



Melbourne Festival presents

NEW YORK NARRATIVES

While some may consider New York the epicentre of global culture, cities such as Paris, London and Melbourne have each played seminal roles in creating a cultural diaspora of multi-talented theatre makers.

Continuing Melbourne Festival's commitment to this city's vibrant independent scene **New York Narratives** brings together two influential yet distinctly individual independent theatre venues and producers—Performance Space 122 (PS122) in New York and Arts House in Melbourne.

Since it started as an East Village artist squat in 1980, PS122 has evolved from a scrappy underdog providing artists a space to experiment, to a globally renowned leader at the forefront of contemporary performance in New York and around the world.

Under the curatorial vision of Mark Russell (1985–2005) and Vallejo Gantner (2005–present), PS122 has presented over 25,000 artists from more than 20 different countries for hundreds of thousands of audience members since its beginning in 1980.

Through the presentation of artists such as John Leguizamo, Jonathan Ames, Eric Bogosian, Blue Man Group and Young Jean Lee, PS122 has launched careers and art forms, and developed new art practices that have enriched the cultural petri dish that is New York City and subsequently the globe.

In Melbourne, Arts House, which is currently celebrating its tenth anniversary, has become an important arbiter of independent performing arts and made significant contribution to the creative development of our city.

The two organisations share a dedication to support the creative risks taken by artists from diverse genres, cultures and perspectives, and providing incomparable experiences for audiences through works that challenge boundaries of live performance.

New York Narratives showcases the historic and contemporary influences of each city's independent theatre practitioners on local, national and international artists and audiences. It includes the staging of works from two of PS122's distinguished alumni: Andrew Schneider with **YOUARENOWHERE** and Okwui Okpokwasili with **Bronx Gothic**, plus a hands-on interactive performance with Melburnians and Andrew Schneider, **Acting Stranger**.

The program will also include:

ERIC BOGOSIAN: 100 Monologues

Along with the great monologists Spalding Gray and PS122 co-founder Tim Miller, playwright and novelist Eric Bogosian is heavily associated with PS122 for his performances at the space during the 80s and 90s.

This interactive video installation, presented by Melbourne Festival and Arts House, collects all of Eric Bogosian's monologues, originally performed as part of his six off-Broadway solo shows, including *Sex, Drugs, Rock & Roll*; *Pounding Nails in the Floor with my Forehead*; *Wake Up and Smell the Coffee*; *Drinking in America*; *Funhouse*; *Men Inside* and selections from his play *Talk Radio*.

8-18 October - Arts House, North Melbourne Town Hall

FUTURE PAST: 10 Years of Arts House

An exhibition of video installations, images and written documentation celebrating the first ten years of Arts House. From July, artists, audiences, locals and researchers, the nostalgic, the committed and the curious are invited to spend some time in the vault. Search, explore or revisit. Catch that show you always regretted missing, and discover things you never knew were there.

3 July-18 December - Arts House, North Melbourne Town Hall

ECHO: 30 Years of PS122

Created by PS122 co-founder Charles Dennis *ECHO* explores 30 years of groundbreaking performance at PS122. Featuring rare videos of performances by Spalding Gray, Blue Man Group, Eric Bogosian, Antony, Quentin Crisp and Penny Arcade, Meredith Monk, John Leguizamo, Reggie Watts, Young Jean Lee, Justin Bond and many more.

8-18 October - Arts House, North Melbourne Town Hall**TEXT, BODY & TECHNOLOGY**

Presented by Melbourne Festival and Arts House, creative producer Julianne Pierce will be joined in conversation with director and choreographer Gideon Obarzanek, and presenting Festival artists, Andrew Schneider (*YOUAR ENOWHERE*) and David Chisholm (*The Experiment*) to discuss the relationship among existing and evolving technologies, artistic practice and the audience experience.

18 October - Arts House, North Melbourne Town Hall**STAGE ON SCREEN**

A unique selection of contemporary performance films celebrating the work of top calibre PS122 artists Reggie Watts, Tommy Smith, Tina Satter and Young Jean Lee (Melbourne Festival 2012), along with long time collaborator of Okwui Okpokwasili (*Bronx Gothic*), Ralph Lemon. Films produced by OntheBoards.TV

12, 13, 14 & 18 October – ACMI, Federation Square**MAPPING A VIBRANT, INDEPENDENT ECOLOGY****You can take art out of the city but can you take the city out of the art?**

New York and Melbourne are defined by their cultural landscapes, but how far do the qualities of these cities influence the artists creating work in these thriving metropolises? *New York Narratives* brings together an influential group of theatre directors and producers whose experiences stretch between the two cities and beyond to explore the commonalities and differences of New York and Melbourne's respective independent arts scenes. They ask what are the intrinsic ingredients of a vibrant independent arts sector? How much do cities inspire and therefore shape artists and how do their communities nurture them in return?

Featuring Vallejo Gantner (PS 122), Angharad Wynne-Jones (Arts House), Daniel Clarke (Theatre Works), Adena Jacobs (Fraught Outfit), Karen Therese (Creative Producer and Artist), Dan Koop (Melbourne Fringe/ Artist). Facilitated by Emily Sexton (Wheeler Centre)

17 October - Arts House, North Melbourne Town Hall

Melbourne Festival Artistic Director, Josephine Ridge said: "The sophistication, irreverence, audacity and creative intelligence of Melbourne's independent theatre scene is one of the most rewarding aspects of living here. The same has long been true of New York and both cities are home at the moment to a particularly exciting generation of theatre makers.

"What could feel more natural than bringing some of these extraordinary artistic souls together to celebrate their work and to understand more about their context?"