

# 2011 Annual Report

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## 2011 Timeline

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### January

- Stephanie Lake in Residence
- Brook Stamp in Residence

### February

- *Human Interest Story* performances -Heath Ledger Theatre -Perth International Arts Festival
- Paula Lay in Residence
- Rennie McDougall in Residence

### March

- *Untrained* performances – Mildura Wentworth Arts Festival
- *Untrained* auditions for Roadwork tour
- *National Dance Forum* – Round Table Speaker
- *Human Interest Story* Dance Massive Studio Showing
- Rennie McDougall in Residence
- Luke George in Residence
- Tanja Liedtke Fellowship Residency – Kasia Sitarz
- *First Run*

### April

- *Conversation Piece* - 1<sup>st</sup> Stage Development, Sydney
- Alice Dixon, Melissa Jones and Caroline Meaden in Residence

### May

- *Untrained* Roadwork tour begins – rehearsals and performances in Brisbane, Toowoomba, Lismore and Coffs Harbour.
- *First Run*

### June

- *Untrained* Roadwork cont. - rehearsals and performances – Newcastle, Wollongong, Bathurst, Orange and Port Lincoln

### July

- *Untrained* Roadwork cont. - rehearsals and performances – Port Lincoln, Whyalla, Port Pirie, Bendigo, Swan Hill, Horsham, Portland and Canberra
- Lee Serle in Residence

### August

- *Home Art* – Lucy Guerin and Angharad Wynne-Jones / Tipping Point
- Lucy Guerin talk at the VCAM – Centre For Ideas
- *First Run*
- *Human Interest Story* rehearsals and Belvoir performance season, Sydney

### September

- *Human Interest Story* Belvoir season cont., Sydney
- *Structure and Sadness* rehearsals and performances - USA mid-west tour
- *Hotbed# 5* with Mårten Spångberg

### October

- *Structure and Sadness* USA mid-west tour cont. – Edison Theatre Washington University Saint Louis and The Walker Art Center Minneapolis.
- *First Run*
- *Weather* Residency – La Place des Arts, Montréal
- Shelley Lasica in Residence

### November

- *Weather* 1<sup>st</sup> Stage Development, Lucy Guerin Inc Studio
- *First Run*

### December

- Presentation of *Pieces for Small Spaces 2011* at Lucy Guerin Inc Studio
- Melanie Lane – Lucy Guerin Inc 2011 Commission – 1<sup>st</sup> Development
- Lucy Guerin collaboration with Carrie Cracknell - Sadler's Wells

## Summary for 2011

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### Lucy Guerin Artistic Director/CEO

2011 was a varied and exciting year for Lucy Guerin Inc with a very intense schedule of developing new works, touring, new collaborations and support for local choreographers. The Company engaged in a broad range of activities that forged many new relationships and opportunities both artistically and for the organisation. The balancing of all these different strands of the Company's program has been challenging and invigorating and our small team has achieved remarkable things.

*Human Interest Story*, our most recent work, was presented at the Perth International Arts Festival and also had a three-week season at Belvoir St Theatre in Sydney. This was the longest single run that Lucy Guerin Inc has done of one of its own productions, and the dancers worked extremely hard and well to pull off this number of shows. Building on this relationship with Belvoir, we were invited to develop a new work and I spent three weeks in Sydney with three actors and three dancers working on ideas for *Conversation Piece*, which will premiere in 2012. This was an important new relationship for the Company both as an artistic exchange and also to connect us to new audiences in Sydney. During this period Lucy Guerin Inc also hosted the Tania Liedtke Fellowship recipient Kasia Sitarz.

*Structure and Sadness*, one of the Company's most successful works, toured to St Louis and Minneapolis in the US. This was followed by the Company's first international residency at Place des Arts in Montreal to begin rehearsals for the company's new work for 2012, *Weather*. This is the Company's first international co-commission and will ensure that we can include Place des Arts in future North American touring.

*Untrained* toured regional Australia for almost three months, working with local untrained men in many of the seventeen towns, and spending a week workshopping the piece with them prior to presentation. The men were selected during auditions held at various towns throughout Australia before the tour commenced. This was one of the highlights of our year and a unique experience in the Company's history. The bond that was formed with each group and the bravery of the untrained men was truly surprising.

The Company spent a further four weeks in rehearsal developing *Weather* at Lucy Guerin Inc Studio with five dancers. Designer Robert Cousins also came in for three days to experiment with ideas for the design. We are very excited with how this work is progressing and look forward to its presentation in the Melbourne Festival in 2012.

November/December was a very busy time with the Company's annual in-house presentation of five local choreographers, *Pieces for Small Spaces*. I travelled to London for a week of research and development at Sadler's Wells with British director Carrie Cracknell. I also choreographed *Home Art* devised by Angharad Wynne-Jones and commissioned by TippingPoint Australia and the City of Melbourne where three local North Melbourne households accepted the invitation to have a dance created for them to be performed in their own homes. This is the first time the concept of environmental sustainability has been addressed in one of the Company's works.

