

2012 Annual Report

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2012 Timeline

January

- Melanie Lane Commission – new work *Merge* in Residence
- Lucy Guerin in rehearsal with Opera Australia, Choreographer for the *Marriage of Figaro*

February

- Melanie Lane Commission – cont.
- Antony Hamilton in Residence – *Black Project 1*
- Brian Lipson solo commission with Lucy Guerin

March

- *Hotbed* with DD Dorvillier
- Lucy Guerin collaboration with Brazilian visual artist Marcos Chaves
- *Choreographic Research Forum* (Critical Path and Dancehouse) – Housed at Lucy Guerin Inc
- *Weather 2nd* Stage Creative Development
- *First Run*

April

- Shian Law in Residence

May

- Janine Proost in Residence
- *Conversation Piece* rehearsals Melbourne
- *Untrained* USA tour auditions
- Luke George in Residence
- *First Run*

June

- Brian Lipson solo commission
- *Weather 2nd* Stage Creative Development cont.
- *First Run*

July

- *Weather 2nd* Stage Creative Development cont.
- *Conversation Piece* Creative Development, Lucy Guerin Inc Studio Melbourne

August

- *Conversation Piece* Creative Development, Lucy Guerin Inc Studio Melbourne
- *Conversation Piece* Premiere season, Belvoir, Sydney
- *First Run*

September

- *Conversation Piece* Premiere season, Belvoir, Sydney cont.
- Lucy Guerin collaboration with Carrie Cracknell - Sadler's Wells
- Lina Limosani in Residence

October

- *Weather 3rd* Stage Creative Development
- *Weather* Premiere Season, Melbourne Festival, Malthouse Theatre
- *First Run*

November

- *Untrained* remount rehearsals, Lucy Guerin Inc Studio
- *Untrained* USA tour – Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM)
- *P.O.V* Creative Development – Lee Serle Commission

December

- *Untrained* USA tour cont. – UC Davis California
- Presentation of *Pieces for Small Spaces 2012* at Lucy Guerin Inc Studio
- *P.O.V* Creative Development – Lee Serle Commission

Summary for 2012

Lucy Guerin
Artistic Director/CEO

In 2012 Lucy Guerin Inc presented an ambitious calendar of events including the premieres of two major new works for the Company, a US tour and a diverse program of support for younger artists.

New Works

Conversation Piece premiered at Belvoir in Sydney in August. Through movement, text and iPhone technology, this work examined the complexities of human communication and received an overwhelming response from audiences. Following on from *Human Interest Story* which played there in 2011, *Conversation Piece* built on the Company's relationship with Belvoir both creatively and as a co-producer of its works. *Conversation Piece* utilised this relationship through assistance in the casting of actors alongside the dancers, dramaturgical and design support and feedback from creative staff at Belvoir. This was a new model for presenting which gave the company financial and artistic support and expanded its audience base in Sydney. It also allowed for an open and experimental development period from which a unique idea was conceived.

Weather was the Company's main project for the year and premiered in October in the Melbourne Festival. Questions surrounding funding, casting, design and a very intense production week made this a challenging work to complete but the final outcome was rigorous and cohesive with extremely memorable dancing from the performers. The focus of this work was on the choreography which ranged from tightly knit formations to abandoned improvisation. This work was a return to a pure visceral movement language integrated with design and music which drew audiences into its mesmeric rhythm and arresting visuals.

Research and Dialogue

In 2012 two different aspects of my choreographic interest were explored. One was a physical and sensorial exploration (*Weather*) and the other was an expression of a fascination with the different communicative modes of dance and language (*Conversation Piece*). These two concerns are represented throughout the company's activities for 2012 with a strong emphasis on research and a physical studio practice, complimented by a focus on developing articulate language skills to speak about the methodology and presentation of dance and choreography.

The activities that support these two aims, dance practice development and an articulate dialogue around the acts of dancing and choreographing, have grown to become a substantial part of the company's program. In 2012 there were six space residencies given to young choreographers to spend time in the studio to explore their ideas without the pressure of a performance outcome. Five artists were invited to present their work in *Pieces for Small Spaces*, Lucy Guerin Inc's annual presentation of work by local choreographers, and 11 first draft ideas were presented at the studio in *First Run* with a small audience involved in discussion and feedback for the choreographers. In addition, classes were conducted in conjunction with rehearsals for *Weather*, and many secondments were included in the rehearsal process.

International Exchange

Opportunities for international exchange and dialogue were also a focus of the 2012 program. New York choreographer DD Dorvillier (now residing in Paris) led the 2012 *Hotbed* workshop attended by 12 participants of varying degrees of experience over 2 weeks. A collaboration between myself and Brazilian visual artist Marcos Chaves took place at the studio in March and included 10 dancers (7 of them secondments). I also continued with the development of a project with Sadler's Wells in London and spent two weeks with Director Carrie Cracknell and 6 dancers. At the end of the year we toured our work *Untrained* to the Brooklyn Academy of Music in New York and UC Davis in California to an enthusiastic and critically acclaimed response. These projects kept the Company

engaged in a global dialogue around current dance practice which also strengthens and clarifies its identity as an Australian dance company.

The Future

This layering of activities to create an ecology within the Company through its connection to the dance sector is an important and rewarding part of its identity. However, to maintain these many and diverse programs it is operating at a level which is generally supported by a larger team of staff than currently exists. 2012 is Lucy Guerin Inc's 10th anniversary and in considering the future of the Company it is important to look at how we can keep delivering our program with depth and insight, while nurturing the staff, dancers, collaborators, contractors, teachers and residents to have a meaningful and inspiring engagement with our work. At this stage it is necessary for the Company to either pull back on its program or find a way to increase and restructure its staff. It will also be necessary to relocate to a new premises which can adequately accommodate its range of activities and is secure and ongoing.

