

MITCH JONES

AUTO

CANNIBAL

📍 Studio Theatre, Darwin Entertainment Centre



Fri 5 Aug 7.30pm **Sat 6 Aug** 2.30pm & 7.30pm

Sun 7 Aug 4pm

Duration 55mins

NOTE Contains adult themes and smoke and haze effects

DARWIN
FESTIVAL

Darwin Festival takes place on the land of the Larrakia people.

We wish to pay our respects to the traditional owners of this Country and to their ancestors. As the Festival welcomes contemporary artists and art from around Australia, we also celebrate the continuing culture of the Larrakia.

Scroll through to read more about this performance of *AutoCannibal*.

Enjoy the show!

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ARTIST NOTE

When I first conceived of AutoCannibal in 2018, the idea of a lonely figure driven towards self-harm by his desires and delusions felt like an appropriate way to discuss the experience that history was speeding up – that homo sapiens were increasingly crashing into the consequences of their own contradictions.

Living in Melbourne during the COVID lockdowns demonstrated the reality of this enforced isolation and its danger to mental health. I found myself pacing in circles talking nonsense, just like my character does.

When we remounted the show for Sydney Festival in 2021, we wrote a series of headlines for the opening newscast

that referenced 'mass cattle die offs' and angry regional towns cut off by natural disaster.

Re-watching this segment last month during rehearsals has felt eerie and unfair. Like no matter how ghastly we can imagine things to be, they can always get worse. Maybe next time I will make a happy show.

At its heart though, this piece is about trying to find pathos in the childish way that humanity is stumbling towards the cliff edge. We need to have compassion for our collective peril in order to develop the self-awareness required to correct the course. And it doesn't hurt to have a grim chuckle at the absurdity of it all along the way.

If you take an idea from the show (other than a surprised fascination about what

some people do for a living), I hope it is a renewed sense of the importance of protecting the natural environment and its sublime beauty, which you have so much of here in the Northern Territory. It would be far better if we could simply leave the place alone and return it better than we found it. Stop chopping things down to make space for tiny boxes to live in, digging things up to burn and dumping out our refuse for the future to deal with! Because we will miss the natural world terribly when it has gone.

And when nothing grows, the air burns and your own body starts to look disturbingly delicious – that's the world of the AutoCannibal. Welcome...

Mitch Jones (aka Captain Ruin)



