

ARCHIVES OF HUMANITY

5-13 February 2021 | Studio Underground, State Theatre Centre of WA

Co3 Contemporary Dance takes you on a journey of human life abandoned to its fate in a world premiere inspired by some of the world's most striking art scenes. Archives of Humanity is a compassionate and empowering new dance work about humanity and the tension between grace and truth. How do we carry each other's burden when even our own load becomes too much to bear? Can what tears us apart also be the very thing that brings us all together? Delving into responses to crises across generations this dance and installation creates a living and emotive meditation on human existence. Dancers move to an original score that echoes each movement in a gradual and persistent climbing arc of cyclical patterns.

The production carries with it the stories of our WA community, in the form of **1,001 +** black birds in an installation devised by Raewyn Hill and Naoko Yoshimoto and created by The Bird Makers Community. Released from isolation, from their makers' hands to ours, these birds are suspended as a symbol of our collective courage and hope.

Archives of Humanity is a reflection on where we suddenly and unexpectedly find ourselves today. Experience it as a moving dance work and see the installation of birds and the stories of the communities that made them as part of a free exhibition.

CREATIVE AND PRODUCTION CREDITS

Devised and Directed Raewyn Hill

Composer Eden Mulholland

Dramaturg Gavin Webber

International Artist Naoko Yoshimoto

Production Manager and Lighting Designer Mark Haslam

Set Designer Bruce McKinven

Stage Manager Liam Murray

Co3 Dancers

Mitchell Aldridge

Claudia Alessi

Mitch Harvey

Storm Helmore

Alex Kay

Yilin Kong

David Mack

Matthew Morris

Jo Omodei

Otto Pye

Russell Thorpe

Luci Young

WAAPA Secondees

Campbell Gately

Anna Milburne

Jess Pettitt

Nadia Priolo

Macon Riley

Aisha Samat

Sami Smith

Luther Wilson

Zach Wilson

Note: Casting subject to change, correct at the time of release.

CO3 (pron. KOH-three)

Co3 Contemporary Dance is driven by excellence and collaboration and in its short five-year history has emerged as the State's leading contemporary dance company. They have become a progressive platform for the exchange of ideas and stories that reflect the experiences of the WA community. With a multidisciplinary and technological focus, the company presents an annual program of works with unique physicality and expression. Through the programming of Artistic Director, Raewyn Hill, Co3 seek to empower and inspire, developing future audiences and the next generation of artists.

Based in Perth, Western Australia, Co3 Contemporary Dance is the State's premier contemporary dance company in residence at the State Theatre Centre of WA on the land of the Whadjuk Noongar people.

Raewyn Hill (Co3 Artistic Director, Conception and Direction)

Raewyn Hill is one of Australasia's foremost dance practitioners and pioneers, her work as a dancer and choreographer has won critical acclaim in a career spanning 28 years. She was instrumental in the formation of Co3 Contemporary Dance and is its founding Artistic Director.

Prior to Co3, Raewyn was the Artistic Director at Dancenorth in Queensland and had a prolific career as a dancer and an internationally commissioned choreographer and educator. She held prestigious positions at numerous dance companies across the globe, including Cite des Arts (Paris), Baryshnikov Arts Centre (New York), Juilliard (New York), Bolshoi Ballet Academy (Moscow), Beijing Dance Academy (China), The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts (China), National Arts Centre (Tokyo), Tokyo Wonder Site (Tokyo) and Saison Foundation (Tokyo).

During her current tenure at Co3, Raewyn has devised and presented innovative mainstage works, built a vibrant youth ensemble and elite training squad, and a range of community engagement programs. In 2018, she was nominated in the Australian Dance Awards for Services to Dance Education; Outstanding Achievement in Choreography (THE ZONE); and Outstanding Performance by a Female Dancer for Good Little Soldier (Ochre Contemporary Dance Company). Her dancer training program also became the focus of a postdoctoral research study through Edith Cowan University, Australia. 2019 marked a high point in Co3's status as a new voice in Australian dance with the critically acclaimed presentation of THE LINE, in collaboration with Mark Howett. ARCHIVES OF HUMANITY is her latest World Premiere new Australian work, commissioned and presented as part of the 2021 Perth Festival.

