

The Dead Twin

12-22 August 2015

Footscray Community Arts Centre



Image by Jave Lee

Writer's Note

As you read this programme, you may be wondering why create a horror piece, given how rarely this genre is portrayed on stage. Deborah Leiser-Moore's highly physical and visual style is melded with the dialogue and story of *The Dead Twin*. I have recently been thinking about art as a way to access transgressive feelings like fear, lust, hatred, love, cowardice, vengeance. There are not many places in our life where we can let the imagination run free, and horror in art can be a way of facing societal trauma, in a safe environment. Maybe then we can, like Steve, find out who we really are. This story looks at the people and places we have had to leave behind because of traumatic events. Sometimes they remain with us long after that separation; a part of who we are is missing because of their absence. And so we feel haunted. I wanted to write *The Dead Twin* as a horror because of its "unique ability to confront the consequences of traumatic national events for individual and collective identities...to 'reopen' national wounds that have been denied, ignored, or only superficially addressed..." (Linnie Blake, *The Wounds of Nation*).

Director's Note

The Dead Twin is a unique mix of stunning performances, electric use of spaces and narrative to activate Footscray Community Arts Centre's historic Henderson House and its surrounds. This bluestone building, built in 1872, was formerly a residence and piggery. Tales of its former 'gory' days enhance the themes in the work, making it a perfect setting for a site-specific promenade performance on the unspoken traumas of war.

thedeadtwin.com

Deborah Leiser-Moore is a contemporary performance maker whose bold works use multiple theatrical languages to investigate culture and identity. Her most recent work, *KaBooM: Stories from Distant Frontlines* is a performance installation about cultural memory and war. Other solo and collaborative works include *Cordelia*, *Mein Kind*, *a room with no air*, *HUNGRY*, *The Cool Room*, and, with Entr'acte Theatre, *The Memory Room*, *Aqua Azzura* and *Possessed/Dispossessed*. Deborah recently returned from New York where she performed in Richard Schechner's *Imagining O* as part of the Peak Performance Festival. Deborah's extensive national and international touring include Festiwal Szekspirowski (Poland); Toga Festival (Japan); Marsh Theater (SF); Magdelaena Festival (NZ) and major national festivals. Deborah studied with Tadashi Suzuki (Japan), trained in Ettiene Decroux, and regularly teaches at universities.

Chi Vu is a writer and theatre maker. She completed her Master of Writing for Performance at the Victorian College of the Arts. Chi's other plays include *A Story of Soil* and *Vietnam: a Psychic Guide*. Chi collaborates with diverse artists to create translingual and intercultural works. Her groundbreaking installation-performance *Banh Chung* premiered at the Footscray Community Arts Centre in 2013 as part of the Big West Festival. Chi's novella, *Anguli Ma: a Gothic Tale* is published by Giramondo; her short stories appear in 'Joyful Strains: Making Australia Home', 'Growing up Asian in Australia' and 'The Macquarie PEN Anthology of Australian Literature'. www.chi-vu.com

Alex Pinder is a graduate of L'Ecole Jacques Lecoq (1985). He has 30 years experience in the performing arts as an actor, director, teacher and community-based artist. He has worked internationally in the United Kingdom, Singapore, India and Nepal. In Australia, Alex has worked with The Ensemble, the Melbourne Theatre Company, La Mama, Sydney Theatre Company, 45Downstairs and Theatre Works.

Daniel Han is an actor and theatre-maker from the USA, who is now based in Melbourne. He graduated from the MA Acting program with Manchester Metropolitan University (UK). From 2008-2014 he was based in Poland working with award-winning Song of the Goat Theatre and as a founding member of the Studio Matejka physical theatre laboratory. Daniel was a principal researcher with the Grotowski Institute and collaborated closely with Vivien Wood (DV8 Physical Theatre) and Milan Kozanek. Daniel has been awarded the prestigious Fulbright grant.

Recent projects include an international tour of 'Awkward Happiness or Everything I Don't Remember About Meeting You' with Studio Matejka and shooting for the feature film 'Arunachal 1962' in India. He is a Lecturer for the Victorian College of the Arts.

