

dance lucy beaumont

## Aether, Lucy Guerin inc



**WHERE:** North Melbourne Town Hall  
**WHEN:** To March 27  
**TICKETS:** \$22/\$15. Bookings: 9685 5111  
★★★★☆

**F**rom news bulletins to text messages, emails and 24-hour phone contact, Lucy Guerin's latest work focuses on a modern problem: what to take in and what to swat away. It begins with five dancers at various points on a spidery trail of shredded newsprint, a blank green screen above them. As their movements surpass binary simplicity, so too the screen becomes dense with chaotic data, impossible to decipher. Then a shaft of light cuts through the darkness, providing a window through which body parts and connections are selectively shown. The dancers aren't human yet, but the sequence, and the shadows cast, show the potential for beauty amid the chaos of communication.

Next, things get a lot more animated. Attempts at human connections are accompanied by grunts, squeals, moans and growls that (apart from a spot-on vacuum cleaner impersonation) could only be made by non-machines. Occasional glitches pose questions about technology and our control of it.

This is not the first work to tackle the digital realm but, in examining our interaction with it, *Aether* is concise, effective and original, with fantastic performances on stage (Byron Perry is always magnetic and is well matched by Kirstie McCracken) and a skilled behind-stage team.