At the end of 2012 our Executive Producer Michaela Coventry resigned after almost 7 years of extremely dedicated and productive service to Lucy Guerin Inc. She leaves the Company in a strong financial and organisational position with a highly functional system of management in place and has increased its budget substantially, positioning it as one of Australia's leading dance companies. Michaela will pursue other directions in her career in the commercial sector. After a thorough recruitment process the company has engaged Annette Vieusseux as its new Executive Producer. Annette has a strong and diverse background in producing, publicity, media management and dramaturgy and we look forward to her contribution to the company.

As Artistic Director of Lucy Guerin Inc I look forward to creating new works for the company and to enjoying an energising engagement with the broader Melbourne, Australian and international community. I have been particularly impressed in 2012 with the consolidating of a really strong group of young choreographers emerging in our local dance scene, many of whom were selected to perform works in the dance Massive Festival 2013. The identity of Australian dance is broadening and changing and I look forward to Lucy Guerin Inc continuing to play a role in the creation and development of a unique choreographic vision among Australian choreographers.

2012 in detail

PRESENTATIONS

Conversation Piece at Belvoir, Sydney

16 July – 17 Aug - Rehearsals at LGI Studio, Melbourne
29 Aug – 16 Sept - Performances at Belvoir Theatre, Sydney

Conversation Piece brings together three actors and three dancers in a unique encounter between two performing art forms. The performers engage in an eight minute conversation at the beginning of the show, which is completely spontaneous and unplanned from one night to the next. Recorded and repeated, this initial conversation becomes the script for the work that follows, using the ever-present iPhone to generate live music, songs, dance steps and text. The words remain the same but their intention shifts from frivolous, to hilarious, to boring, to cruel; tuning into the complexities and hidden subtexts of everyday chit-chat. *Conversation Piece* explores the humorous and engaging nature of human interactions, but also the disturbing undercurrents that can isolate and disorientate the individual within a group.

“It highlights something we instinctively know but rarely see for real - that a story is instantly different the minute it leaves the mouth and mind of its creator. Even when a phrase is being repeated back verbatim within minutes of its first utterance it is different and can only ever be different. Amazing? Profound? Obvious? Maybe all three, but the effect is electrifying.”

Diana Simmonds, Stage Noise, August 30, 2012

<http://vimeo.com/54698551>

Choreographer/Director: Lucy Guerin

Set and Costume Design: Robert Cousins

Lighting Design: Damien Cooper

Sound Designer: Robin Fox

Performers in the Premiere Season: Alison Bell, Megan Holloway, Alisdair Macindoe, Rennie McDougall, Harriet Ritchie and Matthew Whittet

A Lucy Guerin Inc and Belvoir co-production, *Conversation Piece* premiered at Belvoir Theatre in 2012.

Weather at the Malthouse Theatre, Melbourne Festival

11 June – 13 July & 1 – 12 Oct Rehearsals at LGI Studio, Melbourne
17 - 21 Oct - Performances at Malthouse Theatre, Melbourne

Weather looks at our complex relationship with the elemental forces of the environment. Guerin embarks on an intense choreographic exploration of the forms and affects of weather phenomena, the uncontrollable power of nature and the affects of the by-products of human living. Integrating physical sensation and textural sound with a shifting sculptural design, this arresting work manifests the fragility and brutality inherent in our conflicted relationship with the earth. The visceral sensations of the elements and the dynamic patterns of weather systems create an immersive experience that celebrates the physical body's connection to the natural world.

“Despite the wonderful and fitting score by Oren Ambarchi and the breathtaking set design by Robert Cousins, Weather is all about the six bodies on stage. They are isobars that move about the space in waving lines. They are leaves in the wind. They are the wind itself. They are even gods amongst the clouds at times, so it seems. They are whatever they speak to you of, and they are completely mesmerizing.”

Simonne Michelle-Wells, Australian Stage, October 19, 2012

<http://vimeo.com/52596166>

Director: Lucy Guerin
 Choreography: Lucy Guerin with the Dancers
 Set Design: Robert Cousins
 Lighting Design: Benjamin Cisterne
 Composer: Oren Ambarchi
 Costume Design: Shio Otani
 Dancers: Talitha Maslin, Alisdair Macindoe, Kirstie McCracken, Harriet Ritchie, Lee Serle and Lilian Steiner

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

Supported by Arts Victoria, Australia Council, Besen Family Foundation, The Ian Potter Foundation and Malthouse Theatre

Untrained USA Tour

26 May – Untrained auditions – Lucy Guerin Studio
 19 – 23 November Rehearsals at LGI Studio, Melbourne
 28 Nov – 1 December - Performances at BAM, New York
 6 – 9 Dec – Performances at UC Davis, California

“Unpretentious, at times moving, Untrained is unabashedly all about being flesh-and-blood human. In its ability to draw performers and audience into a big embrace, it puts a lot of highfalutin’ dance experiments to shame.”
Dance Magazine (USA), Eva Yaa Asantewaa, November 27, 2012

In *Untrained*, four men take to the stage. Two of these men are highly skilled, experienced dancers and two are ordinary guys with no movement training whatsoever. The complex, refined movements that one man can do with ease, another can only approximate. All are given the same instructions. How they execute them displays an individual portrait of each man’s character, as well as an unavoidably humorous comparison

between the participants. It’s the evolution of information, built up through units of action, that shows what they have in common and where their physical histories set them apart.