A lively program of support for local dancers and choreographers took place at Lucy Guerin Inc Studio in 2011. These included a *Hotbed* workshop with conceptual dance artist Marten Spångberg from Sweden, bi-monthly showings of *First Run* coordinated by local artists, Luke George and Brooke Stamp; a commission for choreographer Melanie Lane to develop a new work in the Studio with financial support, as well as many secondment placements. In 2011 the Company has been able

to decrease the number of commercial hirers of the studio in order to provide studio residencies (space only) for nine new projects. This has created continuity for developing artists through periods without work or funding, giving them focus and direction during the crucial early stages of their careers when they often feel unsure about how to take the next step. It has also created an identity for the Company as a centre for studio-based research and choreographic development. These activities have strengthened the Company's ties to younger artists and offered mentoring and development opportunities that enrich the local dance scene. This engagement with the next generation of choreographers and dancers also generates inspiration and energy for Michaela, Laura and myself.

The dialogue around the creation and presentation of dance has continued to grow. There has been steady progress in the participation in discussion by audience and artists at *First Run* showings and workshops, and increasingly audience and artists are 'speaking up' and developing an articulate language to talk about ideas and practices connected to choreography and dance.

2011 also saw the beginning stages of an overarching sustainability plan for all aspects of the Company's operations. Consultant Jake Shackleton conducted an environmental audit that has resulted in the establishing of short and long-term goals for the company to manage its emissions and waste disposal to be implemented in 2012 - 2014.

Laura Levitus was employed as Lucy Guerin Inc's first full time Administrator in 2011. Given her interest and ambition within the arts sector and the Company's desire to encourage and nurture her growth and skills development, there has been a process of gradually increasing her responsibilities and consistent mentoring by the Executive Producer. As a consequence, Laura's skills have grown rapidly, reflecting her talent and commitment.

The company has been consistently funded since its formation in 2002, however, as its program expands there are limited options for increased funding. A major focus in the coming years will be how to maintain and diversify its financial base. Another significant and ongoing challenge for the Company is the maintenance of a constant core group of dancers. For the *Structure and Sadness* US tour, five out of six cast members had to be replaced. This is taxing on the Company's resources and artistic standards, and although inevitable to a degree, it is anticipated that in the coming years more long term commitment to projects and touring will be required by new dancers. Although the Company's touring profile is strong, it is still a challenge to connect international dates to form a longer tour. The company did not present a major new work this year but will premiere two new works in 2012, both of which began development in 2011.

For me personally, it has been a demanding and thought-provoking year. Sometimes in the middle of the flurry of touring or rehearsals it is difficult to consider the organisation as a whole and the direction it is taking, but on reviewing 2011, I am truly proud of what the company has achieved and the priorities and values it reflects. For a small organisation like ours this can only come about through the sheer hard work, dedication and inspiration of those involved, and in particular, our Executive Producer, Michaela Coventry.

It also depends on the unflagging commitment of all the dancers, the Board of Directors including out wonderful Chair Ruth Bain, Assistant Producer Laura Levitus, our production company Megafun, the designers and collaborators, *First Run* curators Brooke Stamp and Luke George, the teachers for company class and all the artists who have worked with the company throughout the year. This talented group of people continues to inspire the company with a growing sense of purpose and belief in its ability to instigate change. Also none of this would be possible without the support of the Australia Council, Arts Victoria and our other funders who have consistently sustained the company's work and offered guidance and advice over its nine year life. Coming up to our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary we are in a fine position to celebrate!

## 2011 in detail

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### PRESENTATIONS

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#### **Human Interest Story at Perth International Arts Festival**

31 Jan – 4 Feb - Rehearsals at LGI Studio, Melbourne

11 – 14 Feb - Performances at the Heath Ledger Theatre, Perth

Using image, sound, language and movement *Human Interest Story* explores the affects of the news cycle on our psyche and questions our ability to accept the reality of distant tragedy into the daily routine of our lives. Shifting between humour and anxiety it shows our varying responses to the stream of information that reaches into our domestic environments about newsworthy events in other places.

*What a fascinating, funny and fraught piece of work... How daring and challenging, too, as it attempts with the language of movement to communicate the very complex relationship the media has on our lives... Guerin has trumped the lot of us with this searing expose that shows, by physical expression, what we as consumers of media internalise without a second thought. Plenty of questions, and no answers, of course, but hours worth of quiet contemplation afterwards... Bravo, Lucy Guerin.*

Jan Hallam, Perth Now, 12 February 2011

Choreographer: Lucy Guerin

Dancers: Stephanie Lake, Alisdair Macindoe, Talitha Maslin, Harriet Ritchie, Stuart Shugg, Jessica Wong

Composer & Sound Designer: Jethro Woodward

Set Designer: Gideon Obarzanek

Realising Designer: Anna Cordingley

Lighting Designer: Paul Jackson

Costume Designer: Paula Levis

Production Manager: Matt Scott (Megafun)

Producer: Michaela Coventry

Special Newscast by Anton Enus

Commissioned by Lucy Guerin Inc, Malthouse Melbourne and Perth International Arts Festival

Funded by the Victorian Government through Arts Victoria; the Australia Council, the Australian Government's Arts Funding and Advisory Body, through the Interconnections and New Work For Festivals Initiatives.

