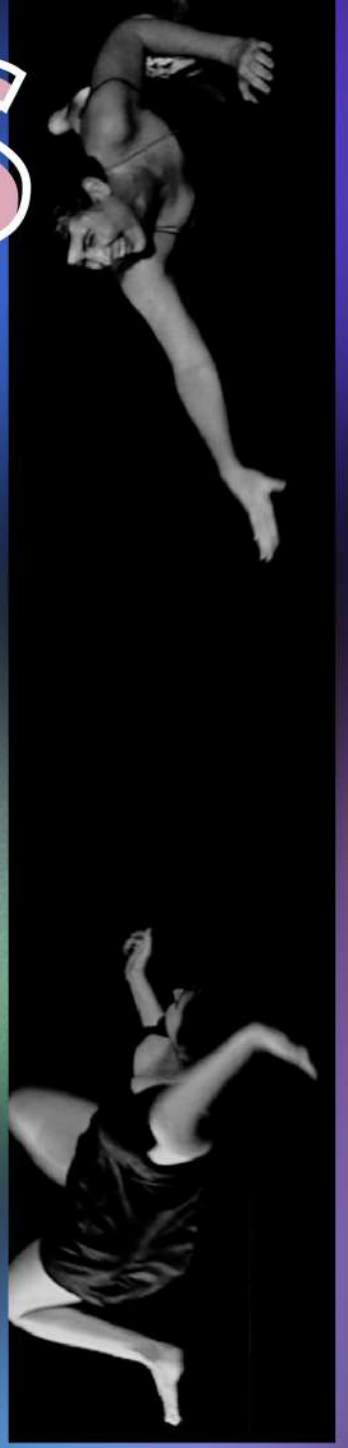
FRESH TRACKS

2024 PROGRAMME



WELCOME TO FRESH TRACKS 2024

Fresh Tracks is a program of short, experimental dance works to expand your vision of the moving body; alive and vibrant. A place for refreshing ways of seeing, feeling and thinking. With diverse approaches to dance and choreography, Fresh Tracks is an opportunity to witness raw, intimate and generous performance.

Developed and performed by NT makers and dancers, these new works are offered as a reflection of their curiosities and experiments. Stay for the artist talk to learn how the choreographers test their ideas, take risks, and sit in the uncertainty of the creative process. Dance artists reveal the extraordinary in the everyday-ness of being human, inviting us to consider our connections to ourselves, each other and our environment.