Harry Tseng graduated from NIDA with a bachelor of Dramatic Arts (2010). Prior to this, Harry studied at Box Hill Institute of Music where he received a Diploma of Music Performance of Jazz (2004). Harry performed one of the main roles in Melissa Lee Speyer's one-act play "Seekers" at NIDA (2011). Harry guest directed "Welcome to the Wake" for the Melbourne's Fringe Festival (2011) and Sydney Chinese New Year Festival Companies 'Life's a Stage (2013). Harry lent his Operatic voice to Eagles Nest Theatre Company's reinterpretation of Louis Nowra's "Cosi" (2011) and was one of the ensemble leads at MTC for Michele Lee's "Moths" (2013). Harry's screen credits include guest roles in "East West 101" SBS (2011), "Reef Doctors" Channel (2012), Joel Edgerton's "Felony" (2013) and Hugo Weaving's "Healing" (2014).

Davina April Wright is a contemporary performance maker from Melbourne. She is currently doing a practice-led research Master of Arts at Latrobe University. Her current research project focuses on violence in performance. Davina has produced four main works, Herring (Moat Festival, 2011) Tumor Kinder (Honours Project Latrobe University, 2012) The Jar Collector (Anywhere Theatre Festival Brisbane, 2013) and Peaches (Moat Festival, 2013). Davina is particularly interested in site-specific work.

Jacques Soddell is a Bendigo-based sound artist. He produces computer-based electro-acoustic music, with a particular interest in deconstructing natural sounds (field recordings) to create new sounds & textures. He produces sound & video for theatre, dance, live performance and installation, promote experimental music in the local community through the experimental music radio program *possible musics* (1983-2013) and the [undue noise](http://undue.noise) concert series (2002-present), involvement in live arts group punctum. <http://jacquessoddell.com>

Niklas Pajanti has designed for a diverse range of leading Australian and international companies including: Melbourne Theatre Company, Chunky Move, Victorian Opera, Sydney Theatre Company, Belvoir Theatre, The Eleventh Hour, Ranters Theatre, BalletLab, Brink Productions, Dancehouse, Malthouse Theatre, Australian Centre For The Moving Image, Melbourne International Arts

Festival, Adelaide Festival of the Arts, Festival Melbourne 2006 (Commonwealth Games), Melbourne International Comedy Festival, Federation Square and Waterfront City.

Naomi Ota is visual installation artist whose work ranges from small detailed pieces to large spatially-interactive designs. She often draws on images and memories from the natural world; places connected to emotional memory, faraway in the imagination and calling on her memories of growing up in Japan. Naomi's works have been presented in various national and international exhibitions and are in public collections, which include NGV. Naomi has extended her practice to include work on a range of projects spanning contemporary dance, intercultural theatre, and experiential arts projects. She has PhD on investigating a new aesthetic value of Yohaku-no-bi (Beauty of extra white). www.naomiota.com

Ross de Winter is a young theatremaker, drag performer and fabric artist. He is a founding member of Gold Satino and specialises in creating

costumes for immersive and site specific theatre. He most recently collaborated with Davina Wright in the 2015 production of Oublette and has produced work for their Melbourne Fringe Festival season of The Jar Collector and their Brisbane Anywhere Festival tour, as well as their sell out extended season of Suburbia as part of the 2014 Anywhere Festival in Frankston, Victoria.

Script Dramaturg Raimondo Cortese
Video Documentation David Meagher
Photography Jave Lee

Thank you Bernadette Fitzgerald, Jade Lillie, Morgan Brady, Jenna Williams, Ben Beare and reception staff at FCAC; Daniel Clarke, Kate Hancock, Mary Thompson at Theatre Works; Assistant to the director Frankie Towner, Lighting operators Nicholas Moloney and Gary Butler; John and Tamsin from Singing Bowl Media; Angharad and Jackie from North Melbourne Arts House; Judith Sears at Creative Victoria; the Besen Foundation; Tashmadada; Megan Williams at Auspicious Arts, our lovely volunteer ushers.

Please email chivu.writing@gmail.com if you'd like to be added to our **mailing list** for future shows.

Presented by Footscray Community Arts Centre in association with Theatre Works, in partnership with Victorian College of the Arts. As part of Theatre Works *Flight: A Festival of New Writing*

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