow Room, MKA, Double Water Sign, and lead artists like Joel Bray, Michele Lee, Emilie Collyer, Anna Seymour, Stella Young and Sammy J.



# ARTIST BIOS



## **ADAM MALONE**

is an iconic, queer showstopper known for his remarkable talent and endless surprises. Beginning his professional career as a show pony at the age of 12, Adam has been captivating audiences across Australia and around the world with his diverse talents in acrobatics, traditional and contemporary circus, gymnastics, drag, burlesque, theatre, sideshow, and beauty.

Since graduating from the National Institute of Circus Arts (NICA) in 2018, Adam has performed with renowned companies such as Circus Oz, Pippin the Musical, Yummy, Circus Monoxide, Blunderland, and Bernie Dieter's Club Kabaret. In 2022, he was crowned MX Burlesque Victoria and has made a significant impact across Australia's queer, cabaret, burlesque, and club scenes.

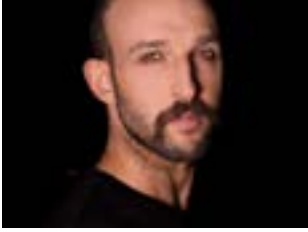


## **RINDI HARRIDINE**

has always been a performer. Whether it was busking outside the chicken shop as a child or performing shows with her cousins on the veranda. It wasn't until a tissu was hung in the back shed of her 1700-acre property in northern NSW that she turned her eye to circus. Hanging up her muddied workboots, Rindi left her little valley to further her skills at the National Institute of Circus Arts. Since graduating in 2022, Rindi has performed with Circus Oz, AfterDark Theatre and HeadFirst Acrobats both nationally and internationally.

Rindi loves cats, good coffee and bad horror movies

# ARTIST BIOS



## **KRISTIAN SANTIC**

is an interdisciplinary performance artist, producer, and director specialising in the forms of Theatre, Dance, and Circus with a strong curiosity for experimental, immersive and hybrid work. Kristian is the co-founder artistic director of Occupied Spaces and SpaceFold Technology, and has been a key creative with Broad Encounters, David Carberry Productions, and Shock Therapy Productions. Recent works include: *A Midnight Visit*, *Love Lust Lost*, *The Time Travel Cafe*, *The Last Collection*, *Redlight Distancing*, and *Sand* by Belloo Creative.



## **KYALL SHANKS**

is a Naarm/Melbourne based contemporary dance artist. Kyall works in a variety of different areas within the dance industry, including as a performer, teacher, choreographer, director and producer for minor and major professional companies, institutions, national festivals and organisations. Kyall also works within youth, education and community dance contexts, and is passionate about increasing the accessibility of dance on all levels. Kyall's creative practice uses introspection, humour and absurdism to reflect upon and point out behavioural patterns and structures of society.

# ARTIST BIOS



## **CHLOE FAZIKAS**

At seventeen Chloe moved to the South East Coast in pursuit of opportunities to perform at corporate and music events which eventually led her into the world of contemporary circus. Since then, she's been incredibly fortunate to work with companies and individuals that foster a space to upskill, explore and develop artistically as a circus performer.

Her simple pleasures are sunshine, bodies of water and bugs.



## **BRIDGET CHAPPELL**

is a composer living on Djadja Wurrung country. Her tastes run from renaissance to rave which she enjoyed exploring the scope of for *Apocrypha*.



# ARTIST BIOS



## **ALISON NEVILLE**

Alison started working in theatre and circus production from the age of 16. Training at the Hothouse theatre under the direction of Rob Scott.

She then moved over to Europe touring and working in lighting for large arts festivals.

Over the last 15 years she has specialised in Spiegeltent and circus production. Being the Head of Operations and Production for The Garden of Unearthly Delights in Adelaide fringe and production manager for festivals and shows such as Strut & Fret, *La Clique*, 8 Star Monaco, Darwin Festival, Rising Festival and Melbourne International Comedy Festival.



## **GINA GASCOINE**

is a lighting designer with over 30 years of experience. She has worked for contemporary dance groups internationally and more locally theatrical productions, circus companies and directors including Kamarra Bell-Wykes, Outer Urban Projects, Archie Roach, Circus Oz, Snuff Puppets, Susie Dee, Melbourne Festival, Adelaide Festival, La Fura dels Baus, Chamber Made Opera, Maude Davey and The Flying Fruit Fly Circus, NICA. She is currently finishing a Masters in Research (Fine Art) at RMIT and is a Certified Feldenkrais practitioner.



# ARTIST BIOS



## MITCH JONES

is a physical performer, creative director and arts advocate with two decades of experience in creating thought-provoking and playful shows that experiment with genre and style.

*'Jones is a remarkable performer, and you can't take your eyes off him'*

– Alison Croggan,

**Witness performance.**

As professional unusualist and daredevil Captain Ruin he has toured extensively, performing on the main circus stage of Glastonbury Festival, hanging in a straitjacket underneath a 26m high crane for Sydney Festival and appearing in the 2023 season of *Americas Got Talent: Allstars*.

Jones' company work includes training with La Fura Dels Baus director Younes Bachir, working as a core member of Snuff Puppets, performing the lead character in Circus Oz's *Model*

*Citizens* and playing Green Clown in *Slava's Snowshow*.

In 2018 he founded Oozing Future, a physical theatre company using experimental performance to create conversations about aesthetic and political ideas. *AutoCannibal* (2019) explored self-harm as a metaphor for climate change through dark clown, and toured to Sydney and Darwin festivals (2021/2022). It was described as *'the kind of work that gives Melbourne its reputation for considered, influential independent theatre'* – Tim Byrne, **Time Out**.

# ARTIST BIOS



## **DANS MAREE SHEEHAN**

Dans has extensive experience in performing arts in Australia and internationally. Highlights include touring with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre, being a company member of Elevator Repair Service Theater in New York, and working with both Back to Back Theatre and Circus Oz. Committed to compassion and authenticity, Dans fosters community and collaboration in her work producing for independent companies in a number of art forms, including Clubhouse Productions, Pony Cam Collective, Die Roten Punkte, Oozing Future, David Woods and Circus Oz. She is also the Creative Producer of Fish Creek Carnival in regional Victoria.