In November/December 2012 *Untrained* toured to the USA to Brooklyn Academy of Music in New York and the Mondavi Centre in Davis California. An audition was held in May at Lucy Guerin Inc studio to select the two untrained men for the tour. This tour was highly successful with an enthusiastic response from the audience and very positive press in both places.

Concept/ Direction: Lucy Guerin,
 Performers: Michael Dunbar, Alisdair Macindoe, Ross McCormack, Jake Shackleton
 Music: Duplo Remote
 Producer: Michaela Coventry
 Production Manager: Matt Scott - Megafun

This tour was supported by Arts Victoria - International and The Australia Council for the Arts Going Global Initiative.

“But Ms. Guerin’s dance has a much bigger heart ... And her performers were utterly winning, possessed of a quiet humor and dignity ... Mr. Macindoe and Mr. McCormack were charmingly workmanlike, while Mr. Dunbar and Mr. Shackleton were marvelously game... After all, and as the dance world has long understood, there’s more to dancing than how high you can get your leg.”
NY Times, Claudia La Rocco, 28th November 2012

Pieces for Small Spaces 2012

12 -15th December – 5 Performances - Lucy Guerin Inc Studio

Pieces for Small Spaces is Lucy Guerin Inc's annual program to support the work of young choreographers and those working outside company structures. It is a performance evening presented by Lucy Guerin Inc in which five choreographers are invited to make a 5 – 10 minute dance work with the aim of developing choreographic process and finding a distinct voice for their ideas. These five choreographers are offered studio space at Lucy Guerin Inc to rehearse their works and have basic production and administrative support provided by the company as well as a small fee. Their works are presented at Lucy Guerin Inc Studios to an audience of around forty to fifty people over five nights. As a young person beginning to define a style and direction in dance, it is important to spend time trying to discover what is unique and essential to their dance-making in a personal way without the pressures of grant writing, a successful outcome and marketing pressures.

"I think Lucy Guerin Inc's Pieces for Small Spaces is one of my fave shows each year. And 2012 is a corker. Congrats Antony Hamilton and all!"

Emily Sexton, Artistic Director of Next Wave on Twitter, 13 December 2012

In 2012 Antony Hamilton curated *Pieces for Small Spaces*. The choreographers were Ashley Dyer, Shian Law, Janine Proost, Lilian Steiner and James Welsby.

Curator: Antony Hamilton
Production Management: Jay Jones for Megafun
Design Consultant: Keith Tucker for Megafun
Producer: Laura Levitus

Funded by the Angior Family Foundation

"Being invited to create work for the 2012 season of Pieces for Small Spaces was a highly enriching experience. Having collaborated with other artists and within company environments, this opportunity provided me with a platform to begin development of my own creative processes. This opportunity was one of freedom for personal exploration and experimentation, which provided great support in any artistic and technical query. The artist fee and free use of space was also very supportive, as it allowed time to be spent on the project without hesitation and worry."

Lilian Steiner

"With Pieces for Small Spaces, I could not be more grateful for the opportunity afforded to me by the team at Lucy Guerin Inc. During my time in the studio, I developed, rehearsed and performed a new short work that I am hopeful will develop into a longer work over the next 6 to 8 months. Having only recently arrived in Melbourne, participating in a program like this one, with a public season, has strongly assisted me to feel more a part of the local dance community. It's rare to be offered an opportunity that is so well supported in terms of wages, technical, administrative and dramaturgical support. It makes it really possible to concentrate on the making."

Ashley Dyer

RESEARCH AND DIALOGUE

Residencies

Lucy Guerin Inc offers studio space to a number of choreographers throughout the year to work on a new project. There is no presentation outcome to this initiative and artists are encouraged to have a showing of the material they develop at the studio and invite feedback from peers and audience. In 2012 the following artists were studio residents:

1. Antony Hamilton, 6 February – 2 March

2. Shian Law, 23 April – 4 May 2012
<http://vimeo.com/43230885>

3. Janine Proost, 7 – 18 May 2012
<http://vimeo.com/44843667>

“The two weeks of the residency provided me with space and time to fully concentrate on my research. This research began with physical experimentation in 2011, followed by five months of developing the concepts and the thinking around the parts that caught my interest. The residency gave me the opportunity to take all this thinking back into the studio and allow it to manifest into something physical... The material and insights developed in the two weeks feel like a strong base with which I can start building a performance work. During my showing one of the attendees used the description 'the work before the work', which resonates strongly with how I feel about where this residency has taken me. It has been crucial in allowing me to go deep and I have faith that such groundwork will be reflected in the quality of the final work.”

Janine Proost

4. Luke George, 21 May – 1 June 2012
<http://vimeo.com/46726074>

5. Lina Limosani, 3 – 21 September 2012

“This residency has played a significant role in encouraging me to keep the early research stages as investigations and allow myself the time to keep exploring the concept. I believe that this way of approaching my process will encourage me to continually ask the questions required to shift and develop my work and my artistic approach.”

Lina Limosani

Melanie Lane Commission - MERGE

9th January – 3rd February - Lucy Guerin Inc Studio

Lucy Guerin Inc supported the development of a new work directed by young and emerging artist Melanie Lane called *Merge*. This development took place over four weeks at the Lucy Guerin Inc Studio and involved one choreographer, three dancers and one composer/sound artist. The Australia

“MERGE' is inspired by my fascination with urban architecture and it's design and function for human habitation. There can be no doubt that urban architecture shows us the capabilities of inventive and resourceful human design. Yet it poses an often unexamined question. How do we adapt to it? What do we stand to lose? What do we gain? Whilst it caters and serves our every need, it also conditions, perhaps even forces us to discover new ways to live.” **Melanie Lane**

Council's Emerging Artists Commission was used to allow Melanie to spend time researching and experimenting with dancers, props and musical collaborator Chris Clarke. The company provided in kind support including studio space, administrative assistance, office facilities, technical equipment and artistic feedback. It also assisted Melanie in researching presentation possibilities, including ArtsHouse and Dancehouse.