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#### **Human Interest Story Studio Showing – Dance Massive**

25 March - Lucy Guerin Inc Studio

A Studio showing of *Human Interest Story* was presented specifically for the international and national presenters who were invited/visiting Melbourne for Dance Massive 2011.

Dancers: Stephanie Lake, Alisdair Macindoe, Talitha Maslin, Harriet Ritchie, Stuart Shugg, Jessica Wong

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#### **Untrained Roadwork Tour – Regional Australia**

28 March – 3 April - Mildura Wentworth Performing Arts Festival (pre tour)

13-14 May, Judith Wright Centre, Brisbane

24 May, Lismore City Hall, Lismore

27 May, Empire Theatre, Toowoomba  
 30 May, Jetty Memorial Theatre, Coffs Harbour  
 1-2 June, Civic Theatre, Newcastle  
 10-11 June, IPAC, Wollongong  
 20-21 June, BMEC, Bathurst  
 22-23 June, Orange Civic Centre, Orange  
 2 July, Nautilus Theatre, Pt Lincoln  
 5 July, Middleback Theatre, Whyalla  
 7 July, Northern Festival Centre, Pt Pirie  
 15-16 July, The Capital Theatre, Bendigo  
 19 July, Swan Hill Town Hall, Swan Hill  
 21 July, Wesley Performing Arts Centre, Horsham  
 22 July, Hamilton Performing Arts Centre, Hamilton  
 23 July, Portland Arts Centre, Portland  
 29-30 July, Canberra Theatre Centre, Canberra

Over three months, Lucy Guerin Inc presented a total of 24 performances of *Untrained* to 16 cities throughout regional Australia as a part of the Roadworks tour, managed by Performing Lines.

Lucy Guerin held initial auditions around Australia prior to the tour, to select 7 different casts of the untrained dancers, local to the areas the show toured to. A total of 14 untrained and 7 untrained understudies were selected from the audition tour, and 7 trained Lucy Guerin Inc dancers joined the cast over the entire three months. Rehearsals were completed over five days with each new cast. A post show Q&A session followed 12 of the performances across the 16 venues, and Lucy held 6 master-classes across Lismore, Toowoomba, Port Lincoln, Whyalla and Port Pirie.

The performances were well received in all regional venues. Having the untrained locals involved in the performance proved significant in connecting with local audiences. This was a key opportunity for the Company to expand its connections with regional audiences and venues nationwide.

Choreographer: Lucy Guerin

Associate Directors: Antony Hamilton and Byron Perry

Dancers (trained): Antony Hamilton, Alisdair Macindoe, Benjamin Hancock, Dean Cross, James Shannon, Joseph Simons and Rennie McDougall.

Dancers (untrained): Matt O'Neill & Javier Briceno (Brisbane);

Liam Christian & Josh Doyle (Toowoomba, Lismore, Coffs Harbour & Newcastle);

Andrew Aveling & Malcolm Whittaker (Wollongong);

Callum Lofts & James Surplice (Bathurst, Orange);

Quade Carbine & Colin Murdoch (Port Lincoln, Whyalla & Port Pirie);

Nathan King & Stephen Henderson (Bendigo, Swan Hill, Horsham, Hamilton);

Richard Merzian & Allan Raeyers (Canberra)

Tour Management: Performing Lines

Production Manager: Matt Scott - Megafun

*...a bit like seeing swans and newborn foals together in one pen; the trained dancers' grace and poise makes the untrained performers look like they're yet to get acquainted with their limbs. Not surprisingly, the complex movements that one man can do with ease, another can only attempt. Why pay to see amateurs, you ask. Well, because the results are damn funny and seriously intriguing... Lucy expertly crafts a part-choreographed/part-impromptu story that is as much about what these men have in common as how their bodies and physical histories set them apart.*

Frances Frangenheim, Map Magazine – Street Editors, 4 July 2011

Funded by the Australia Government through Playing Australia and Arts Victoria

**Human Interest Story at Belvoir – Sydney**

22 – 26 August – Rehearsals at Lucy Guerin Inc Studio

31 August – 18 September – Performances at Belvoir

*Captivating, heart-felt and rich. Human Interest Story should not be missed.*

Emily Garrett, Australian Stage Online, 4 September 2011

Belvoir gave Lucy Guerin Inc a unique and unprecedented opportunity to perform twenty-one performances of a Lucy Guerin Inc work in one season. Initially seen as 'brave' programming, this Sydney season of *Human Interest Story* sold out months in advance and opened the Company to a new and very engaged theatre audience.

