



**Adam Forbes** is a Melbourne-based performance artist. He has worked with Tony Yap since 1992 in productions and arts festivals in Australia and South East Asia. Adam is interested in authenticity and presence stemming from simultaneous engagement with the bodies felt sense, inner narrative and performative awareness.



**Amber Huang** originally comes from Taiwan. Amber has professional training background and completed her Degree qualification in Chinese Traditional Dance and Contemporary Dance from the Taipei City University in 2012. Amber has created and performed various works in Taiwan and internationally. Her key performances include: "Aphasia and Muddy River" (her graduation performance), "USB Key" at the Taipei I Dance Festival 2012, "Rambling in an Empty Room" by The Key Physical Theater (founded by Amber Huang and Chien Tzu-Ting) which toured around the UK including Buxton Fringe Festival and Edinburgh Fringe Festival 2012, "The Dream Land" with Tai Gu Tales Dance Theater 2013, and "Pursuing our Dreams" with Mix Acrobatics Theater at the Avignon Festival in 2013. Amber is currently living in Melbourne and working as part of teacher and dancer in KITA Performing Arts Company, creating new collaborations and pursuing her own work



**Aña Wojak** is an award winning cross-disciplinary artist working in performance, assemblage, installation, painting and theatre design with a particular interest in site-specificity, ritual and altered states. Australian born, she studied in Gdansk, Poland amid the turmoil of Solidarity and Martial Law, and has been an exhibiting visual artist for over 30 years. Based in Northern Rivers NSW, her work has been shown extensively throughout Australia and internationally, including Java and Malaysia in 2013. She has worked with Tony Yap Co, Pacitti Co, senVoodoo (co-founder), La Pocha Nostra & Felix Ruckert, amongst others. In 2014 she returned to Melaka Art & Performance Festival following festival appearances in Newcastle & Cairns, as well as two major solo exhibitions; at Lismore Regional Gallery and a 30 year retrospective at The Channon Gallery NSW. Often durational in nature, she creates visually poetic performances that resonate with a visceral depth.



**Brendan O'Connor** was born in Ireland, Brendan graduated from the College of Dance, Monkstown, and at Fontys Dance Academy in the Netherlands. Brendan continued with his own unique work, which linked him to opportunities with various dance companies in The Netherlands as well as some of the leading dance companies in Ireland including Dance Theatre of Ireland and Modern Irish Dance Theatre. His works include 'Exodus', and 'Grand Junction' for Dance Theatre Ireland. Since arriving Melbourne 5 years ago Brendan has performed as a soloist and as member of the Tony Yap Company in various works from 2009-2012 and at Melaka Arts and Performance (MAP) Festival, Malaysia; The Arts Island Festival; the 'Eulogy for the Living', Mining Exchange, Ballarat; and Light in Winter Festival, Federation Square, Melbourne. Brendan has performed in a series of duets with Tony Yap including 'Metanoia Illuminations', Bendigo; 'Little Con', Dancehouse Melbourne; and 'masculINES', Critical Path, Sydney.



**Felix, Ching Ching Ho** is a Hong Kong born Melbourne based independent theatre director and performer. As a performing artist, she has trained in Viewpoint, Suzuki and Butoh respectively with Zen Zen Zo Physical Theatre (Australia); Tony Yap (Malaysia/Australia) and SITI Company (New York). She has performed in “Take Off Your Skin” (Melbourne Fringe); “Grave” (Next Wave/Arts House); Walking in Words” (The Light in Winter Festival); “1938: An Opera” (Union House Theatre/Melbourne Fringe) and “The Sovereign Wife” (Sisters Grimm/MTC NEON). As a theatre director, she has directed shows for Melbourne Fringe, MKA, Chinese theatre groups at the University of Melbourne. As an assistant director, she has worked with Tom Gutteridge, Yumi Umiumare, Susie Dee, Peter Wilson and Meng Jing Hui with companies Union House Theatre, Melbourne Theatre Company and Malthouse. Felix initiated TRANS COLLECITVE in 2013 for which [TRANS] # Series has created and produced two hybrid multilingual performances for Mudfest and the Hong Kong People’s Fringe Festival.



