

#DARWINFESTIVAL



GUTS DANCE THE PERCEPTION EXPERIMENT

DANCE Northern Territory

📍 Brown's Mart Theatre



Tue 20 Aug 6pm

Wed 21 Aug 11am & 6pm

Proudly supported by



Photo:
Pippa Samaya



BIGHOUSE DREAMING

A Declan Furber Gillick Yarn

THEATRE Australia

📍 Brown's Mart Theatre



Fri 16 Aug 6pm

Sat 17 & Sun 18 Aug 1pm & 6pm

Photo:
Philippa Clarke

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BLOOD ON THE DANCE FLOOR

By Jacob Boehme

📍 Brown's Mart Theatre

Tue 13 - Thu 15 Aug

DARWIN FESTIVAL



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**NORTHERN
TERRITORY
GOVERNMENT**

WRITER'S NOTE

Why this story now? After 30 years of dealing with the global epidemic of HIV, the experience of stigma, discrimination and silence around the HIV virus are just as present today, and are still being felt by people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS.

By sharing my personal story, unapologetically, of being Blak, gay and poz, *Blood on the Dance Floor* is an opportunity to create a space for our mob to have a voice in the dialogue around HIV. A conversation at a table we have not been invited to in this country, which has so far been led by, and reserved for, gay white men.

Our mob have been dealing with HIV right from the early days, back in the '80s, mostly silently and with shame. And we are now seeing a spike in detection rates, particularly among Indigenous women and IV drug users in our community.

Now, more than ever; we need to take our seat at that table, our silence broken and our voices heard.

Jacob Boehme

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Anyone who has ever been in love can access this work.

Blood on the Dance Floor is a semi-autobiographical, multi-art form experiment that employs dance and text to tell one man's story. It tackles big themes and ideas.

When Jacob first approached me to direct this work I was instantly humbled by his offer. To be entrusted to help tell someone's life story is a true privilege. I was Associate Director of ILBIJERI Theatre Company at the time, and I had

developed a passion for working with physical storytellers. The opportunity to work with a dancer of Jacob's calibre was an enticing thought. I have to take my hat off to Jacob for having the guts to share his story, his experiences, his fears, and his desires for all to see.

Ultimately, *Blood* is about love. It's about relationships, it's about strength and resilience, it's about courage, and it's about hope. It's about our fears of ending up alone. It's about overcoming those fears and continuing to take risks, to be vulnerable, in the pursuit of happiness. But are we deserving of happiness? Are we deserving of love?

While the world of this character, and his circumstances, are very specific to the challenges he's up against, his desire to be loved and have meaningful relationships is universal. Whether you are gay or straight, white or black, female or male, HIV positive or negative, a dance or theatre fan, as long as there is blood running through your veins, there is a way into this world.

Blood is one of the most challenging works I've undertaken. In many ways, delving into the unknown world of dance and text meant starting all over again. We didn't know the "rules" because there weren't any, so we made them up as we went along. We tried many different ways to lift this work off the page. It was experiment after experiment and each time we threw ourselves into a creative development we got a little closer to finding the way through. We could spend an eternity exploring the form and still be in a world of the unknown.

Isaac Drandic

CHOREOGRAPHER'S NOTE

Blood on the Dance Floor has been significant in that it has allowed me to witness, first hand, how an individual crafts their artistry. A place where words, ideas, dreams and intentions unfold to reveal the inner storyteller; whose voice you may be hearing for the first time tonight: My Jacob Boehme. And although it's the first time, it is not without courage, without sorrow, without purpose, and nor the last time, I believe, you will hear it.

Blood has been an amazing, challenging, exceptional and inspiring work to be a part of. Thank you, Jacob for having the courage and cracked-ness to find the words to share your story and for thinking of me to be beside you on this ride. I have loved sitting there with you, Isaac, James, Keith and the rest of the amazing team, holding on real tight and then throwing our hands in the air and laughing.

This creative journey has expanded the possibilities of what dance can be with text, and what movement can say without words. I feel I have only scratched the surface and there is still so much more to be uncovered. But those moments of uncertainty, while seeking clarity, have introduced me to other ways of generating, other ways of thinking, other ways of imagining. And can only be a part of pushing artistic boundaries into new positions, perimeters and possibilities.

Blood has also presented a moment to make conscious those practices that have existed in our Aboriginal cultures for many years through dance. When text is the song and the gestures are movement. Where repetition makes ritual and ceremony present. Where we pay respect to the dance styles that exist within our individual bodies as a means to reiterate our diversity while striving to remember the past.

Mariaa Randall

CREDITS

Writer and Performer Jacob Boehme
Director Isaac Drandic
Choreographer Mariaa Randall
Video Artist Keith Deverell
Sound Designer James Henry
Spatial & Lighting Designer Jenny Hector
Costume Designer Kelsey Henderson
Movement Consultant Rinske Ginsberg
Script Dramaturge Mari Lourey & Chris Mead
Production Manager Nick Glen
Stage Manager Nathalie Devilliers
Producers Insite Arts & Jacob Boehme

THANK YOU

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to everyone who has helped make this project possible over the past three years including ILBIJERI Theatre Company, Mari Lourey, Peta Murray, Stephen Borg, Julia Valentini, Ilana Russell, Joseph Mercurio, Brad Spolding, Bo Svoronos and Footscray Community Arts Centre, Tanja Geuder and The Space Dance and Arts Centre, Victorian College of the Arts, Johannah Maza, Trent Nelson and all of our friends and family.

SUPPORT

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Contains sexual and drug references.

**For information or support please contact the Northern Territory AIDS Council
08 8944 7700**