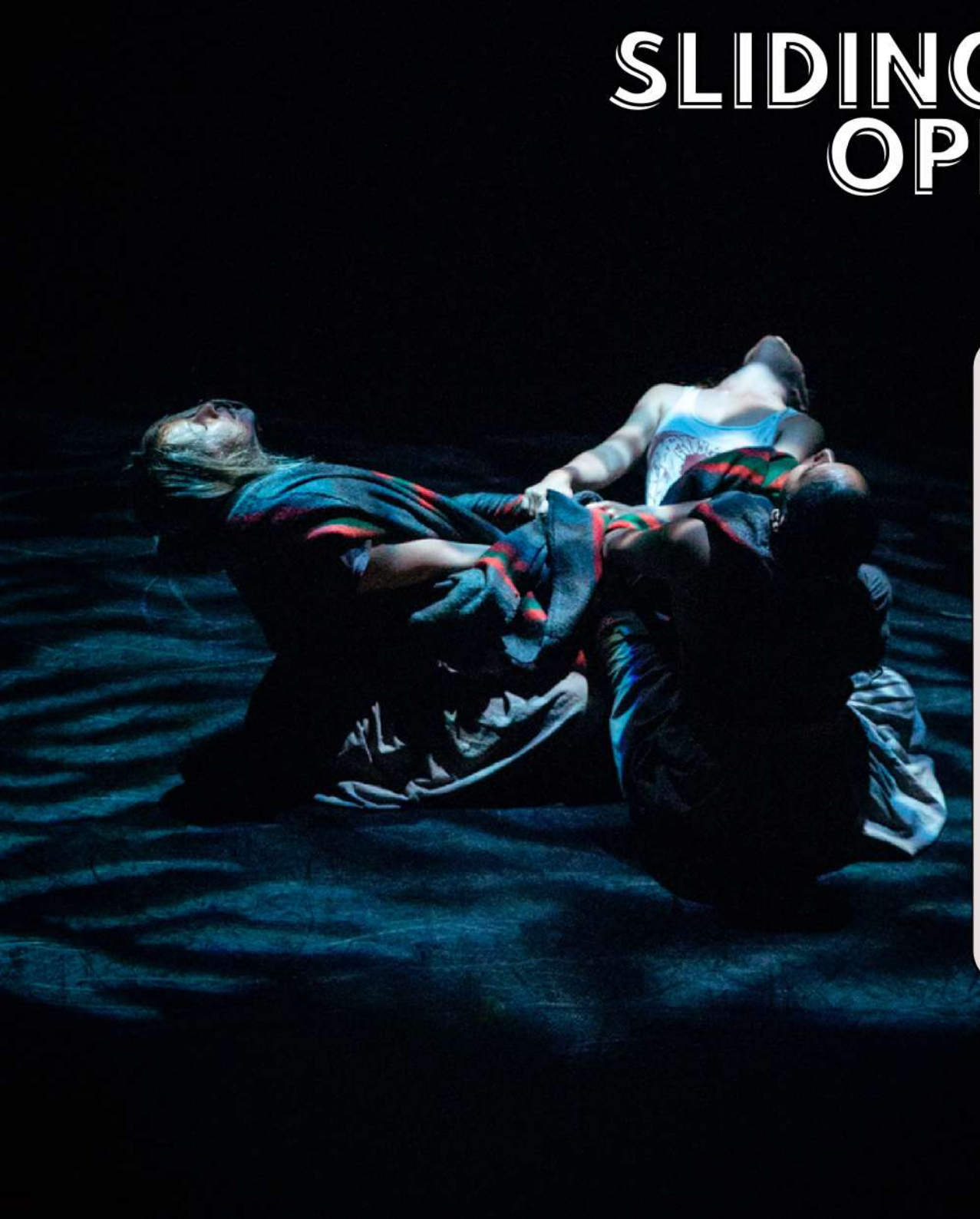
Fresh Tracks is nestled within the Development Program at Tracks Dance Company. The artists are drawn from our ongoing residencies, Choreolabs, and programs, and from our broad family of connected movers and makers. Our Development Program aims to provide support to grow and deepen the capacity of the dance community and audiences in the NT.

Thank you for coming along to be witness to these works-in-development and enliven them in a new way through your presence and perspectives as audience.

-Kelly Beneforti

SLIDING DOORS AND OPEN WINDOWS

SHEILA & KELLY



A collaboration between Sheila Rose and Kelly Beneforti

A gentle, unfolding exchange between two artists sharing space, conversation, listening, stories, deep feeling, and movement. With mutual care and respect, we have followed a pathway of slowness and intuition to arrive at some very simple movement scores that reflect the beginning of an exploration together.

Music: A collection of songs that we have enjoyed moving to

Thank you: To our children, grandchildren and great-granny for the inspiration they give us in life. And Tracks, for supporting our journey and time together.

VA(POROUS)

DAVID & THE GREY PANTHERS

Concept and Direction by David McMicken
Performed by collaborators Clare Heath, Darryl Butler, David McMicken, Lyn Minchin, Natina Demetriou, Nikki Charlesworth-Canning.

This work stems from a comment overheard saying that an older gentleman was vaporous. It got me thinking. Often said in the negative about lacking substance and even having the vapours as a denigration of women being hysterical, I became perturbed. As a dancer in my 60s I decided to reclaim the notion. Vapour is in between states, not solid, not liquid. It can transform into a new state in a moment. As a senior member of society we are often seen as immutable, and yet we have to be constantly ready to respond to change. To truly enjoy older age we must bend, and yield. Our body becomes a vessel for constant change.

This work is in 3 sections
1. Vaporous - playing with archaic ideas
2. Porous - the capacity to absorb and release - permeable to outside influences
3. Vapour - movement drawn from fog.