*Discipline and chaos, tumult and order; beautiful and grotesque, bewitching and mutilated - all these elements of the everyday are present, often simultaneously, in Lucy Guerin's theatre-dance work Human Interest Story. There's no scriptwriting credit in the program, which suggests the expansive text is group-created; and that's remarkable because it's taut and well thought out; sharply apposite and witty... the result is an underlining of the company's work as being quite unlike any other currently working in Australia.*

Diana Simmonds, Stage Noise, 3 September 2011

Choreographer: Lucy Guerin

Dancers: Stephanie Lake, Alisdair Macindoe, Talitha Maslin, Harriet Ritchie, James Shannon, Jessica Wong

Composer &amp; Sound Designer: Jethro Woodward

Set Designer: Gideon Obarzanek

Realising Designer: Anna Cordingley

Lighting Designer: Paul Jackson

Costume Designer: Paula Levis

Production Manager: Matt Scott (Megafun)

Producer: Michaela Coventry

Special Newscast by Anton Enus

*It's the antithesis of what we have come to expect of a dance, operatic or theatrical quartet, where response and interaction are about emotion and contact rather than distance and disinterest. It's fascinating and unnerving to watch and listen to.*

Diana Simmonds on *Human Interest Story*, Belvoir Sydney, Stage Noise, 3 September 2011

Commissioned by Lucy Guerin Inc, Malthouse Melbourne and Perth International Arts Festival

**Structure and Sadness – USA mid-west tour**

19 – 26 Sept 2011 – Rehearsals at Napier Street Theatre, Melbourne

30 Sept – 1 Oct 2011 – 2 Performances at the Edison Theatre, Washington University Saint Louis  
[www.edisontheatre.wustl.edu/](http://www.edisontheatre.wustl.edu/)6 Oct – 8 Oct 2011 – 3 Performances at the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis  
[www.walkerart.org/](http://www.walkerart.org/)

Also included 3 artist talks and 1 masterclass

*I wasn't fully prepared for the beauty, nuance or grace of her movement exploration of another bridge collapse one that happened not four but 40 years earlier in her home city of Melbourne... This was clearly an artistic experience that speaks to people beyond the dance world and beyond just those who live in cities that had experienced recent disasters... Viewed with neutrality, with no emotional*

*attachments or repercussions, structures collapsing are beautiful. Viewed within a specific historical context, they are harrowing and throat chakra - closing. And still, they are beautiful.*

Emily Taylor, Walker Art Center Blog, Minneapolis USA, 5 & 8 October 2011

Touring *Structure and Sadness* to the midwest of the USA allowed the company to challenge and extend perceptions of contemporary dance by presenting Lucy Guerin's work to a wider audience. Lucy Guerin already has a strong history of working in the USA, however as the company's first performance in the 'upper Midwest' and given the enormity of the country, it was significant in extending the company's international network and audience reach. Most local audiences and artists were previously unaware of Lucy Guerin's work, and it provided an opportunity to gain feedback from a new audience from a very different cultural background. This has challenged and stimulated Lucy and her approach to making work, as well as influencing more demand for Lucy's work. Presenting *Structure and Sadness* in this different cultural framework was successful, proving to be 'a fresh revelation' for most and exactly the response Philip Bither, Senior Walker Art Center Curator, had hoped for, 'resonating with dance and non-dance audiences alike, and receiving very positive critical response' (Philip Blither - email).

*Structure and Sadness is an evening divided into meticulous construction and the ensuing aftermath when this order falls apart. The specific Australian history depicted in Structure and Sadness is echoed across time and space in our recent 35W bridge collapse and the tragedy of 9-11... This gathering offers both the promise of what we might accomplish as well as a reminder of our frailty. Guerin's soloists invite audience members to consider the larger system informing any singular project, to see our varied efforts in context, and to hopefully find a means to both remember and continue on.*

Jessica Fiala, Walker Art Center Blog, Minneapolis USA, 10 October 2011

Choreographer: Lucy Guerin

Dancers: Kristina Chan, Kyle Kremerskothen, Talitha Maslin, Timothy Ohl, Joseph Simons, and Lilian Steiner.

Production Manager: Keith Tucker (Megafun)

Lighting: Benjamin Shaw (Bluebottle)

Producer: Michaela Coventry

Funded by Arts Victoria – International

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### **Home Art**

10 – 17 August 2011 – Planning – Various locations around North Melbourne

26 – 7 December 2011 – Creative development and rehearsals - Various locations around North Melbourne

8 December 2011 – Performance and film presentation – Arts House North Melbourne Town Hall

<http://homeartproject.org/>

This art project commissioned by TippingPoint Australia and the City of Melbourne took place across North Melbourne and West Melbourne. This was a collaboration between choreographer Lucy Guerin and three households who accepted the invitation to have a dance made for them and performed by them in their own homes. By being local in its creation and presentation and with support from the City of Melbourne's sustainability team to measure and reduce the emissions of some of the participants' houses and work-places, the project models a new way of making low carbon art that offers a chance for neighbours to see each other in a new light.

Concept/Creative Production: Angharad Wynne-Jones (TippingPoint Australia)

Choreographer: Lucy Guerin

Composer for the film score: David Franzke

Filmmaker: Rhian Hinkley



Production and Light: Bluebottle  
Sustainability Consultancy: City of Melbourne Sustainability Team

Funded and Produced by the City of Melbourne

### **Pieces for Small Spaces 2011**

7th – 11th December – 5 Performances - Lucy Guerin Inc Studio

*Pieces for Small Spaces 2011*, was the seventh annual presentation of this small-scale curated season of new choreographic works at Lucy Guerin Inc Studio.