**Gretel Taylor** has explored relationships of bodies, places and identity through site-specific performance for over a decade. She is currently Artist / Research Fellow at University of Melbourne, investigating potentials of site-specific art and community cultural development. Gretel’s performance practice draws upon extensive training in improvisation, Butoh and Body Weather, as well as contemporary performance/ live art. Gretel has performed with Tony Yap Co since 2000. Gretel is currently performing with Environmental Performance Agency (EPA), with whom she created ‘Body of Water’ and ‘Distal Fragments’ in sites around Melbourne in 2014. Major solo work includes ‘Still Landing’, a video installation shot on Warlpiri (Aboriginal) country in the Northern Territory and a series of works about non-Indigenous relationships to land in Australia: ‘Settling In’, ‘Presence of the Past’ and ‘It’s MINE!’ (2013-14).



**Janette Hoe** is driven by an interest in the ecstatic body in performance and draws inspiration from Japanese Butoh’s ideaology of ‘form and formlessness’. Janette works predominantly with improvisational structures in response to specific sites and her practice is committed to an ongoing research on the philosophically concerned ontology of the everyday, and the ordinary. Drawing from her Malaysian-born, Chinese-Indonesian lineage, her work continues to explore cultural and geographic aspects of human being, and their embodied manifestation. With a performance history spanning almost two decades, Janette has been recognized for her unique visual performance pieces in both solo and collaborative work.



**Jessi Lewis:** “I create work that responds to or is related to “big picture stuff”- social, political and environmental events, themes and concepts that through them irreversibly shape.”  
From the age of 15, He has produced and presented some 14 solo shows throughout Australia, his works have dealt with the themes of age, birth, death, religion, politics, terrorism, identity, middle class, sexuality and celebration through a mix of new media, music, verse, physical theatre and installation. Originally from Brisbane, he trained with Zen Zen Zo physical theatre company, and Urban Ignition Youth Dance Company- before moving to Melbourne to continue his practice. To date he has also had 2 solo exhibitions of his visual arts – In White Black Will Find Solace, at New White Gallery and Prosthetics at Dante’s Gallery he plans to return to the medium during 2014 to present a 3rd exhibition-entitled the Neon’s Of Tokyo.



**Jill Orr** has delighted, shocked and moved audiences through her performance installations which she has presented internationally from the late nineteen seventies to now. Orr's work centres on issues of the psycho- social and environmental where she draws on land and identities as they are shaped in, on and with the environment be it country or urban locales. Orr grapples with the balance and discord that exists at the heart of relations between the human spirit, art and nature. Jill Orr was represented in the inaugural Venice International Performance Art Week, where she presented *The Promised Land* in 2012 and *The Bipolar International Performance Art Meeting* in Sopot, Poland in 2014 and most recently the MAP Festival Melaka, 2014.



**Lee Kien Fei** graduated from Sunway University Performing Arts Department in 2012. His performing art journey began with Batu Dance Theatre's Sunshine Project, a young dancer-training programme in 2007. Kien participated in various performances and became one of the principal dancers of Batu Dance Theatre's production *<MOUSE BRIDE>* and *Rouge VI <SPRING>* which choreographed by Vincent Tan Lian Ho. 2012, he performed at the Germany "No Ballet" International Choreography Competition, presented Fione Chia's choreography *<Jin Zhu Long>*. He is currently a full-time student of Bachelor of Creative Arts in Drama in Deakin University, Australia. He participated as a performer in *The Light in Winter Solstice Celebration*, Melbourne, choreographed by Tony Yap. He has also collaborated with Sabrina Dance Troupe, and performed in various locations in Melbourne.



**Nakarin Jaikla (aka Aaron)** was born in Chiang Mai, Thailand in 1982. He graduated from Chiang Mai University in Bachelor of Fine Arts with Second class honours specialist in Thai Art and Drama in 2005. Although, Aaron has a traditional Thai Lanna background, he is also actively in Western dance styles. In early 2012, Aaron founded SILP Productions Inc to promote Thai arts and culture in Melbourne. Throughout this year, Nakarin joined Triple8Funk Dance Company. Through his hard work and his skills, Nakarin was promoted to be an artistic director of Triple8Funk Dance Company in 2013. In 2014, Nakarin Jaikla received grant from City of Melbourne (Arts Grants Program 2014) through SILP Productions Inc. He directed and choreographed Thai-Australian cross-culture Production called "Believe in Belief" which was part of Melbourne Fringe Festival 2014. In November 2014, Nakarin joined MAPFest 2014 (Melaka Arts and Performance Festival 2014) in Melaka, Malaysia, and performed solo in Thai contemporary work "Love and Lost" and "The Origin of Faith", and collaborated with other artists in the festival as well. Nakarin Jaikla is currently developing work for next project in 2015.



**Ria Soemardjo** is a vocalist, musician, composer and teacher. Born in Melbourne of Australian/Indonesian descent, Ria draws on her deep respect for the Javanese musical tradition in her original compositions and soundscapes. Her distinct, haunting vocal style also reflects an eclectic range of influences, and she has recorded with a diverse range of ensembles – across genres including contemporary and traditional world, to jazz and improvisation. An experienced collaborator across cultures and disciplines, Ria has performed internationally in a range of diverse projects incorporating contemporary dance, theatre and installations. Recent projects include sound design/composition for performance installation *Chinese Whispers* (awarded best live art work Melbourne Fringe 2014), and gamelan inspired soundscapes and live voice/percussion/viola for 'Opal Vapour' (awarded best dance work Melbourne Fringe 2013). In 2012 her work with internationally acclaimed dancer Ros Warby and cellist Helen Mountfort in 'Tower Suites', was awarded a Green Room award for music composition and performance. Her latest recording with her trio 'Fine Blue Thread' features original compositions and the unique combination of tabla, cello, viola and voice. Currently the only Australian female exponent of the Javanese classical vocal style, she has trained in central Java and continues to perform regularly with gamelan groups around Australia.



**Takashi Takiguchi**, born in Hiroshima Japan, is a passionate community artist who practices broad ranges of artistic activities, such as poetry, ceramics, and dance. His background as a professional social worker for past decade, coupled with year-long interview on his grandmother's war experience for his writing, has led him for further exploration on 'belongings and dis/connections' through somatic movement in both social and individual scales. He has continuously attended workshops of Tony Yap and Yumi Umiumare since 2012, with the first group performance at Light in Winter 2014 at Federation Square in Melbourne.



**Tim Crafti** graduated from the Australian Ballet School in 2008 after 14 years of Classical Ballet training. Since then, he has been mentored by prominent performance artists including: Yumi Umiumare (Contemporary Butoh/Cabaret) and Tony Yap (Butoh, Grotowski Method, and Shamanistic practices from Asia). In 2012 Tim completed a Post Graduate Diploma in Performance Creation – Choreography, from the Victorian College of the Arts. He has developed short solo work including: May you sleep in the womb of a cherry blossom tree (2012), and Here lies one whose name was writ in water (2013). The second was performed in the Melaka Arts and Performance Festival (Malaysia) with support from the ArtStart Grant for emerging Artists. The third (untitled) was performed as part of the Arts Island Festival, (Indonesia 2014), with support of the Victorian University Solo Residency Program. Tim sees his long term practice having an increasing dialogue with dance in the Asian region. He is interested in classical and contemporary dance practices in the region to evolve a more culturally diverse vocabulary and ethos.



Born in Malaysia now based in Melbourne, Australia, **Tony Yap** is an accomplished dancer, director, choreographer and visual artist. Tony was one of the principle performers with IRAA Theatre (1989-1996) and has worked extensively in Australia and overseas including Agamemnon Festival Colline Torinese, Italy, and The Trojan Woman, Vienna International Art Festival. As the founding Artistic Director of Mixed Company (now Tony Yap Company) in 1993, he has made a commitment to the exploration and creation of an individual dance theatre language that is informed by psycho-physical research, Asian shamanistic trance dance, Butoh, voice and visual design. His numerous nominations and awards include his solo work 'The Decay of the Angel' which won him a Green Room Award for Best Male Dancer. In 2008 Tony received a prestigious two-year Dance fellowship from the Australia Council for the Arts to develop and produce a major body of solo work, 'The Buddha Body Series', which culminated in the recent critically acclaimed work 'Rasa Sayang' Tony is the founding Creative Director of Melaka Arts and Performance Festival.