Music: The Va(porous)s Suite. Composer David McMicken
Thank You: Ellen Hankin (Not performing due to operation) but was there for the movement generation and choreography

TO FACE THE SUN

MIRIAM NICHOLLS

Dance and choreography by Miriam Nicholls

To Face the Sun (Crimewaves) was composed by Dave Crowe (November 2023) using recent local crime statistics. His goal was to express the contrast between the "abstract, disconnected" nature of the numbers, with the social issue that is very human at its core. As an example, the statistic '3424 offences of property damage' is translated into a 4-note synthesiser melody, which becomes a warmer section for the strings, with rich chords towards the end that offer a sense of hope. The choreography was created using the same numbers, whilst also incorporating positive statistics, and movement that expresses the energy, beauty, resilience and tension of this place.

This piece, stage 1 of an ongoing collaboration, is an invitation to imagine more behind the stereotypes and negative media about Mparntwe/Alice Springs, and see instead a glimpse of Central Australia's "living heart, beating with confident energy".

Music composed by Dave Crowe, recording performed by Dave Crowe and the Alice Springs World Chamber Orchestra (November 2023)

Speech given by Queen Elizabeth II in Alice Springs in 1963 (recording thanks to ABC Alice Springs)

Thank You Tracks Dance, Dave Crowe, Lynne Hanton, Leisa Jackson, Duprada Dance Company (NT) and the Alice Springs World Chamber Orchestra

