



**Overload:** choreographer Lucy Guerin makes her dancers learn to cope with too much information in *Aether*.  
Picture: ANDREW TAUBER

# Ideas out of the Aether

## ■ DANCE

Harb Gill

**L**UCY Guerin's *Aether* emerged literally out of the ether.

Besieged by the ceaseless onslaught of information, she was gazing out of her inner city window when she saw the clarity of *Aether*.

"I've got a view of Melbourne . . . and Michaela (graphics design) and I were wondering what it would look like if all the lines of communication were visible," the choreographer says.

"That would create this very textural and visual environment — that was one of the crystallising images for the first part, where there's too much going on to be able to take it all in. That parallels what we have to do ourselves," the multiple-award-winning Guerin says.

In the second part, she explores what has always interested her — the subtlety of human contact and how we make ourselves understood.

"The dancers try to relate to each other in a direct and meaningful and connected way," she says.

"I asked them to think of something to say and then at the last minute switch that to an impulse to move, which drove them really crazy. It was very difficult.

"Like Anthony (Hamilton) would ask

from a place of trying to reach the other, whereas the first part is more dancy."

Guerin, who thrived in hyper-stimulated New York for seven years, says email, phone, fax, newspapers, television, billboards, radio, mail, internet, text messages send her into information overload.

"I am particularly bad. Some people can cope with more stuff, but just doing my emails and getting phone messages and mail I find quite challenging.

"There are too many words and sounds and stuff coming at you all the time," she says.

"And in spite of the ease of communication and different modes of contact, it still is basically the problem of how to connect and how to relate to fellow humans."

When the clutter gets too much, Guerin takes cover or heads for the open road.

"When I'm very busy, I block things out. And I'm not that interested in watching television or socialising, like going out and chatting. I don't go and see other shows as much either.

"And we (partner Gideon Obarzanek) go away as much as we can, even on weekends sometimes we just drive down the Great Ocean Rd or something. It puts you in a different space, it creates a place where something can happen rather than

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"I asked them to think of something to say and then at the last minute switch that to an impulse to move, which drove them really crazy. It was very difficult.

"Like Anthony (Hamilton) would ask Byron (Perry), 'What are you doing tonight?' and instead of speaking he had to send the impulse straight into his body, which produced a much more unconscious movement, much less contrived," Guerin says.

"A lot of the movement has the rhythm and intention of speech and some of that is verbal and sound, which is new to me. I usually never let the dancers make noises. The gestures come more

watching television or socialising, like going out and chatting. I don't go and see other shows as much either.

"And we (partner Gideon Obarzanek) go away as much as we can, even on weekends sometimes we just drive down the Great Ocean Rd or something. It puts you in a different space, it creates a place where something can happen rather than having your head clogged up.

"That's pretty common. A lot of people experience that."

**AETHER**

**Where:** North Melbourne Town Hall,  
Until March 27  
**Tickets:** \$22/\$15  
**Bookings:** 9685 5111