Through opportunities offered to me by Lucy Guerin, I have been able to begin establishing an artistic presence in Melbourne, Australia after being based overseas for 13 years. My relocation to Australia is partly inspired by the time I've spent at LGI. By gaining contact to local industry peers through the aid of Lucy Guerin Inc., I have also been able to develop the necessary relationships with industry networks in order to bring my work 'Merge' into fruition in the future. The professionalism and vast experience of Lucy and her team have both been generous and encouraging. Undertaking residency at Lucy Guerin Inc. has been a major highlight in my recent development as an artist and I hope to continue an engaging and dynamic relationship with this iconic company in years to come.

Melanie Lane

Funded by the Australia Council for the Arts, Opportunities for Young and Emerging Artists

Lee Serle Commission – P.O.V

19th – 23rd November – Dancehouse

3rd – 21st December – North Melbourne Town Hall

Lucy Guerin Inc commissioned the development of a new work by young and emerging choreographer Lee Serle entitled *P.O.V*. The development took place over four weeks, at Dancehouse and Arts House North Melbourne Town Hall with Lee Serle and three dancers. The Emerging Artist Commission was used to develop *P.O.V* and get it to the stage where it can be picked up by presenting partners. Lucy Guerin acted as an artistic mentor to Lee Serle and Lucy Guerin Inc provided administrative and producing assistance as well as technical equipment.

Lee has had an ongoing working relationship with Lucy Guerin, having performed in numerous Lucy Guerin Inc works in Australia and abroad since 2004. In 2008 Lee also created a solo work for *Pieces for Small Spaces*, beginning his mentorship relationship with Lucy.

Lucy Guerin Inc are incredibly generous towards young and emerging choreographers, and provide many opportunities to foster the work of these artists ... As an emerging choreographic artist I could not hope for a more encouraging and supportive environment for the development this work, and to continue refining my choreographic practice.

Lee Serle

Funded by the Australia Council for the Arts, Opportunities for Young and Emerging Artists.

Brian Lipson Commission

21, 22, 24th February - Arts House North Melbourne Town Hall

4 – 6 June – Lucy Guerin Inc Studio

Lucy Guerin was invited to make a five minute solo for actor and director Brian Lipson as part of his Australia Council Fellowship project '*Doing Good*'.

In March and May 2012 Lucy Guerin spent one week working with actor Brian Lipson and his wife Michelle Smith. Michelle is an ex-dancer and in consultation with Brian, Lucy decided to choreograph a dance for the two of them. The dance drew its inspiration from the unique performative approach of each and how these two distinct identities came together and created tension, mood, concentration and physical presence.

“I’ve made two lists of people I admire: some theatre people, some visual artists, some scientific or sociological experts, one kid I think is funny. The first list is of people I know, the second is of people I haven’t met. There are 35 people on each list. I have invited the people on the first list (people I know) to join me for one week during the next two years to create something – a performance, a sculpture, a conversation, anything (the only practical stipulation is that if it turns out to be time-based then it should last no more than 5 minutes). I have had universally enthusiastic replies to this. In addition I am going to write to the People I Don’t Know to ask them to give me instructions so that I can make something (if that were to be time based it would last no longer than one minute). I have given the project the overall title of DOING GOOD”

Brian Lipson

Lucy Guerin collaboration with Brazilian visual artist Marcos Chaves

19 – 30 March, Lucy Guerin Inc Studio

Lucy Guerin and Brazilian visual artist Marcos Chaves met in Rio de Janeiro at the end of 2010, introduced by the Directors of the Panorama Festival. Through a grant from the Australian Latin American Foundation, Marcos Chaves was able to come to Melbourne for two weeks of collaborative research with Lucy at her studio in Batman St. The first week involved preliminary discussions, looking at past works, sharing ideas, dancing, going to galleries and taking photographs. Time was also spent making an installation from brown paper shopping bags which consisted of brown paper pillars suspended just off the floor and brown paper ‘bricks’. In the second week, 10 dancers (including 7 secondments) came in to the studio and participated in a choreographic exploration of this constructed environment. The project culminated in a small studio showing.

Choreographer: Lucy Guerin

Visual Artist: Marcos Chaves

Dancers: Harriet Ritchie, Alisdair Macindoe and Kirstie McCracken

Secondes: James Batchelor, Rachel Heller-Wagner, Bernadette Lewis, Melissa Hones, Ashleigh Berry, Alana Everett, Lilian Steiner & Mark Pritchard (Dramaturg).

This project was made possible by the Australia Latin America Foundation.

Choreographic Research Forum (Critical Path and Dancehouse) – Hosted by Lucy Guerin Inc

31 March – Lucy Guerin Inc Studio

In this workshop, Efrosini Protopapa and Simon Ellis proposed a range of practical and reflective activities designed to test the possibilities and limitations of choreographic research. What types of artistic research are there? How might research be useful? What are the strategies or tools of the researcher? How do choreographic practices change as a result of research? What’s worth ignoring or resisting?

Hosted by Efrosini Protopapa and Simon Ellis in partnership with Critical Path

Creative Development Stage 2 and 3 – *Weather*

2nd – 20th April, 11th June – 13th July, & 1st – 12th October – Lucy Guerin Inc Studio

Weather was Lucy Guerin Inc's main project for 2012. It explores the sensations of wind, heat, water, mist, snow etc. It uses the dynamics of the elements as an inspiration for movement and explores their direct physical affects on the human body. It also traces the abstract patterns of weather diagrams and the form and flow of isobars, pressure systems etc.

An eight week development period for the choreographer and 6 dancers at the company's studios brought the work to near completion in April and June /July. A further two weeks of technical production took it to presentation stage.

In this development we investigated the possibility of literally creating weather on stage, working with the idea of rain, wind, hail, snow, heat and fog being present as atmospheric mediums for the dancers to work in. We spent three days in the Merlyn Theatre working with large fans, thousands of plastic bags, fog and light to try to create different weather conditions and atmospheric states on stage. We also tried to create a tornado which was only partially successful. On reflection at the end of the process it was decided that the theatrical elements were too disparate and the design was reconsidered. The final design was a ceiling of plastic super market bags which dropped to the floor at a certain point in the work to be incorporated in to the choreography.

The remaining time was spent developing the choreography, music and costumes at Lucy Guerin Inc studios.

Director: Lucy Guerin

Choreography: Lucy Guerin with the Dancers

Set Design: Robert Cousins

Lighting Design: Benjamin Cisterne

Composer: Oren Ambarchi

Costume Design: Shio Otani

Dancers: Talitha Maslin, Alisdair Macindoe, Kirstie McCracken, Harriet Ritchie, Lee Serle and Lilian Steiner

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

Supported by Arts Victoria, Australia Council, Besen Family Foundation, The Ian Potter Foundation and Malthouse Theatre

Lucy Guerin collaboration with Carrie Cracknell - Sadler's Wells – “*Throwing Things*”

1st – 14th September - Sadler's Wells, London

Lucy Guerin continued her collaboration begun in 2011 with British theatre director, Carrie Cracknell, Associate Director at The Young Vic. Over a two-week period they led workshops with five dancers and two actors to explore the notion of 'throwing things'. The aim of these workshops was to develop 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 generating 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 in 2014 in partnership with Sadler's Well's and the Young Vic.

<http://www.sadlerswells.com/page/screen/2046755277001#>

Choreographer: Lucy Guerin
Director: Carrie Cracknell
Dancers: Lee Serle (Australia) Carys Stanton(UK) Petra Soor(UK) Sofie Burgoyne(Australia)
Thomasin Gulgec, (UK) Yuyu Rau(UK)
Actors: Cath Whitefield(UK) Hywel John(UK)

Commissioned by Sadler's Wells

First Run

5th March, 21st May, 25th June, 6th August, 10th October

Lucy Guerin Inc Studio

First Run is a bi – monthly event inviting artists working in and across the field of contemporary dance to share new explorations in their current practice. The intention is that the work shown is rough, raw, full of possibilities and open for discussion.

Two short pieces are presented in the Lucy Guerin Inc Studio, followed by a dialogue session with the artists, audience and sometimes a guest conversationalist. An important function of *First Run* is to enliven public discussion around contemporary dance and to give choreographers an opportunity to receive constructive critical feedback for future development of their works. *First Run* is curated and facilitated by Brooke Stamp and Luke George. The format of the showings and the discussion that follows is also part of the research, and is constantly evolving.

In 2012 the following artists showed their work at *First Run*

Talitha Maslin, Agatha Gothe-Snape and Brian Fuata (Wrong Solo), Yahna Fookes and Jessica Wong, Martin Del Amo, Stephanie Lake, Zoe Scoglio Roland Cox and Victoria Chiu, Cameron Kelly, Phillip Adams (BalletLab), Ashley Dyer (Next Wave)

Guest Conversationalists were DD Dorvillier, David Pledger (Not Yet It's Difficult), Angela Conquet (Dancehouse), Matthew Day and Ben Speth

Archiving and Documentation

2012 saw the documentation and archiving of all Lucy Guerin Inc new works, presentations and programs continue to develop. 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. In advance of developing the Archive to become an active online tool, selected footage of Residencies and works in development are featured on social media such as Vimeo, You Tube and Facebook to give the archive a presence beyond stored information. It was also apparent a re-design of the website in conjunction with development of the online archive was most necessary and 2012 has seen the Company meet with a range of web designers in order to scope the best 'fit' design for our archive and website needs.

In 2013, through the generous support of the Sidney Myer Foundation, the new Lucy Guerin Inc website will house this Archive, becoming an active and alive tool for dance makers, scholars and the general public to access Lucy Guerin Inc programs past and present.

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 that 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

WORKSHOPS and PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Organisation and Yellow Wheel

At the beginning of 2012 Lucy Guerin and Michaela Coventry met with the Artistic Director and Producer of new Youth Dance Company, Yellow Wheel and their associated performance ensemble PUSH. Lucy Guerin Inc agreed to house this new youth company at the Lucy Guerin Inc premises providing them with studio space for classes, workshops and office space for administration whilst allowing them to maintain an independent and autonomous company structure. Michaela Coventry was also able to provide mentoring to Adam and Jessie in the establishment of the company.

Yellow Wheel Program: Workshops, Classes and Rehearsals – Tuesday evenings and Sundays, School Terms, throughout 2012

Hotbed Workshop # 6 with DD Dorvillier

5 – 16 March 2012 - Lucy Guerin Inc Studio
Showing 16th March

In partnership with Dancehouse.

