

Australian  
contemporary  
dance

**DANCE  
MASSIVE**  
3-15 MARCH  
2009

MASSIVE e-news

## Melbourne's first DANCE MASSIVE contemporary dance event

[www.dancemassive.com.au](http://www.dancemassive.com.au)

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*Morphia Series Image: Rachele Roberts*

Experience dance across the city as never before with Dance Massive - a two-week showcase featuring outstanding Australian contemporary dance work from both established and emerging companies and choreographers. The Massive program is highly physical, visually spectacular and surprising - it will sometimes make you laugh, and you might even bust a few moves yourself.

Dance Massive includes 14 exhilarating contemporary works ranging from energetic to playful to intimate, presented over 12 days at three inner-Melbourne venues - Arts House, Malthouse Theatre and Dancehouse. With ticket prices ranging from just \$10-\$37, the Massive is an affordable celebration of Australia's diverse contemporary dance culture.

### Why Dance Massive?

The presenting partners - Arts House, Malthouse Theatre and Dancehouse, in conjunction with AusdanceVictoria saw the need for a dedicated event focused on Australian contemporary dance.

The idea was not only to bring high-quality, contemporary work to new audiences, but also to create opportunities for touring and collaboration between artists and companies.

The result is a potent mix of full-length and shorter works, presented here in Melbourne - undoubtedly a dynamic, creative crucible for Australian contemporary dance. Many of Australia's leading dance

companies and artists are resident in Melbourne, and the first Dance Massive showcases this concentration of contemporary dance talent through the cooperative programming of the presenting partners.

## Why Australian contemporary dance?

Australia has around 50 dance companies and more than 200 choreographers investigating a range of techniques, culturally diverse forms, contexts and media. Dance Massive celebrates this diverse culture by presenting many of these works, artists and companies in what is arguably the creative epicentre of Australian contemporary dance.

Contemporary dance is about using the body to tell stories, interpret music and express emotion. Watching it is a true live-art experience - there is no 'correct' way to appreciate a contemporary dance program.

Other art forms like video, sound, lighting, or set and costume design are all important aspects of contemporary dance - but as Ray Gill said in *The Age* recently, "...it's the lack of words that is so liberating. In dance, emotions are expressed in the flick of the hair, the elongation of an arm, the twitch of a big toe." You can read Ray Gill's full article [here](#).

Over the next few weeks MASSIVE e-news will bring you artist interviews, previews, reviews and to-do's to enhance your Dance Massive experience. In this first issue we introduce the whole Dance Massive program - for more information or to buy tickets, go to [www.dancemassive.com.au](http://www.dancemassive.com.au)

### **Inert - Arts House 3-15 March**

Small in scale, yet broad in its sensory scope, *Inert* is a boutique dance and video performance experience that will immerse you in a subtle and moving world.

### **Russell Dumas: Huit á Huit - Dancehouse 3-6 March**

A durational, multi-venue work in which live performance, film and an interactive clay-figurine installation combine to challenge and revitalize the presentation of contemporary dance.

### **Chunky Move: Mortal Engine - Malthouse Theatre 4-8 March**

Dance, video, lasers and movement-responsive technology fuse to portray an illusive, shimmering world that extends the limits of the human body.

### **Splintergroup: roadkill - Arts House 5-8 March**

A stranded couple takes a metaphorical road trip into the agoraphobia and desolation of the Australian outback: a place of dreams, dust and ghosts. *roadkill* is edge-of-your-seat dance theatre: highly physical and intensely unnerving.

### **The Fondue Set: No Success Like Failure - Arts House 5-7 March**

The Fondue Set maintain their signature theatricality and take dance into new territory. Part talent quest, part educational forum and part cabaret, *No Success Like Failure* is a high-volume show full of lying, dying, singing and trying.

## Double Bill

### **Michaela Pegum: Limina and Jo Lloyd: Melbourne Spawned a Monster - Dancehouse 7-8 March**

*Limina* explores the merging of psychological and physical spaces, dream and reality to create an environment with a diminished sense of linearity.

An intimate and confronting look at the monster that lurks within, *Melbourne Spawned a Monster* is a powerful and fragile performance that peels back the layers of the public/private self.

### **180 Seconds in (Disco) Heaven or Hell - Arts House 8 March**

An interactive live-art party where you will be part of the action. Part choreographic game show, part speed-dating-meets-po-mo disco - with a little 'Night Fever' thrown in for good measure.

### **Helen Herbertson & Ben Cobham: Morphia Series - Arts House 10-15 March**

*Morphia Series* is an intimate performance inspired by Morpheus, the Greek god of dreams. A surprising, delicious morsel of image, sound, text and movement.

### **Shelley Lasica: Vianne - Dancehouse 10-11 March**

Complex and engaging, this physically rigorous work boldly interweaves multiple art forms to create a map by which we orient ourselves in Vianne's world.

### **Splintergroup: lawn - Malthouse Theatre 11-14 March**

Splintergroup's second work for Dance Massive is an expertly crafted horror fantasy set in a one-room apartment high above the snow-covered streets of Berlin. *lawn* has been internationally acclaimed for its striking images, intense theatricality and ironic sense of play.

### **Rogue: A Volume Problem, The Counting, Puck - Malthouse Theatre 11-15 March**

In a triptych of intimate and intelligent work, Rogue reignite two high-impact works alongside a brand new ensemble piece. Rogue exploded out of the 2008 Next Wave Festival and have fast established a reputation as the 'ones to watch' in Melbourne's independent dance scene.

### **Lucy Guerin Inc: Untrained - Arts House 11-14 March**

Four men: two are highly skilled, experienced dancers and two are acclaimed visual artists with no movement training whatsoever. Watching both the trained and untrained, we start to see what draws us together and what sets us apart as individuals.

### **Luke George: LIFESIZE - Dancehouse 12-13 March**

A cross-art-form orgy of dance, sound, video and light, *LIFESIZE* explores the substitution of real life with imitation, using textures and tactics that glean ideas from popular and media culture.

To request a Dance Massive program guide or to buy tickets go to: [www.dancemassive.com.au](http://www.dancemassive.com.au)

Dance Massive Presenters:

**ARTS HOUSE**

**MILHOUSE  
THEATRE**

**DANCEHOUSE**



Presenting Partners:

