

Recipients of Dancehouse's On Residence program



Lady Example (2018) Alice Will Caroline, photo Mischa Baka

This will be the first time we have worked together in the studio in a dedicated way since 2019, so the residency will host a reconnecting, and a reacquainting with our individual and joint creative practices. We will use the opportunity of the setting away from our homes and metropolitan Melbourne to gain perspective on the events of the past two years, and our respective practices.

We are interested in building a new choreography that works with austerity, numbers and counting, lines and grids, a highly codified vocabulary, with steadily building tension and sudden rupture. We're interested in creating a heavily structured piece that possibly resembles a Phase musical composition, but with sudden punctuations of very human pathos, ebullience, mess and confusion.

We are interested in counterposing these two kinds of operating systems, contrasting overt rigidity and codification – learnable, repeatable, controllable, predictable – with untamed and uncontrollable activity, developing our shared interest in improvisational practices to create space for individual choices, unconstrained individual expression and real-time responsive choreography. We will use ourselves as the starting point, while imagining its application to a larger ensemble of performers.

Our interest in these structures might reflect something of our experiences of the past two years – a combination of extremely reduced and controlled daily lives of lockdown, counterposed with the arrival of compounding crises that seem unimaginably large and difficult to truly comprehend.

William McBride and **Alice Dixon** are dance and performance makers based in Melbourne. Since 2014 we have created work collaboratively under the name *alice will caroline*, with Caroline Meaden: www.slow.net. As an ensemble, we have made and presented six full-length works: *This is What's happening*, *Fallen O'er*, *Blowin' Up*, *Let's Go Up Here*, *Lady Example* and *Doors Shut*. These works have been recognised with awards and nominations from the Australian Dance, Green Room and Melbourne Fringe awards. Our expanded choreographic practice combines rigorous dance languages with theatricality, creative writing, design, documentary and contemporary social and cultural information. Our works are developed intuitively, informed by the personal and cultural contexts of each artist involved. We build a dramaturgy that engages with broad thematic alongside highly specific, local references - mixing tonal qualities of humour and pathos, developing a continual interplay of familiarity and strangeness for an audience to chart their course.

Alice Dixon is choreographer, dancer, teacher and performance maker working across contemporary dance, theatre and experimental performance. In addition to her work with Alice Will Caroline, she has worked with Australian and international artists and companies including: Lucy Guerin Inc, Deanne Butterworth, Rawcus, Natalie Cursio, Monica Bill Barnes & Company, CHUNKY MOVE (Antony Hamilton), Opera Australia, Victoria Chiu, Reckless Sleepers, Phillip Adams BalletLab, Walter Dundervill, Eugenia Lim, Nebahat Erpolat, Emilie Collyer, Prue Clark, Deanne Butterworth, Rob McCredie and One step at a time like this.

She teaches regularly at Lucy Guerin Inc, Chunky Move and the Victorian College of Arts. Throughout 2020 she was a key organising member of independent dance think tank, TTDA. Her work has been supported by The City of Melbourne, Lucy Guerin Inc., CHUNKY MOVE, The Substation, Darebin Arts Speakeasy, Arts House, Tasdance, Vitalstatistix, The Australia Council for the Arts, Creative Victoria, Creative Partnerships Australia, Vitalstatistix, City of Maribyrnong, Mosaico Danza (Turin, Italy) and Besen Family Foundation. She is currently developing a new work with fellow dancer Emma Riches. www.alicedixon.net

William McBride is a performance maker working across dance, theatre, contemporary performance and live art. In addition to his work with Alice Will Caroline, recent performance credits include: *Laceship* and *Prelude* (Phillip Adams and Walter Dundervill), *Playing Up* (by Sibylle Peters at The Substation), *The Bachelor* (La Mama/Mechanic's Institute), *Aeon* (Lz Dunne collaborations, Dance Massive/Live Works/PICA), *Since I suppose...* (one step at a time like this, Melbourne Festival), *Hotel Obscura* (Triage Live Art, FOLA, Arts House), and *Marina Abramovic in Residence* (Kaldor Public Arts, Project 30).

He has also presented the performance-installations *Bedding* (World AIDS Conference, 2014) and *Deliverance* (Adelaide and Berlin, 2012). Residencies and workshops include: City of Melbourne's Boyd Studio 1, Arts House and Performance Space's *Time Place Space: Nomad*, *Strange Attractor* (with David Pledger), PIAF Connect, Vitalstatistix's *Adhocracy*, Critical Path (Claire Cunningham) and ZK/U (Zentrum für Kunst und Urbanistik). Last year, Will led the [DAMN Writing Project](#) and participated in the *Community Transmissions* Online Art Residency. He also published a piece for *Delving Into Dance* with Caroline Meaden. Will is currently working as a technical writer, training to be an Alexander Technique practitioner, and mentoring VCA theatre students.