Hotbed is Lucy Guerin Inc's workshop program for professional dancers and makers. Workshops are led by local and international choreographers to encourage a broad understanding in the local dance community of current contemporary dance thinking and practice. These workshops are generally free of charge and participants are selected through an application process. In 2012 *Hotbed* was led by New York choreographer DD Dorvillier now based in Paris. DD has a background in Skinner Releasing Technique and Improvisation. The workshop ran for two weeks and involved an introduction to Authentic Movement as a way of developing a dance and choreographic practice. She also made a

“Being an interstate artist and having access to something such as Hotbed was very beneficial to me. I believe it is important to be immersed in art across state boundaries and learn about what other states and other artists are currently doing and are interested in.”
Ashleigh Berry, Workshop Participant

film with participants, a re-enactment of *Prenom Carmen* by Jean-Luc Godard. DD presented a lecture demonstration about her work at Dancehouse.

Hotbed is also an opportunity for local dancers and choreographers to get to know each other, talk about their situation and form collaborative relationships. It also gives insight into how an experienced choreographer challenges and develops their thinking to create a sustainable career and an evolving body of work.

“I loved it. DD was tremendous, totally likeable, wonderful and generous. Being able to participate in a 2 week Hotbed was extremely valuable... There was a really great flow that happened - it was not as if we would make discoveries in the first few days and then by Thursday there would be one more day and then it's over... there was far more time to process, reflect and analyse things over 2 weeks... As always in a workshop environment it was a joy that I got to work with people I never had, or I got to work with people outside of the rehearsal environment. It was so great to see another side of the participants and hear their opinions. I loved that there was a mix of ages and experience present. DD was extremely generous about her own creative process of her new work... This was by far the most rewarding and influential workshop I have done for a while.”

Deanne Butterworth, Workshop Participant

Classes at Lucy Guerin Inc

Lucy Guerin Inc Studio, West Melbourne

Lucy Guerin Inc classes are part of ongoing professional training opportunities for Lucy Guerin Inc dancers but are also open to local dancers. This is an essential aspect of our engagement with the dance community, and offers those from outside the company the opportunity to refine and expand their practice alongside those employed by the company. Classes are taught by contemporary dance teachers from Melbourne and who are invited by the company. Lucy Guerin Inc ran classes for professional dancers in various blocks throughout the year. Classes coincided with creative development periods for new Lucy Guerin Inc works.

2012 Teachers: Anton Anton, Kristy Ayre, Sara Black, Rebecca Hilton, Stephanie Lake, Lina Limosani, Jo Lloyd, Alisdair Macindoe, Rennie McDougall, Carlee Mellow, Timothy Ohl, Byron Perry, Harriet Ritchie, Lee Serle and Jo White.

Secondment Program

Lucy Guerin Inc Studio, West Melbourne

Lucy Guerin Inc has secondment places available during the creation period of new works. These are available to students, new graduates, and dancers in their first few years of professional practice. Secondment periods are generally between one and two weeks long and give an insight into the identity of the company and the choreographic process currently in development by the choreographer. Every endeavour is made to include the secondee in practical tasks and discussions during rehearsals but some stages of the process may be observing only. Secondments for 2012 were involved in all rehearsals of *Weather* and the Charvos/Guerin research period.

2012 secondees: James Batchelor, Rachel Heller-Wagner, Bernadette Lewis, Melissa Hones, Ashleigh Berry, Alana Everett, Lilian Steiner & Mark Pritchard (Marcos Chaves / Guerin Collaboration); Niharika Senapati, Jayde Macdonough, Rhiannon Newton, Caroline Meaden, Kelly Beneforti, Leif Helland, Leeke Griffin, Briarna Longville, Lucy Ingham, Sean Marcs, Linton Aberle, Geoffrey Watson, Amber McCartney, Rebecca Lee, Elise Drinkwater & Yilin Kong (*Weather* Creative Developments).

Great Connections – Developing Leadership Pilot Program - Michaela

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

In 2011 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 met with Jane on a fortnightly basis from October 2011 through to December 2012.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Yellow Wheel

Lucy Guerin Inc was host to the following activities:

PUSH ensemble audition - 4th March

Yellow Wheel Rehearsal Intensive 17 – 21 December

Showroom Choreographic Evening 21 December

Weekly Tuesday classes and Sunday PUSH ensemble rehearsal workshops

The company also invited PUSH members to attend showings of work in development.

Opera Australia – *The Marriage of Figaro* World Premiere

Benedict Andrews - Director

Lucy Guerin - Choreographer

2nd January – 6th February, Sydney.

Lucy Guerin – Post Show Discussions and Workshops

Conversation Piece – Sunday Forum, 20th September – Dancers and creatives (Lucy not present)

Weather – Q&A, 19th October

Throwing Things – Guerin/Cracknell collaboration, Sadlers Wells – Q&A, 14th September

Untrained – BAM Q&A 30th November; UC Davis Q&A 6th, 7th, 8th & 9th December

ISPA – *Weather* Pitch

Michaela Coventry

10th – 12th January 2012, New York

APAM – *Weather* Pitch

Lucy Guerin, Michaela Coventry and Laura Levitus

26th February – 1st March, Adelaide

LPA Producer Development Workshop

Laura Levitus

17th May, Melbourne

Marketing Summit – Australia Council for the Arts

Michaela Coventry and Laura Levitus

24th - 25th May, Melbourne

APACA Drover Awards Panel – Best Presenter

Michaela Coventry
July, Melbourne

Lyon Opera Ballet – Meet and Greet

Lucy Guerin
Collaborators Ben Cisterne (Lighting), Oren Ambarchi (Sound) and Ralph Myers (Set)
17th – 19th September

ABAF Sustainability Forum Presentation

Michaela Coventry and Ruth Bain
21st March, Melbourne

Arts Victoria Review of Organisational Funding “Think Tank”