*I feel that my practice and choreographic tool kit has expanded and matured due to the invaluable possibilities that Pieces for Small Spaces affords year after year.* Rennie McDougall

*The performance season was a platform where I felt I could take risks, try something I had not done before and be supported by the coming together of community.* Atlanta Eke

This season now holds a vital position in Lucy Guerin Inc's cycle of development opportunities for the dance sector. It functions in concert with our other programs including space residencies, workshops, *First Run* showings, commissions, secondment placements and classes. It is the highlight of our in-house programs and gives choreographers the opportunity to realise ideas and skills they have been developing. It stresses the importance of a studio-based practice and time to make departures from existing creative habits.

*I really appreciated how keen Lucy was to see my work and offer feedback and advice, without imposing anything too heavily upon my process. I learnt a lot about how to be involved with producing a show. I really loved having the time in the studio to work through my ideas.* Natalie Abbott

*Pieces for Small Spaces* remains a valuable opportunity for Lucy Guerin Inc to encourage the next generation of choreographers. Its goal is to promote a rigorous and brave choreographic exploration that will continue to build a strong and adventurous community of dance-makers. It seeks to allow practitioners to focus solely on invention, imagination, choreographic practice and physical knowledge without the pressures of funding, reporting, marketing and budgeting. Of course they will be required to address these issues in their future careers, but *Pieces for Small Spaces* aims to put exploration at the centre of their practice there-by ensuring the evolution of the artform and the vibrancy of the community.

*The commission has certainly given me new ideas and directions for my further work as an independent choreographer and strengthened bonds within my community of dancers and artists.* Holly Durant

*After Pieces I feel inspired to make more work and really research and dig into idea I am exploring...I am feeling much more confident about making work after this experience and so thankful for the opportunity.* Rebecca Jensen

Choreographers:

Natalie Abbott – *Circles for Squares*; Holly Durant – *Untitled*; Atlanta Eke – *Untitled*; Rebecca Jensen – *Within an Inner*; Rennie McDougall – *Thoughts are Circular*

Curator: Lucy Guerin

Design: Frog Peck

Production: Bluebottle

Producer: Laura Levitus

Funded by the Angior Family Foundation

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## RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

### **Tanja Liedtke Fellowship Residency**

21 – 29 March 2011 – Lucy Guerin Inc Studio  
[www.tanja-liedtke-foundation.org/](http://www.tanja-liedtke-foundation.org/)

Lucy Guerin Inc partnered with the Tanja Liedtke Foundation to host and mentor the 2011 Tanja Liedtke Fellow, Katarzyna (Kasia) Sitarz. For Kasia, the 2011 Fellowship represented the chance to create, observe, work and interact with some of the best Australian contemporary dance artists and companies. Kasia spent 3 weeks working on the 1<sup>st</sup> Development of Lucy Guerin's new work *Conversation Piece* in Sydney and also had a Studio Residency at Lucy Guerin Inc working with local artists Zoe Scoglio, Josh Tyler and Matt Cornell. Kasia also completed a residency at Arts House, North Melbourne Town Hall and immersed herself in Dance Massive 2011.

*a magic journey of an artistic research and cross-cultural exchange, where every day was a challenge and experience on many different levels. I discovered the whole new world and it feels like my understanding of it expanded into new dimensions I was never aware before... I am left with a deep trace in my life which has seeded enormous potential for the future...*

Katarzyna Sitarz

Funded by the Tanja Liedtke Foundation

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### **Conversation Piece**

11 – 29 April 2011 – Sydney  
 UNSW School of Arts and Media Studio

Director/Chorographer: Lucy Guerin  
 Set & Costume Design: Robert Cousins  
 Sound Design: Robin Fox  
 Lighting Design: Damien Cooper  
 Performers: Alison Bell, Megan Holloway, Alisdair Macindoe, Rennie McDougall, Harriet Ritchie and Matthew Whittet

Commissioned and Produced by Belvoir  
 Funded by the Australia Council through the Interconnections Initiative

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### **Weather Residency at La Place des Arts, Montreal**

10 – 21 October 2011 - La Place des Arts, Montreal

Lucy Guerin spent two weeks at La Place des Arts in Montreal with two dancers to begin devising a new work for Lucy Guerin Inc entitled *Weather*. This is a significant event as it marks the first international co-commissioning relationship for the Company and ensures that it will be presented in Montreal during its 2013 North American tour. It also enabled Lucy and the dancers to create their work in a supportive environment with a different cultural perspective.

Choreographer: Lucy Guerin  
 Dancers: Talitha Maslin and Lilian Steiner

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### **Weather First Stage Development**

31 October – 25 November 2011 – Lucy Guerin Inc Studio

*Weather* is a new, evening length contemporary dance work involving six dancers. The ideas underpinning this work stem from a desire to explore the connection between the body and the

natural world through the elemental forces of weather. This subject is familiar and fascinating to just about everyone and many of us would not be able to get a conversation going without it. It has great power as a metaphor for human emotion and a natural expression through dance and movement. Weather is also a highly relevant topic due to the global concerns around climate change. *Weather* will be a visceral and sensorial work with a minimalist, chaotic aesthetic which is visually entrancing. It will explore a highly original and developed movement style that will be generated through physical, emotional and scientific relationships to weather. The new work will form an intimate connection between choreography and visual design. The design by Robert Cousins will involve devising a set which takes the form of an ephemeral atmosphere for the dancers to move in, almost like micro-climates on stage. Wind, snow, hail and mist will be generated as a medium for the dancers to move through, react to, and also to control.