Eden Mulholland (Composer)

Eden Mulholland (Ngati Uepohatu, Aotearoa) is one of Australasia's most respected and prolific composers and producers for theatre, film, and contemporary dance. Currently based in Queensland, Eden's background as a gifted contemporary dancer, together with his ongoing career as a recording artist, means his work not only spans multiple disciplines but also meets the challenges involved in transcending or transgressing conventional genre boundaries. Eden is well known and sought after for his unusual mix of disciplined focus combined with creative freedom, a balancing act which allows for collaborative improvisation and risk taking when exploring and developing new works. Eden has received numerous arts festival and commercial sound design awards and is a founding member of the acclaimed Movement of the Human, a multi-disciplined, project-based collective known for their striking and thought-provoking work. Eden has made numerous full length works with Raewyn Hill, ARCHIVES OF HUMANITY marks his next composition as a Co3 Artistic Associate. His work is licensed regularly worldwide. He is signed to US Label Anti Fragile and Mushroom Publishing in Australia/NZ.

Gavin Webber (Dramaturg)

Gavin is a choreographer, teacher and performer based in Coolangatta, Queensland, working between Australia and Europe. He started dancing late after many lost years spent hitch-hiking, skiing, writing, camping and studying. In 1993, joining Meryl Tankard at Australian Dance Theatre, later joining Wim Vandekeybus and Ultima Vez in Belgium. He returned to Australia as Artistic Director of Dancenorth from 2005-2009. He is co-founder of Splintergroup and Animal Farm Collective, and created international co-productions that have toured throughout the world. In 2010, *lawn* and *roadkill* received six Greenroom Awards in Melbourne. Gavin received a Sidney Myer Individual Award in 2017 and The Farm received a Helpmann for *TIDE* in 2018 and a Drovers Award for best touring production in 2019 for *Cockfight*. Gavin has worked with Co3 Artistic Director Raewyn Hill on *re:Loaded (2016)* and *Frank Enstein (2018)*, the latter winning the 2018 Performing Arts WA Dance Award for Best Director or Choreographer alongside Grayson Millwood for *Frank Enstein*.

Naoko Yoshimoto (International sculptural artist)

Naoko Yoshimoto was born in Japan and studied BA Analytical Psychology at the Faculty of Education at Kyoto University and weaving at Kawashima Textile School. She researched ritualistic use of clothing and contemporary art practice in the UK and received the Kyoto Prefecture Cultural Prize (2011). Naoko has exhibited works in museums and galleries including solo shows in USA, Japan, UK, UK, Singapore, Italy and Austria and in 2013 first collaborated with Raewyn Hill on the performance work "Flock" at the National Art Center Tokyo. 2020 marks seven years of creative collaboration between Raewyn and Naoko. She has been a regular contributor to the Bird Makers Community Group on Facebook and has been working with local communities in Japan on bird making workshops as part of a virtual residency supported by the Australia Japan Foundation.

Mark Haslam (Production Manager and Lighting Designer)

Mark's practice is a hybrid of technical production, design, direction and performance. He has worked with many leading Australian and international contemporary arts companies across performance, dance, music and visual arts practice and toured work across 4 continents. He has built projects with Sydney Theatre Company, Marrugeku, Erth Visual and Physical, Societas Raffaello Sanzio, Stalker Theatre, The Farm, Legs on the Wall, Performance Space, Company B Belvoir, Co3 and was Production Manager for the original season of *Muriel's Wedding the Musical*. He has created unique festival performances with artists such as Wesley Enoch, Nigel Jamieson and Shaun Gladwell, and lit some of the world's leading DJs and fashion houses. Through his company kdmindustries he explores performance-based collaborations between non-traditional theatrical artists.

Bruce McKinven (Set Designer)

Bruce's career as Set, Costume and Event Designer spans 30 years, working across the fields of theatre, dance, festivals, events and film. He has designed for many of Australia's leading theatre and dance companies, arts festivals and independent artists. Current appointments include Senior Site Designer for Hobart company DarkLab (since 2016), working predominantly on Dark Mofu Festival and the design of the entertainment and dining precinct In The Hanging Garden; Site Designer for Adelaide Festival's Adelaide Writers' Week (since 2012) and; Sessional Lecturer at Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA) in 3rd Year Design since 2011. Bruce was appointed Festival Designer for Perth Festival in 2020, designing key event spaces including City of Lights, Kabarett Haus, the Somerville Film venue at UWA (2013-current), and Literature and Ideas.