



## The Eastern European and Australian Artist Exchange 2013

The Eastern European and Australian Artist Exchange was created to provide opportunities for artists in the two geographical locations:

- To meet international experimental artist and build independent networks and touring pathways
- Engage in discussion and sharing around culture and art within various locations
- Provide space for in depth research and experimentation with form alongside other artists

In 2012, three artists from Slovenia came to Brisbane, Australia and worked with five local dancers to recreate their work for Brisbane Festival's Under the Radar program.

**The Eastern European and Australian Artist Exchange** in 2013 was a six-week transitory exchange through Slovenia, Croatia and Australia.

Four artists undertook a program of masterclasses, open public workshops, presentations and research culminating in an open creative lab showing.

**Artists:**

Matthew Day (Australia)  
Mala Kline (Slovenia)  
Petra Zanki (Croatia)  
Rhiannon Newton (Australia)

**Exchange hosts:**

Perforacije Festival (Croatia)  
NagiB Contemporary Dance Festival (Slovenia)  
Britt Guy - Independent Producer (Australia)

**Australian Project Partners:**

Australia Council for the Arts  
Ausdance Queensland  
Motherboard Productions  
Judith Wright Centre of Contemporary Arts  
Brisbane Powerhouse

**Exchange Creative Producer:**

Britt Guy (Australia)

# Exchange Artist



Matthew Day (Australia) works as a Choreographer, Dancer and Dramaturg across various artistic mediums and cultural contexts. Matthew is invested in conceptual choreographic practices that are intensely physical and push the boundaries of dance and performance. Matthew has had residencies at Critical Path, Lucy Guerin Inc., Chunky Move, Legs on the Wall, Campbelltown Arts Centre and the Bundanon Trust, where he worked with Deborah Hay on her Solo Commissioning Project. Matthew is currently engaged on a number of upcoming projects with the infamous Phillip Adams Balletlab. Matthew's minimalist and durational solo works *Thousands*, *Cannibal* and *Intermission* constitute his acclaimed TRILOGY project, each exploring the body as a site of continual becoming and infinite potential.



**Mala Kline (Slovenia)** is a performer, choreographer, researcher and writer. Her own author based work is embedded in technology of dreaming – creative and performative practice based on the affective and transformative performance of image. She is extensively engaged in different research, educational, publishing and founding activities. She founded EMANAT – institute for affirmation of contemporary dance in Slovenia, SOI Slovenia for dissemination of dream and imagery work throughout the EU, and recently DREAMLAB – mobile laboratory for research and development of imagery and dream work as related to performing arts practices.



**Rhiannon Newton (Australia)** practice is grounded in rigorous choreographic investigation, improvisation, and deep physical research and training. She works to dislocate the body from identity and foreground action - space relations. Rhiannon has created choreographies for the Unkempt Dance Collective, The West Australian Academy of Performing Arts and the Asia Pacific World Dance Alliance Festival. Rhiannon is currently developing *"Bodied Assemblies / Assemblies for One Body"* through the support of Movement Research (New York), The Australia Council for the Arts, The Centre for Interdisciplinary Arts (Perth), Strut Dance and Critical Path (Sydney). Since 2011 Rhiannon has sustained an interdisciplinary research practice with visual artist Benjamin Forster.



**Petra Zanki (Croatia)** is a dance and performance maker. In 2010 Petra was awarded as best Croatian choreographer at XI. Platform of Young Choreographers. She is currently working on The Curators' Piece with Tea Tupajić and dance cycle *Antibodies*, initiated together with Britta Wirthmüller. The cycle respect differentness and aims to open a new prospective on the bodies of marginalized, despised and hidden body groups and behaviours in average humans. Her current interest would be the widening of the field of both dance vocabulary and perception of what could be considered as dance, inserting the different and new aspects of danceabilities and dance practices, in the already accepted canons of contemporary dance. Both my work and body research are tightly linked to psychology, philosophy and neuroscience.

## Slovenia – NagiB Contemporary Dance Festival



Launched in 2005 in Maribor, **NagiB Contemporary Dance Festival** (until 2010 known as Experimental Movement Festival) invites emerging talents from the field of contemporary dance and performance from Slovenia and abroad to present their work.

Priority is given to projects, which involve research and offer different perspectives to the question of contemporary embodiment. Accordingly, the festival chose the name *NagiB* (tilt, motive) to highlight the necessity of alternative visions to established conceptions of embodiment.

The festival's programme also includes practical and theoretical workshops, which reflect on contemporary dance and performing arts in general as well as discussions with the artists, presented at the festival.

### **The Exchange at NagiB Contemporary Dance:**

- Mala presented a program of workshops based on her current research – Dreamlab.
- Rhiannon and Matthew individually presented a conversation about their work and practice.
- Petra completed development on her new premiere work for Croatia.
- Collectively the festival brought all participating artist together to imagine, paint and work in the festival's new rehearsal space.
- Artists attended a range of programming in the festival building an artistic and personal network.

## Croatia – Perforacije Festival



The **Perforacije Festival** takes place annually in three Croatian cities; Zagreb, Rijeka, Split and Dubrovnik and presents a range of Balkans artists working in performance art, theatre, and dance, whose diverse approaches to art-making blurs the borders between these genres.

While their work touches upon issues of identity (public, political, religious, ecological), of borders redefinition and space, of a collective past, and of personal histories, most of all their work talks about the present.

### **The Exchange at Perforacije Festival:**

- Petra premiered a new work – Ephemerals.
- Matthew performed a work from his TRILOGY – Intermission.
- Mala presented a showing of her work – Dreamlab Communities that Rhiannon performed in.
- Rhiannon travelled to Split to explore Perforacije's regional program.
- All artists spent time in the studio individual and sometimes together in different formation throughout their time.
- Artists attended a range of programming in the festival building a artistic and personal network



## Australia – Brisbane Residency with Britt Guy



The **Brisbane Residency** was produced by Britt Guy, an independent Creative Producer who is interested in creating opportunities for genuine trans cultural exchange between artists, audience and the artistic community. Britt Guy conceived and facilitated the Eastern European and Australian Artists Exchange as a whole.

The Brisbane Residency was about nourishing artist's practices by providing a program and space, which encouraged reflection, discussion, and candid exchange of ideas, concepts and language through movement and conversation.

### **The Exchange at the Brisbane Residency:**

- Each artist presented a masterclass for exchange and local artists.
- All exchange artists worked in the studio collectively for up to six hours a day sharing concepts, philosophy, research and practice.
- Presented an open lab presentation for invited artistic community.
- Developed an Index (dictionary) of Exchange, a cumulative document of their shared cultural exchange.



## Exchange now and into the future



### The 2013 Exchange invested in:

- Nourishing artists cultural and intellectual.
- An opportunity to reflect and flesh out future project outcomes
- Developing independent international relationships.
- Engaging local artistic communities in new artistic conversations and experiences

### Exchange Outcomes (2014):

- Matthew has been invited to participate in long stay residency in Croatia
- Mala will be invited to work with Matthew on his new work as a Creative Associate
- Rhiannon will complete a new solo work and has been invited to return to Slovenia to participate in a intensive emerging artist exchange
- The next generation of Australian artist will participate in the 2014 Eastern European and Australian Artist Exchange.