Choreographer: Lucy Guerin

Set Designer: Robert Cousins

Lighting Designer: Benjamin Cisterne

Composer: Oren Ambarchi

Dancers: Benjamin Hancock, Talitha Maslin, Alisdair Macindoe, James Shannon and Lilian Steiner

Production Manager: Richard Dinnen – Megafun

Commissioned by Lucy Guerin Inc, Melbourne Festival, Brisbane Festival, Place des Arts, Montreal

Funded by Arts Victoria

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### **Merge – Melanie Lane – A Lucy Guerin Inc Commission**

13 – 23 December 2011 – Lucy Guerin Inc Studio

Melanie spent 2 weeks in the Lucy Guerin Inc Studio working on the 1<sup>st</sup> development of a new work commissioned by Lucy Guerin Inc.

*A great benefit from this commission was to have the mentorship of Lucy Guerin....Her expertise and experience was a great support for me. Her feedback enabled me to consider other perspectives to work from and helped me define my conceptual ideas...In conclusion to this six-week research and development I feel that I have gone through an intensely enriching experience that has pushed me forward into new creative territories. It has allowed me to grow as an artist and has given me the opportunity to give birth to a new work Merge which I intend to further develop into a full-length choreographic work.*

Melanie Lane

Choreographer: Melanie Lane

Sound Designer: Chris Clark

Dancers: Antony Hamilton, Paea Leach & Lily Paskas

Commissioned by Lucy Guerin Inc

Funded by the Australia Council OYEA Initiative

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### **Guerin/Cracknell Collaboration**

12 – 16 December - Sadler's Wells, London

Lucy Guerin collaborated on a small workshop period with British theatre director, Carrie Cracknell from the Gate Theatre. They held three half-day workshops with four dancers to explore the notion of 'throwing things'. The aim of these workshops was to begin collaborating from a non-scripted, physical idea that would generate movement, images, concepts, relationships, texts and structures. These sessions were not geared towards an outcome, but to generate material both choreographic and

theatrical. It is intended that these fragments and sections will be expanded in a further development period to produce a collaborative performance work.

The goal of this collaboration was to develop a unique performance language, evolved from the meeting of our different artistic experiences and to challenge and extend our perceptions of our own creative practice. This collaboration will continue in 2012.

Choreographer: Lucy Guerin  
Director: Carrie Cracknell

Commissioned by Sadler's Wells

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### **First Run 2011**

28<sup>th</sup> March 30<sup>th</sup> May, 29<sup>th</sup> August, 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 21<sup>st</sup> November  
Lucy Guerin Inc Studio

*First Run* was held five times throughout 2011 with ten presentations of draft and dance work in development being shown. Luke George and Brooke Stamp continued as Co-Program Manager and Co-Facilitator. Additionally they introduced a 'guest conversationalist' to the format of the evening. The role of the conversationalist was to help provoke a broader conversation about dance - referencing their own experiences in order to support the development of language, perspective and dialogue for the artists and the audience. These enhancements were for the development of the program as well as further engagement and development of Brooke and Luke in their roles as facilitators.

Since its inception, audiences for *First Run* have comprised people from the local Melbourne dance community, artists from various practices and forms, supporters and colleagues, as well as people who are generally interested in dance and the dance artists presenting work. This continued strongly throughout 2011, with a higher attendance of support from artist networks close to the individuals who were presenting, bringing in a broader cross-section of people, and allowing for each session to stay fresh and to showcase different qualities. The audience numbers were consistently good averaging around 35 each session.

Participating artists: Shian Law and Tanya Voges (May); Joseph Simons and Natalie Cursio with Fiona Bryant (May); Paula Lay and Ally Larielle (August); Mathew Day with Noha Ramadan and Rhiannon Newton with Jo Pollitt (October); Janine Proost and Nicola Gunn (November).

Guest Conversationalists: Carlee Mellow (March); Sandra Parker (May); Lee Serle (August); Willow S Weiland – Field Theory (October); Lucy Guerin (November).

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### **Archiving and Documentation**

As Lucy Guerin Inc heads into its 10<sup>th</sup> year of operation the Company's Archive is near completion. The archive is to preserve the works of Lucy Guerin and the company's history as a reference for students, dancers, choreographers, historians or anyone wanting information about the company's past. The Archive will leave an accurate record of the company, its associates and activities, which will contribute to the evolution and understanding of dance development and history. Selected footage and articles have been featured in an online 'profile spot' to give the archive a presence beyond stored information.

In 2012, through the generous support of the Sidney Myer Foundation, this Archive will become an active and a live tool for dance makers, scholars and the general public to access at Lucy Guerin Inc and our revamped website.