Sydney born **Victoria Chiu** trained at the VCA, Melbourne, and Bachelor of Dance. She has performed and toured extensively with European companies Cie Nomades, Cie Gilles Jobin, Micha Purucker, Jozsef Trefeli and Jane Turner. In Australia she has worked with Fiona Malone, Bernadette Walong and with Australian Dance Theatre for TV show Superstars of Dance filmed in LA. She has choreographed four short works in Switzerland. Her first full length work was a Sydney/Geneva collaboration with Cie József Trefeli called 'StarStruck' which premiered in Sydney and toured to Tallinn, Annemasse, Dresden and Geneva funded by the Ville de Geneve, Loterie Romande and Pro Helvetia. Victoria and Roland Cox successfully created and toured 'The Ballad of Herbie Cox'. It toured with critical acclaim across Canada was invited to Los Angeles April 2013 and was recently invited to Mildura Wentworth Arts Festival 2014. Victoria has had the pleasure of choreographing in collaboration with the Pre-Professional year Sydney Dance Company and has also completed three developments with Dusty Feet in Alice Springs which culminated in a showing in July 2014 all funded by Arts NT. Victoria has completed full length

	<p>work 'Floored' as Dancehouse's XI Housemate, also funded by ArtsVic it premiered at Dancehouse August 2013. Victoria's company Chiucox are company in residence at Footscray Community Arts Centre from September 2013 to work on full length work 'Do you speak Chinese?', a short work of this material 'Squarcle' was performed at Mapping Melbourne December 2013. Development has continued in Hong Kong and China in June 2014 and will continue in Melbourne October 2014 supported by The Australia Council. The premiere season of this work, next March, is part of the Malthouse season 2015.</p>
	<p><b>Wang Zheng Ting</b> graduated from Shanghai Music Conservatory and completed a MA in Ethnomusicology at Monash University and a PhD in Ethnomusicology at the University of Melbourne. He teaches Chinese Instrumental Music at the University of Melbourne and has been invited as a visiting scholar to the City University of New York. He is also the director of the Australian Chinese Music Ensemble. As a lecture and solo performer on the Sheng, he has performed many recitals including: New York's Lincoln Center, Melbourne Recital Centre, Schweizerische Musikforschende Gesellschaft, Ortsgruppe, Zurich; the Victoria University Wellington; Hochschule für Musik Köln, in Wuppertal, Germany; and Maharakham University, Thailand. He has performed with the Venice Chamber Orchestra in Venice; the New Zealand String Quartet in Wellington; a Sheng concerto Princess Wencheng with the Macalester College Wind Symphony in the USA; the Japanese Stringraphy Ensemble in Tokyo; at the Shanghai Oriental Radio Station, Shanghai; and with Christine Sullivan and Zydeco Jump at the Shanghai International Spring Festival.</p>
	<p><b>Yoka Jones</b> is a Melbourne based performer. She has performed in Australia and Internationally both as a solo artist and with Tony Yap Company, 'Melaka Arts and Performance Festival' Malaysia (2009-20014), 'Eulogy for the Living', 'Light in Winter Festival,' 'Beyond Butoh Series' and toured her solo, 'Burnt Treasure' for 'Arts Island Festival,' Indonesia, (2013-2014). Yoka is currently training in Body Weather, Body Mind Centering, Contemporary Butoh, Asian Trance-Dance, Grotowski and Suzuki Methods. Through training and performing in Australia, America, Europe and Asia, she has evolved her practice using improvisational structures in response to Specific Sites. She has a background in Film, Theatre, Script Writing and Visual Art and toured her solo's, 'Burnt Treasure' and 'Abandoned Places' for Arts Island Festival, Indonesia, (2013-2014).</p>
	<p><b>Yumi Umimare</b> is a dancer, choreographer and the creator of Butoh Cabaret and visceral dance theatre works. She is the only Japanese Butoh Dancer living in Australia and has been creating her distinctive style of hybrid works over the last 20 years.</p>