BIOGRAPHIES

Mitch Jones

Creator & Performer

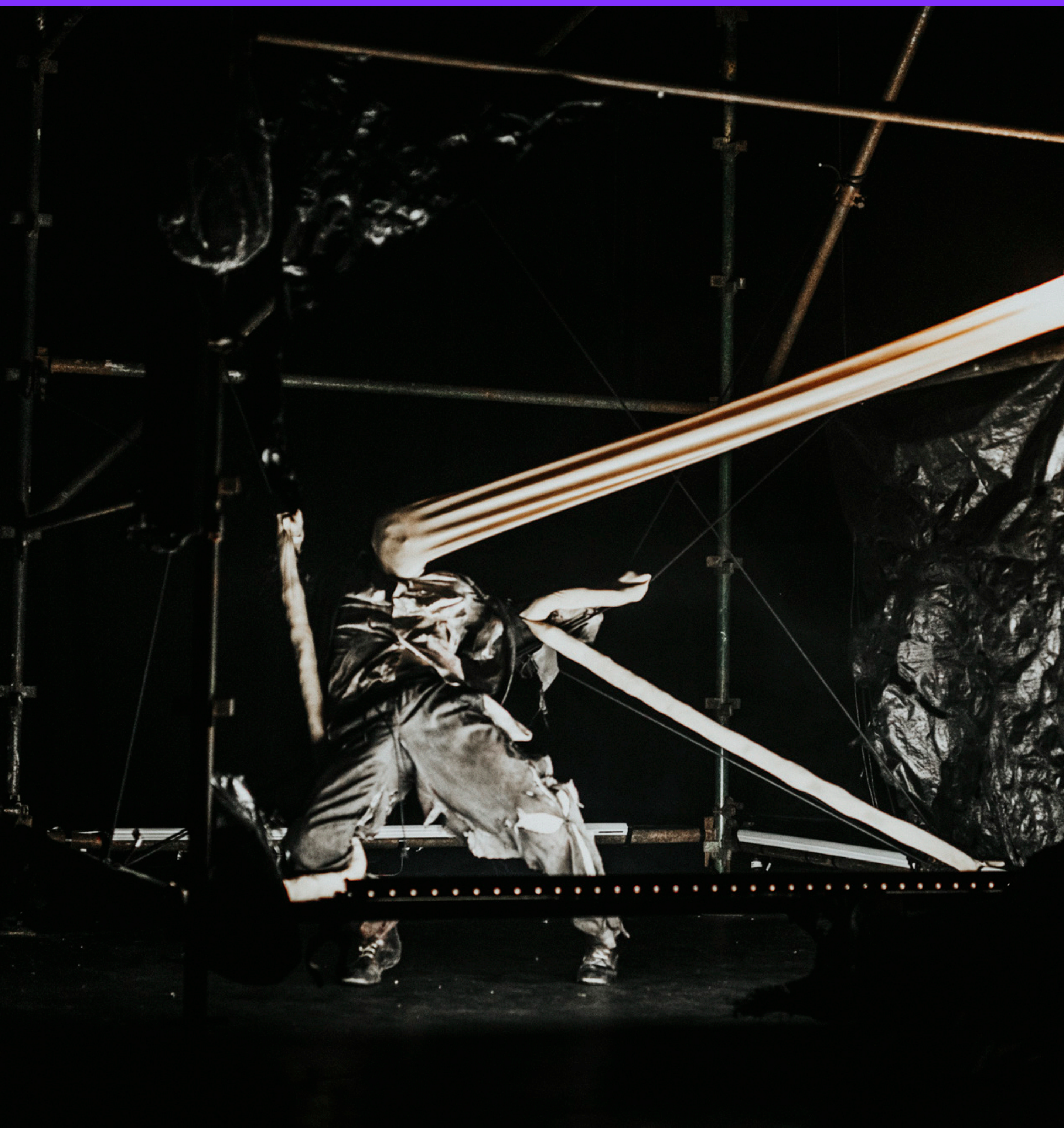
Mitch Jones is a performer and artistic provocateur born in Melbourne. He works across a range of forms including physical theatre, circus and performance art, and has toured the world as punk rock daredevil Captain Ruin and with Circus Oz and Snuff Puppets. He holds an Honours degree in Theatre and Performance from Monash University and has trained with La Fura Dels Baus director Younes Bachir. He has created many ambitious and experimental works including HappyLand (2013), Just Us (2014), Bunker (2016) and Relax: Everything's Fucked (2017). This is his second solo show.

BIOGRAPHIES

Masha Terentieva

Director

Masha Terentieva is a contemporary circus artist, innovator and creator, born in Saint Petersburg to a family of clowns and raised backstage with Cirque Du Soleil. She has travelled and performed around the world, including featuring in Dralion (Cirque Du Soleil), Lido De Paris (Franco Dragone) and winning several awards for her Aerial Hotel Cart act at the prestigious Cirque De Demain International Festival in Paris in 2017. This is the first show she has directed in Australia.



CREDITS

Creator & Performer

Mitch Jones

Director

Masha Terentieva

Sound Designer

Bonnie Knight (with contributions from
Marco Cher-Gibard)

Lighting Designer

Paul Lim

Set Designers

Michael Baxter & Mitch Jones

Production Manager

Dans Sheehan

Technical Operator & Programmer

Lee Stout

Originally produced by Oozing Future
and TheatreWorks

With assistance from Auspicious Arts

DARWIN FESTIVAL

Darwin Festival is the centrepiece of what makes August in Darwin the best time of year. Loved by locals and adored by visitors, this tropical winter festival invites you to experience the very best in First Nations, Territory, Australian and international art, culture and music – not just as a spectator but to be one with it.

Sign up to our e-news for all the latest updates and information.



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