### **The Organisation and Research**

Lucy Guerin Inc continues to expand its program beyond the making of new works by Lucy Guerin. These activities initiated by the company aim to encourage an investigatory approach to dance and choreography among other practitioners and also to support the developing practices of emerging artists. In this way the company hopes to contribute to a diverse, stimulating and adventurous dance community who can engage in informed and inspiring dialogue with one another.

The company's research goals are demonstrated in its other activities including the following:

- *Hotbed* - workshops with local and international choreographers
- *First Run* – bi-monthly showings of first draft works
- *Pieces for Small Spaces* – annual showcase for emerging choreographers
- Artist in Residence Program – opportunities for choreographers to use studio space free of charge
- Secondment Program – opportunities for young dancers to spend time with the company in rehearsal
- Company Class – open to professional dancers during rehearsals of new work

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## **WORKSHOPS and PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

### **Hotbed Workshop # 5 with Mårten Spångberg**

12 – 14 September 2011 at Lucy Guerin Inc Studio

Partnership with Critical Path and Dancehouse

<http://martenspangberg.org/>

Mårten Spångberg was invited by Lucy Guerin Inc to give a workshop for local Melbourne dance practitioners. The workshop was held in conjunction with a presentation of Mårten Spångberg's work *Slowfall* at Dancehouse.

The *Hotbed* workshops allow for focussed and intensive research time for the artists and participants. The aim is not just to impart knowledge belonging to the workshop leaders, but also to show the ongoing unfolding of an artist's process, how an experienced artist searches for the next phase of understanding in his/her work and challenges previous notions.

The workshops also provide an opportunity for dance artists who may not know each other very well, to come together and create connections. Through this shared experience and common reference points, a basis is formed for continuing future discussions and the creation of collaborative relationships.

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### **Residencies at Lucy Guerin Inc**

#### **Lucy Guerin Inc Studio, West Melbourne**

The following artists worked on ten projects while were in residence at Lucy Guerin Inc during 2011: Stephanie Lake, Brooke Stamp, Paula Lay, Rennie McDougall, Fiona Bryant, Luke George, Kasia Sitarz, Alice Dixon, Caroline Meaden and Melissa Jones, Lee Serle and Shelley Lasica. This involved free use of the company's studio space to develop new work or to further choreographic practice. The residencies varied in length from a week to one month, both full time and part time.

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### **Secondment Program**

#### **Lucy Guerin Inc Studio, West Melbourne**

Lucy Guerin Inc continued to support a secondment program during the development of new work in 2011, with eight secondments joining the *Weather* first development rehearsals and two secondments joining the rehearsals for the remount of *Structure and Sadness*. Secondments included

graduating students and dancers in the first few years of practice, both local and from interstate. Students in their final year of college came from WAAPA and VCA among others.

2011 secondees: Alex Andrews, Kelly Beneforti, Ashleigh Berry, Jessica Dolan, Erin Fowler, Jessie McKinlay, Janine Proost, Ella-Rose Trew and Peter Wilson

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### **Great Connections – Developing Leadership Pilot Program**

<http://www.greatconnections.com.au>

Michaela Coventry was one of one of 6 Victorians selected to take part in the Great Connections – Developing Leadership Pilot program through Arts Victoria.

Michaela was placed with mentor Jane Evans, a highly experienced businesswoman who has held senior or executive management positions with the Insurance Council of Australia, GIO Australia, Colonial Retail, Country Fire Authority, State Emergency Service, CSC Financial Services Group and the National Information and Library Service.

Michaela has met with Jane on a fortnightly basis since October 2011, and will continue to do so in 2012.

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### **OTHER ACTIVITIES**

#### **Opera Australia – *The Marriage of Figaro***

Lucy Guerin - choreographer

29 – 30 December 2011

#### **National Dance Forum – Round Table Speaker/Facilitator**

Lucy Guerin

19 March 2011 at Arts House North Melbourne Town Hall

#### **Australian Dance Managers Meeting**

Michaela Coventry

23 – 24 July 2011

#### **Ausdance Victoria & Lucy Guerin Inc– Heidi Victoria Meet and Greet**

All staff

24 August 2011 – Lucy Guerin Inc Studio

#### **Marketing Summit – Australia Council for the Arts**

Laura Levitus

29 – 31 August – Perth

#### **Lucy Guerin Talks – ACCA and VCAM**

Lucy Guerin

17 August 2011 – Talk at Centre For Ideas VCAM

21 September 2011 – In conversation talk at ACCA with David Rosetzky

#### **APAM Roadshow Panel - Victoria**

Michaela Coventry

7 September 2011

#### **Dance National Touring Meeting**

Michaela Coventry

8 September 2011

**Arts House Grants Panel**

Michaela Coventry  
September 2011

**APAM 2014-2018 Tender Panel**

Michaela Coventry  
October 2011

**IFACCA Arts and Culture World Summit**

Laura Levitus  
3 – 6 October 2011 – Melbourne

**Arts House, City of Melbourne, Advisory Panel**

Michaela Coventry  
Ongoing

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## Lucy Guerin Inc – the Organisation in 2011

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**Sustainability**

In recent years the impetus to investigate and improve Lucy Guerin Inc's environmental performance has grown from a strong desire to be at the forefront of sustainability best practice initiatives within the Australian performing arts community. In leading by example, Lucy Guerin Inc hopes to honour a commitment to sustainability by influencing and encouraging widespread adoption of sustainability practices across the contemporary dance community.

