

NEGOTIATING HOME x RED EARTH

In this dynamic double bill, local performance artist and recent Green Room Award winner Carly Sheppard, and founder of Taiwan's TAI Body Theatre Watan Tusi, showcase two challenging new choreography pieces.

RED EARTH

Choreographer: Watan Tusi & Carly Sheppard
Producer: Ising Suaiyung
Body Painting Design: Jia-Ti Chen
Wig Design: Labay Eyong
Performer: Yuan Lo, Hao Jan Sung, Peng Wei Ba
and Yuan Hsiang Lin



In collaboration, Carly and Watan present Red Earth, a timely dystopian dance piece inspired by Taiwanese First Nation writer Ising Suaiyung's novel of the same name. As human beings, we populate our habitat with rubbish and materials that will not break down. Eventually humans and waste matter become indistinguishable...

TAI Body Theatre

Truku, Pinuyumayan, SaiSiyat, Atayal, Paiwan and Rukai (Taiwan)

TAI Body Theatre, consists of young Taiwanese artists from different indigenous groups is established in 2013. The founder of the dance group Watan Tusi, is a Truku descendant from Swasal village of Zhuoxi Township, Hualien County. Tai originates from the Truku language meaning "to see or to observe" hinting to Watan's gaze and contemplation towards traditional indigenous culture. The question Watan Tusi asks himself: "What could indigenous music and dance be more apart from traditional ceremonies and touristic performances?" After spending two years in field research of the movement of foot stepping on the land in daily life, Watan Tusi documented over 60 "pace notations". New physical and dance forms are evolved from the deconstruction and reconstruction process in every creation. The works of TAI Body Theatre are inspired by indigenous literature, body and music, as well as the status of indigenous people, environmental conflicts, and related issues.

TAI Body Theatre is on traditional land of the Boon Wurrung and Woiwurrung people of the Kulin Nation. We give our respect to the Elders of these traditional lands and to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people past, present and future.

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NEGOTIATING HOME

Choreographer/performer: Carly Sheppard

Negotiating Home is a new solo work from Carly, a reflection on the impossibility of domesticity and routine for a highly medicated performance artist, a navigation of absolute contrasts sand-papering each other inside the one body.



Carly Sheppard

Kurtjar (Australia)

Carly Sheppard is an emerging cross-disciplinary performance artist whose work negotiates across dance and theatre performance, sculpture, drawing, voice and installation. Often these forms feature interchangeably within a single work, housed within the foundation of the body moving.

Carly was part of a special collaboration between Test Sites and the 2017 Yirramboi First Nations Arts Festival to develop work for the public realm. This included mentoring and support for artists to develop new ideas for the public realm. Carly then went on to present her work at the Barring Yanabul event during Yirramboi.

Carly's work predominantly explores the experience of being a part of the Indigenous diaspora of Australia; intersecting identities and the navigation of trans-generational inheritances, exploring the borders of ownership and autonomy, and the mapping of these shifting spaces and their interaction with changing social and cultural environments.