ABCD

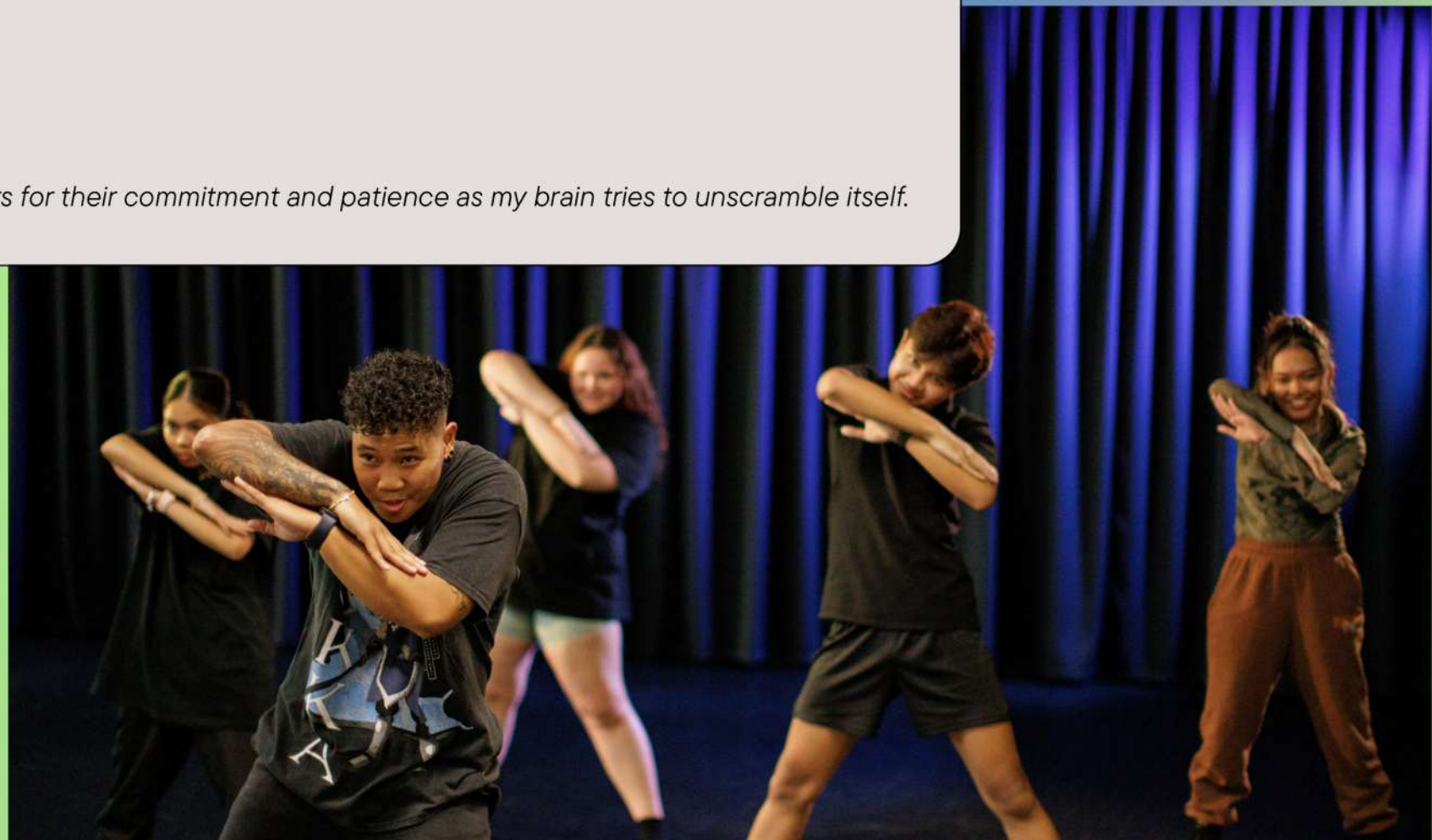
SPILLETT, SOPHIA, JULES & RAMA

Created collaboratively by SJ Spillett with performers Sophia Hodges, Jules Gabor and Rama Wisuda

As easy as ABC...D. Stripping back from stories and concepts by revisiting and reimagining traditional choreographic elements. Continuing to work within my artistic curiosities of musicality, textures, numerical sequences and texts, the young dancers have an insight into the creative process. This journey enriches the experience for the dancers by providing an alternative pathway and tools to generate strings of movement. It eliminates the pressure of creating a number of different phrases. As the process unfolds the dancers explore, deconstruct, and fragment these phrases, teasing out nuanced gestures and rhythms that resonate with thematic depth.

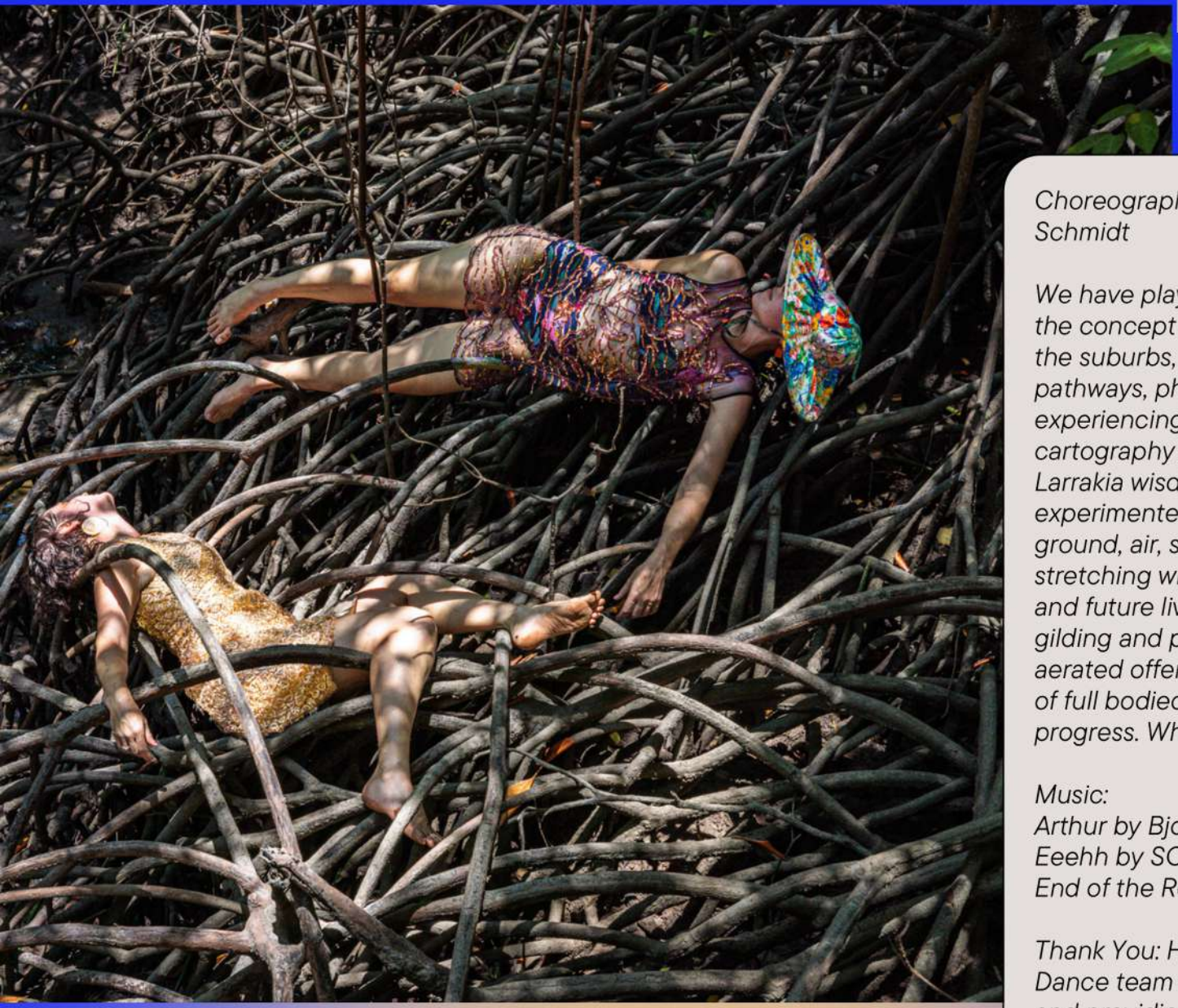
Music:
Hanging Lanterns - Kalaido
Stardestroyer - Captain XY
Ginkgo Biloba - Rone