In 2011, Lucy Guerin Inc engaged the services of a consultant, Jake Shackleton, to assess its environmental impact. From the data and information obtained from this independent Environmental Audit, Lucy Guerin Inc's carbon footprint has been calculated along with the breakdown of major resource uses.

From the Environmental Audit conducted, Lucy Guerin Inc now has a range of short, medium and long-term goals to implement in 2012 and beyond.

This information from the Audit will be used to develop a robust sustainability policy aimed at:

- Managing environmental impacts
- Setting of short, medium and long term targets
- Implementation of a monitoring program; and
- Development of a process of continual improvement

**Financial Results**

Lucy Guerin Inc finished 2011 with a surplus of \$12,550, making our retained profits as of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011 at \$145,838.

**Government Funding**

2011 was the final year in the three-year cycle of Lucy Guerin Inc's triennial grant from the Australia Council. \$225,337 was received as part of this as well as \$34,011.42 in project funding.

Further annual operations funding of \$75,000 was received from Arts Victoria as well as \$38,000 in project funding.

**Philanthropic Funds**

Lucy Guerin Inc was successful in its application to the Angior Family Foundation receiving \$25,000 for *Pieces for Small Spaces 2011*.

Significantly, in 2011, Lucy Guerin Inc derived 53% of its income from non-government grant sources.

### Marketing

Lucy Guerin Inc has two key marketing goals:

- To maintain a perception of the company as one that is professional and produces outstanding work that is engaging and relevant to its stakeholders
- To build an appetite for contemporary dance as a live art form available to diverse audiences

Both of these goals were met through the presentation of works locally, nationally and internationally in 2011 as well as the attendance and support for key support projects such as *First Run* and *Hotbed*.

### Management Systems

#### **Board**

Lucy Guerin Inc continued its commitment to maintaining a Board of members with a diverse range of skills and expertise.

Ruth Bain	Manager of Department of Fine Arts, Monash University	(Chair)
Elly Bloom	Director, Customer Experience – Bank Of Melbourne	
Michaela Coventry	Executive Producer of Lucy Guerin Inc	(PO & Secretary)
Lucy Guerin	Artistic Director/CEO of Lucy Guerin Inc	
Peter McCoy	Manager, Corporate Services of Melbourne Recital Centre	(Treasurer)
Sarah Miller	Associate Dean: Research, Creative and Professional Practice, Faculty of Creative Arts, University of Wollongong	
Chloe Munro	Chair and Chief Executive Officer & Clean Energy Regulator	
Cory Parfett	Communications Manager of ACMI	
Gary Rothville	Director of law firm, Gary Rothville and Associates	(Deputy Chair)
Helen Simondson	Screen Events Manager of ACMI	

There is a financial sub committee of the Chair, Treasurer with the Executive Producer and Artistic Director, who meet to review the financial papers and recommend their acceptance prior to each Board meeting.

The Board meets regularly, at least 5 times each year, to review and monitor the program, budget and strategic development activities.

#### **Attendance of Board meetings in 2011 – average = 73%**

Board Member	21/2/11	2/5/10	14/6/11	22/8/11	7/11/11	% for 2011
<b>Ruth Bain</b>	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	<b>80%</b>
<b>Michaela Coventry</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	<b>100%</b>
<b>Ross Gibson</b>	✗	✗	N/A	N/A	N/A	<b>0%</b>
<b>Lucy Guerin</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	<b>100%</b>
<b>Peter McCoy</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	<b>100%</b>
<b>Cory Parfett</b>	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	<b>60%</b>



<b>Bec Reid</b>	x	x	x	x	N/A	0%
<b>Gary Rothville</b>	x	x	✓	✓	✓	60%
<b>Helen Simondson</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
<b>Chloe Monro</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	Guest	✓	100%
<b>Elly Bloom</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	Guest	✓	100%

Note: Ross Gibson regrettably had to resign from the Board for personal reasons and Bec Reid also had to resign due to professional commitments.

**Artistic Director:**

Lucy Guerin is the artistic director and is responsible for the artists program of the company. Full Time position.

**Executive Producer:**

Michaela Coventry is the Executive Producer for Lucy Guerin Inc and is responsible for all aspects of the operations of Lucy Guerin Inc. Full Time position.

**Production Management:**

Production management was again handled by Megafun including production and stage management and company management while on tour and Bluebottle for *Pieces for Small Spaces 2010*.

**Administration:**

Basic office administration tasks were the responsibility of our Administrator, Laura Levitus. Full Time position.

**Archive Co-ordination:**

Basic archive data entry position to finish the core structure of the Lucy Guerin Inc Archive, Jane Smith. .4 position

**USA Agent:**

Harold Norris - H-Art Management  
www.h-artmangement.com