



WINDHORSE

An exploration of the concept of disintegration, longing, loss and what is left...

CHOREOGRAPHER - MARITA SMITH

Originally from Melbourne, Marita completed a Bachelor of Education, Dance Drama at Deakin University (Rusden) in 1983 and a Graduate Diploma in Education in 1992. She first came to Darwin to work as a founding member of Feats Unlimited Dance Company in 1984, with Maggi Phillips at Browns Mart. Marita is an actively passionate Arts advocate and educator who is particularly interested in cross arts practice.

PERFORMERS

Bryn Wackett is a trained classical and contemporary dancer, with a gusto and intrigue for collaboration. Her dance life has spanned across decades and in 2020 she ventured into the world of theatre, discovering an exciting balance of laughter and challenging discomforts. Fresh Tracks 2021 has gifted her a joyous way to reconnect with fellow artists as an ensemble and in particular, under the creative-eye and guided-ideas from the intelligent and generously inspirational brain of long-term performing arts teacher, Marita Smith who is stepping back into her own independent choreographic realm.

Jessica Devereux is a passionate artist, choreographer and performer. Known for her warmth and skill in working collaboratively, Jess nimbly traverses between small-scale, intimate creative processes to large-scale, community and participatory works. She is drawn to projects that are inclusive and joyous with a social impact, thus she was drawn to Tracks. Jess trained at the Victorian College of the Arts receiving a BA Dance '04 & 1st class Honours '08.

Maari Gray trained in classical & contemporary dance in 1980's New Zealand. Maari performed extensively across both disciplines until a career change partnered her into the realms of Midwifery and Forensic Mortuary Sciences. 30 years and one hip replacement later, she has landed amongst the creatives of Darwin, rediscovering her passion for dance as a mature mover.

Kelly Beneforti is an independent dance artist and long-term dance animateur at Tracks Dance who is privileged to be living and working on Larrakia country. Kelly is currently having a break from her professional pursuits after the birth of her first baby but is lucky to have opportunities such as Fresh Tracks to move, create, collaborate and perform.

MUSIC

Phillip Glass - Metamorphosis II, and Witch house, William Basinski - The Disintegration Loops





THE DANCE OF DANDELION TUMBLEWEEDS

CO-CHOREOGRAPHERS - SITA VALADIAN & NICKY FEARN

Nicky Fearn has been creating and performing physical theatre, mask and visual theatre and circus-theatre for many decades. This is her first foray into performing movement/dance. She aspires to be prima ballerina with Tracks Ballet Company as soon as her tutu arrives. On a more serious note, I would like to thank Tracks and Jess for the opportunity and support to explore and play with this project. Thanks also to Netanela and Nick for their willingness to explore with us and provide their extraordinary music and soundscape.

Sita Valadian "I've been told I was born dancing. For as long as I can remember dancing has been a part of my life. I specialised in Bollywood and Indian folk dance and for many years ran a dance school. 5 years ago illness took the ability to dance from me but not my creative spirit. Fresh Tracks is my re-entry into the world of dance choreography and I am so excited to share my passion with everyone!"

PERFORMERS

Nicky Fearn and Sita Valadian

LIVE MUSIC PERFORMED BY

Nick Yates Nick is a saxophonist, clarinettist, composer and improviser with diverse performance experience and a passion for contemporary art music and collaboration. He performs regularly with The Djari Project, Darwin Symphony Orchestra, The Changes, Arafura Music Collective, and is Artistic Director of Whistling Kite New Music. His newest project is a duo with composer and electronic musician Iran Sanadzadeh - their debut record will be released in November.

Netanela Mizrahi is a violinist, composer and arts educator. For her work in Indigenous communities, Immigration Detention and Palliative Care, Netanela was awarded a 2017 Churchill Fellowship (New York and Northern Ireland) to examine the impact of music interventions in communities that experience Trauma. As the Creative Director of the Djari Project in collaboration with Galpu songman Guwanbal Gurruwiwi, Netanela is a 2020 Australian Art Music award recipient and a finalist in the upcoming National Indigenous Music Awards. Her compositions and collaborations have been recognised nationally for excellence in areas of social justice and human rights.



BROKEN EPISODES

The idea behind my dance is *asking for help*. Showing that you can ask for help when doing something physical, help with emotional problems, or how society approaches asking for help. I want to show that asking for help is ok, and needed.

CHOREOGRAPHER - MAVE ALLY WARD

Mave Ward is currently in Year 11 at CSC. They have studied ballet, contemporary and hip hop, and participated in Tracks' Choreographic development program this year. Mave hopes to study performing arts professionally in Canada in the future. Fresh Tracks has been a new experience and Mave has enjoyed working with Maddy and Jordan who have given wonderful guidance and ideas along the way in the collaborative process.

PERFORMERS

Madeleine Brown. After graduating her Diploma of Elite Dance, Madeleine was offered a Bollywood Dance contract. Relocating to Mumbai for 6 months for a prestigious dance company, she danced in shows, events, music videos and movies, travelling with the company throughout India, Hong Kong, Bangkok and Sri Lanka. She worked with India's best choreographers and directors. Madeleine's recent credits include, being a dancer for the Opening Ceremony of the 2017 IPL and cheerleading in the Indian Premier League, and in Bollywood movies such as the highly popular 'A Gentleman', performed in the Australian Open Kids Tennis Day, and was team Dance Captain for the TV show 'The Big Music Quiz'. Madeleine has worked with Tracks since 2013, dancing and choreographing in many of the Darwin Festival shows, as well as other projects and performances.

Jordan Bretherton is a Darwin-raised professional dancer and graduate of the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts, where he worked with nationally and internationally renowned choreographers. In 2017, he was involved in the New Adventures production of *Lord of the Flies* in Melbourne. Since returning to Darwin, Jordan has performed in the Tracks Dance production *Man Made* and *Global Positioning*, with Gary Land NT Dance Company and with SLIDE Youth Dance Theatre as a performer, choreographer and mentor.

MUSIC

Fools Garden - Lemon Tree, Guilhem Desq - Le Chateau Magpique, Pluko-Pronouncedly - Breath and NoMBe - Seminole



CLOCK ON CLOCK OFF

The concepts I have been working with stem from the struggles of someone who suffers from ADHD or ADHD-like symptoms. Basic everyday tasks and routines are hard to grasp onto, and their train of thought will jump from one task to the next leaving some things left undone or feeling too overwhelmed just by thinking about it all. The spacing and movement of the piece mimics the time of day in the layout of an analogue clock.

CHOREOGRAPHER - STEPH SPILLET

“My love for dance grew from growing up watching Hip-Hop dance movies on repeat and trying to learn the routines with my cousins. I began dancing in High School where I was introduced to the contemporary style while still flourishing within the style of hip-hop with my crew KYD- we hosted shows that provided a platform for other dance crews. Rappers and singers from around the Darwin community. Continued to fall in love with dance which led to completing a Bachelor of Arts Degree (Dance) at Deakin University. Since I’ve graduated, I have predominantly focused on teaching at high schools in Melbourne and Darwin with stints of performing with companies such as Tracks and Masters of Choreography.”

PERFORMERS

Jenelle Saunders is a dance artist, performer, and teacher. She works with a range of leading arts organisations throughout the NT, as a teaching artist for *Sydney Theatre Company’s* School Drama program and is a long-time collaborator of *Tracks*. Her work spans contemporary forms from tender and studied, to the irreverent and mercurial.

Ruttiya McElroy has been performing for over 20 years. She trained at Palmerston Ballet School and Brent Street Studios in Sydney. She has performed in a number of *Tracks* Darwin Festival productions and currently teaches and performs with Rix Kix Arts Studio.

Dr Venaska Cheliah comes from a Bharatanatyam traditional Indian dance background and is also trained in contemporary Indian Styles. She has found an additional Western contemporary dance voice through her work with *Tracks*. In 2014 Venaska graduated in her Arangetram, her debut on-stage performance as a student of Indian classical dance and music. She was invited to perform for the opening of Sydney Dance Company’s season in Darwin. Throughout her time with *Tracks*, Venaska has performed, choreographed, completed development courses, presented as a youth leader, taught dance classes, participated in studio residencies, and is currently *Tracks* Chairperson.

Anokai Susi is a long-term Darwinite and began dancing at the age of 17, during her time at Casuarina Senior College. She has been performing with *Tracks* Dance since 2005. Anokai moved to Melbourne in 2007 to pursue a degree majoring in Contemporary Dance at Deakin University. Since returning to Darwin in 2011 she has been an independent dance artist, choreographer & performer.

MUSIC

Grady - Mutual feelings, Motives - Every Time, Xxxtentacion - Moonlight Instrumental,
Kasztan - Untamed, Simon Servida - Escape, and Rude - Eternal Youth



FRESH TRACKS

Fresh Tracks is a commitment to growing the new. In 2021 the program is a series of four short works created and performed by local NT choreographers, artists and performers, providing a platform to share the physical and conceptual realms being explored within contemporary dance-making in our community.

Fresh Tracks grew out of our Development Program in which we support local dance artists to explore, dream, cultivate, test, improve, theorise, and deepen both their own and other people's engagement in making new work and sharing it with Darwin audiences.

CURATOR - JESSICA DEVEREUX

"It was important to me to program a range of voices who display a passion for working warmly and collaboratively.

Marita Smith has an intricate and investigative choreographic voice that I've always been drawn to, ever since I witnessed her make creative work with her students. She's spent her life working in dance and now works as a teacher, her work is largely viewed in an education context. I wanted to know and experience what concepts and collaborative processes Marita would bring to the studio working with professional dancers.

Nicky and Sita are both highly respected in their own styles of performance and they each love to work with movement and narrative. One hails from a theatre and mask work background, the other from Bollywood and Indian Classical dance. Both artists participated in this year's Choreolab, and collaborated with such openness. They created an exciting duet together there, which sparked my curiosity to see what might happen if they took their collaboration further.

I witnessed and taught Stephanie Spillet as a dancer and choreographer in high school. Spillet has always had a knack for making people smile, drawing together energetic exciting choreography and facilitating processes that centre playfulness and fun. After going away to study dance at Deakin in Melbourne, Spillet has returned to Darwin. I was curious to see how Spillet would blend their interests in Hip Hop and Contemporary practice in a new work for Fresh Tracks.

Mave Ward showed a cool and quiet confidence with a strong sense of personality in their choreographic outputs during Choreolab program this year. Mave works in a focussed and intricate way, particularly when they work alone and then teach their dance phrases to others." - Jess Devereux

PRODUCTION PERSONNEL

Browns Mart Technician: Mark Holman

THANK YOU

Browns Mart Staff

TRACKS STAFF, COMMITTEE, TRUSTEES AND PATRON

Artistic Co-Directors: David McMicken and Tim Newth

Company Director: Adelaide Wood

Dance Animateur: Jessica Devereux

Administrator: Jo Shearn

Production Manager: Duane Preston

Bookkeeper: It Figures

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TRACKS

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