Michaela Coventry
March, Melbourne

Roadworks Panel – EOI Assessments & Tender Presentations

Michaela Coventry
16th & 17th April, Sydney

Arts House Advisory Panel – Planning Day

Michaela Coventry
18th April, Melbourne

Australia Council Market Development Skills Workshop

Michaela Coventry and Lucy Guerin
26th October, Melbourne

Arts House, City of Melbourne, Advisory Panel

Michaela Coventry
31st October (Ongoing)

Inaugural Ian Potter Moving Image Commission Panel

Lucy Guerin
2nd November

City of Yarra, Arts Assessment Panel

Michaela Coventry
November, Melbourne

Greening Our Performance Activities

In July 2012, Lucy Guerin Inc became an official member of the Greening Our Performance alliance. Activities include -

16th May – Sustainable Buildings workshop

18th July – Sustainable Marketing: Laura Levitus – Greenwash presentation

7th September – Sustainable Production

24th November – Arts House, *Going Nowhere* –Touring workshop.

Lucy Guerin Inc – the Organisation in 2012

Environmental Sustainability

The impetus to investigate and improve Lucy Guerin Inc's environmental performance was born from a sense of urgency and responsibility to preserving our natural world, combined with a strong desire to be at the forefront of environmental best practice initiatives within the Australian performing arts community.

2012 Lucy Guerin Inc made significant steps in responding to the Environmental Audit from 2011. The key achievement was the development of an Environmental Policy. This provides a meaningful guide for the Company to engage with the considerations of improving our environmental impact and help us to work to reduce our carbon footprint without compromising the creativity and artistic foresight of Lucy Guerin.

It was also an achievement to see the Environmental Policy considered in the staging of *Weather*. Several components of the set have been re-purposed from disused theatrical materials. The set design also includes the use of plastic shopping bags. Lucy Guerin Inc considered, and took seriously the effect of these plastic bags on the environment, and developed a strategy to minimise their impact. This offset program and other changes that Lucy Guerin Inc has made can be found on the website: <http://www.lucyguerininc.com/about/Environment>

Financial Results

Lucy Guerin Inc finished 2012 with a deficit of \$9,387, making our retained profits as of 31st December 2012 at \$136,452.

Government Funding

2012 was the first year in the three-year cycle of Lucy Guerin Inc's triennial grant from the Australia Council. \$226,914 was received as part of this as well as \$71,803.58 in project funding and \$22,690 in overseas funding.

Further annual operations funding of \$75,000 was received from Arts Victoria as well as \$22,500 in project funding and \$21,000 in international travel funding.

Philanthropic Funds & Donations

Lucy Guerin Inc was successful in receiving \$12,469.60 in Donations

Lucy Guerin Inc was successful in receiving the following Philanthropic Funds:

The Angior Family Foundation, receiving \$25,000 for *Pieces for Small Spaces 2012*.

The Besen Family Foundation, receiving \$5,000 for *Weather 2nd stage development 2012*

Australia Latin America Fund, receiving \$10,000 for the Marcos Chaves / Guerin Collaboration

The Ian Potter Foundation, receiving \$15,000 for *Weather Presentation*

In 2012, Lucy Guerin Inc derived 34% of its income from non-government grant sources.

Marketing

Lucy Guerin Inc has three Marketing Goals that support broader corporate and creative objectives:

- Maintain a perception of the Company as one that is professional; producing outstanding work that is engaging and relevant
- Develop the archival and research capacity of the Company
- Build appetite for contemporary dance across diverse markets and promote to a broad audience

These three goals were met through the presentation of works locally, nationally and internationally in 2012 as well as the attendance and support for key support projects such as *First Run* and *Hotbed*.

Like many organisations within the sector, Lucy Guerin Inc shares the broader challenge of peers in growing its touring network and audience, particularly outside the borders of existing metropolitan contexts.

The Company has a well-established international reputation for innovative work of the highest quality that incorporates a hybrid arts practice. This is largely driven by word of mouth, peer recognition, industry acknowledgement and editorial/reviews. At home, its reputation is reflected in consistency and loyalty of audience attendance as well as the prolific touring opportunities and commissions secured by the Company.

Lucy Guerin Inc, as an organisation that seldom self-presents, must attract festivals and presenters of dance to generate new opportunities; building new audiences and developing deeper connections with existing stakeholders. Increasingly, presenters are more confidently programming companies with established global audiences, and often this can simply be an excellent online (social media) presence. Throughout 2012 the Company has been able to engage more deeply with the patrons who attend each work from across the world. We will continue to operate a system of self-sustaining data collection and to maintain a database that is appropriate to the size of the Company, establishing a rigorous and highly engaging social media strategy, while reviewing and where appropriate implementing new tools and systems. Our emphasis with this strategy, already witnessed in the current channels (including Twitter, Facebook, Vimeo, YouTube and our own website), is to engage with a 'pull' rather than a 'push' with our patrons – not just 'selling' but also offering access to information relevant to the dance community and beyond.

Alongside this is the establishment of our online active archive, which will become a key component of our web presence. It will allow the Company to create content that is accessible to a far-reaching audience including those in the education sector and academia. Material regarding the artists and their processes, such as set design drawings and choreographers' notes, will be repurposed to act as research tools but also as marketing tools to the greater community. The first stage of this archiving process was successfully completed in 2012.

Management Systems

Board

Lucy Guerin Inc continued its commitment to maintaining a Board of members with a diverse range of skills and expertise. The Company also saw a departure of longstanding Board members Ruth Bain, Helen Simondson and Gary Rothville.

