



The Coopers Malthouse
Merlyn Theatre

Wednesday 21 – Saturday 24 October

Wed – Sat 8pm

55 mins, no interval

\$49 / \$39

Students \$25

Transaction fees may apply

www.festival.melbourne

The Coopers Malthouse 03 9685 5111

Ticketmaster 136 100

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AUSTRALIA // Music+Theatre

Melbourne Festival Co-Commission

Melbourne Festival presents

THE EXPERIMENT: A Musical Monodrama

Mark Ravenhill & David Chisholm

*“A darkly ingenious essay on the ambiguity of memory.” –
Limelight Magazine*

Inspired by the writings of ethicist **Peter Singer**, British playwright **Mark Ravenhill**'s text sits at the core of this chilling new collaboration led by multi-award winning composer **David Chisholm**.

The Experiment brings together a group of artists at the height of their disciplinary power, in a contemporary examination of human nature, thought and action. Unraveling in a fragmented narrative structure, *The Experiment* is a provocative horror story for our times.

In a confronting reimagining of Ravenhill's 21st century monodrama, Chisholm and his collaborators radically transform the 2009 grand guignol monologue, into a technology saturated 60-minute solo work for virtuoso guitarist Mauricio Carrasco.

The performance begins as a traditional musical monodrama, with Carrasco speaking the text, over music. Gradually layers of the speaker's own voice begin to collapse and the composition builds in texture, moving from acoustic echoes to the introduction of electronic sounds and integrated digital video elements.

The nine-stage performance, experimenting with the dark side of memory and identity, features the visceral imagery of painter and video artist **Emmanuel Bernadoux**, in an immersive audio-visual scenography designed by **Matthew Gingold**. Using motion capture sensors, the soloist is able to “play” the space around him and become immersed in the fading environment.

Mark Ravenhill is one of the most distinctive and prolific contemporary UK playwrights (*Shopping and Fucking*, *Some Explicit Polaroids*, *Mother Clap's Molly House*). *The Experiment* was first performed as a monologue as part of Southwark Theatre's Grand Guignol Terror 2009 season.

David Chisholm has an international practice defined through diverse and hybrid collaboration for which he has won many awards including three Green Room Awards, a French Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry Award and a Highly Commended Paul Lowin Prize. His work has been appeared at Venice Biennale, Villa Medici Roma, Edinburgh and Melbourne Festival (*An Oratorio Requiem*, 2011), Moscow Museum of Art, ISCM World New Music Days, MONA FOMA, Danscenen Copenhagen, Monaco Dance Forum and he has been performed and recorded by International Contemporary Ensemble, Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra.

Melbourne Festival Artistic Director, Josephine Ridge said: “David Chisholm was first discovered by many Melbourne Festival audiences in 2011 when his *Kursk: an Oratorio Requiem* astounded and moved those who experienced it. He has written much else before and following that and always he impresses with his originality and compelling commitment to his purpose. With *The Experiment* he again tackles challenging material in his own unique way.”

Connected events:

Text, Body & Technology – Sun 18 Oct at 3pm

Arts House // FREE

Mauricio Carrasco – Fri 23 Oct at 1pm

MPavilion // FREE

This production has been assisted by the Australian Government’s Major Festival initiative, managed by the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body, in association with the Confederation of Australian International Arts Festivals, Melbourne Festival, Adelaide Festival and Sydney Festival.