Thank You: To the Youth Leaders for their commitment and patience as my brain tries to unscramble itself. And to Kelly Beneforti xx



MAPPING THE GLIMMER

TARA & JENELLE



Choreographed and performed by Jenelle Saunders and Tara Schmidt

We have played. And entertained ourselves while investigating the concept of mapping. Mapping our multiple homes across the suburbs, plotting embodied memories, collating well worn pathways, physically and ephemerally mapping the studio, experiencing it with fresh minds. We acknowledge the forever cartography and lines of the land that we are guests upon; the Larrakia wisdom and ceremony this building sits on. We've experimented with splicing the studio into levels - imagining ground, air, sea and sky layers. Constellations were charted by stretching within and outside of our reaches, with past, present and future lives catalogued and conjured up. Sweeping, gilding and pouring paired with suspended, expansive and aerated offerings as plot points. Topped off with recollections of full bodied joy times shared. More to come. Work in progress. What a trip.

Music:
Arthur by Bjon Torske and Prins Thomas
Eeehh by SOPHIE
End of the Road by Noga Erez

Thank You: Huge thanks to Kelly Beneforti and the Tracks Dance team for their continuous support of creative practice and providing opportunities for art making. Cheers to the Darwin Fringe Festival for continuing to program space for exploration.

CREDITS

Curated by:
Kelly Beneforti

Makers and Performers: Clare Heath, Darryl Butler, David McMicken, Jenelle Saunders, Jules Gabor, Kelly Beneforti, Lyn Minchin, Miriam Nicholls, Natina Demetriou, Nikki Charlesworth-Canning, Rama Wisuda, Sheila Rose, SJ Spillett, Sophia Hodges, and Tara Schmidt

Lighting and Sound Operation:
Duane Preston

Marketing and Front of House Management:
Jocelyn Tribe

THANK YOU

Darwin Fringe Festival Staff & Volunteers, Darwin Festival.

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PHOTO CREDITS

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Photo 5: Kate Mornane 2022
Photo 6: Duane Preston 2018
Photo 7: Kelly Beneforti 2024
Photo 8: Jess Devereux 2012
Photo 9: Duane Preston 2024
Photo 10: Duane Preston 2024

TRACKS 2024

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