Ruth Bain	Manager of Department of Fine Arts, Monash University (Ex- Chair)
Cory Parfett	Communications Manager, Australian Centre for the Moving Image (Acting 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
Lorrae Nicholson	Development 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 2012 – average = 78%

Board Member	13/2/12	16/4/12	18/6/12	30/7/12	24/09/12	12/11/12	% for 2012
Ruth Bain	✓	✓	✓	N/A	N/A	N/A	100%
Michaela Coventry	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Elly Bloom	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	83%
Lucy Guerin	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Peter McCoy	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	67%
Cory Parfett	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	67%
Sarah Miller	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	83%
Gary Rothville	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	83%
Helen Simondson	✓	✓	✓	N/A	N/A	N/A	100%
Chloe Munro	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	83%
Lorrae Nicholson	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Guest	✗	0%

Note: Ruth Bain, Helen Simondson and Gary Rothville resigned from the Board after more than 6 years of committed service to Lucy Guerin Inc.

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, for at home presentations, touring and for *Pieces for Small Spaces 2012*.

Administration:

Basic office administration tasks and studio program activities were the responsibility of our Assistant Producer, Laura Levitus. Full Time position.

USA Agent:

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

KPIs

2012 was the first year of a new three-year cycle for Lucy Guerin Inc. In our business plan for this triennium we set out a series of key artistic activities that we hoped to be able to program and present each year. Below is a summary of artistic KPI's, which reflect our success with all aspects of these goals:

Creation of New Work

- Presentation of one new full-length works every eighteen months.
In 2012 Lucy Guerin Inc premiered two new works *Conversation Piece* and *Weather*, with the final creative development stages also occurring in this year.
- One commission from another company or artist for Lucy Guerin every year
Lucy Guerin was commissioned in 2011 to develop a new work with theatre director Carrie Cracknell for Sadler's Wells, London UK. A two-week creative development of this commission continued in 2012.
In 2012 Lucy Guerin was also commissioned by Opera Australia to choreograph for the *Marriage of Figaro*, and Brian Lipson commissioned Lucy Guerin to choreograph a solo as a part of his Australia Council Fellowship project – '*Doing Good*'

Connection and Dialogue

- Eight events that initiate dialogue
In 2012 Lucy Guerin Inc hosted the following events:
 - **DD Dorvillier (New York) was invited to give a workshop as part of the company's *Hotbed* series.**
 - **Five *First Run* evenings throughout 2012.**
 - ***The Choreographer as Researcher* forum in partnership with Critical Path.**
 - ***Pieces for Small Spaces 2012* Artist Q&A session.**
- Joined networks such as LPA, IETM and ISPA
In 2012 Lucy Guerin Inc maintained membership and connection with these organisations.
- Artistic Director and Executive Producer attend Festivals and Arts Markets locally and globally

In 2012 Lucy Guerin, Michaela Coventry and Laura Levitus all attended APAM, presenting a pitch for *Weather*. Michaela Coventry also pitched *Weather* at ISPA, New York. All staff also attended events at Adelaide Festival, Adelaide Fringe Festival, Melbourne Festival Melbourne Fringe and Next Wave Festival.

In addition, presenting locally, nationally and internationally strengthened these networks:

In 2012 Lucy Guerin Inc and Belvoir premiered *Conversation Piece* at Belvoir Theatre, Sydney for a four-week season.

In 2012 Lucy Guerin Inc premiered *Weather* at the Malthouse Theatre, Melbourne Festival.

In 2012 Lucy Guerin Inc toured *Untrained* to the Brooklyn Academy of Music, New York and UC Davis California, USA.

Development

- Emerging and/or independent choreographers presenting work per season as part of *Pieces for Small Spaces* program

***Pieces for Small Spaces 2012* took place in December**

- Mentorees and/or secondees attached to the Company

In 2012 Lucy Guerin Inc supported 25 secondments during the development of *Weather* and the Chaves/Guerin collaboration.

Antony Hamilton was mentored in a curator role by Lucy Guerin; Melanie Lane and Lee Serle were mentored artistically by Lucy Guerin; Five *Pieces for Small Spaces* choreographers were mentored artistically by Antony Hamilton

- Present classes and workshops by Lucy Guerin and/or guest choreographers
- In 2012 Lucy Guerin Inc hosted classes every morning during the developments of *Weather and Conversation Piece*.**
- Lucy Guerin Inc presented a *Hotbed* workshop with international guest, DD Dorvillier.**
- Commission young choreographer and/or Resident Director to develop a full length dance work
- Lee Serle was commissioned to develop his new work *P.O.V.***

By meeting and often excelling in every aspect of these planned activities Lucy Guerin Inc has been able to achieve all of its Artistic Goals as outlined in our Business Plan 2012-2014.

Additionally Lucy Guerin Inc's financial outcomes for 2012 differ from the forecast budget:

- a) closing with reserves of **\$136,451** (\$20,590 below forecast); and
- b) an annual turnover of **\$726,159** (\$248,385 below forecast).

These differences are a result of significant projects either not occurring or eventuating on the scale as originally expected. These include a European tour of *Human Interest Story*, funding contributions from the Major Festivals Initiative for *Weather* and the USA tour of *Untrained*. However without these significant funds Lucy Guerin Inc were fully successful in completing our artistic goals of premiering *Weather* in the Melbourne Festival and touring *Untrained* to BAM and the Mondavi Arts Centre USA, as well as contributing to studio activities including our Residency program.

Lucy Guerin Inc continues to be supported by a committed Board of diverse talents, and a staff of 3. The company also continues its key relationships with Megafun for production support, and H-Art Management as its US agent for a sixth year.