

MEDIA RELEASE

May 2016

Go on a PICNIC with KAGE

PICNIC is a new solo dance theatre work by KAGE Creative Director Gerard Van Dyck, featuring ABC's *First Tuesday Book Club's* Marieke Hardy's witty script and original electronic music by Alisdair Macindoe.

In PICNIC, Gerard presents the idea that happiness is like a picnic. He uses the great Australian tradition of picnicking as an analogy for happiness and addresses topics of isolation, innocence and how the act of being creative is underestimated in this country.

"PICNIC is an immensely personal project, born from my desire to ask the question of why the arts are not taken seriously across the majority of Australia, and why is the act of being creative dismissed as a worthwhile occupation?" says Gerard.

"I approached Marieke to collaborate on PICNIC because I was such a big fan of her work, of her length of sentence, of how she could reflect hypocrisies and oddities in life while making me laugh out loud. Immersed in loads of laughing and at times crying, developing PICNIC we forged a profound and deep trust. Marieke would incite me to reveal very personal stories and truths and then skilfully construct the script with whimsy, satire and pathos. She is truly a selfless collaborator."

Gerard is both dancer and storyteller in this intelligent, cross-disciplinary and highly accessible work.

Gerard's training and performance experience includes dancing, acting, slapstick, puppetry, motion capture and aerial flying. He co-founded KAGE with Kate Denborough 19 years ago and has performed in nearly all of KAGE's award-winning works.

PICNIC scriptwriter Marieke Hardy is a writer, broadcaster, producer and artist. She is a regular panelist on ABC's *First Tuesday Book Club*, the creator of hit TV show *Laid*, and curator of live art. A collection of her essays was published in 2011.

Alisdair Macindoe is an award-winning dancer, sound designer, composer and instrument maker. His professional engagements as a sound designer for dance include works by Antony Hamilton, Chunky Move, Lucy Guerin, Australian Dance Theatre, Next Wave and more.

PICNIC is touring to regional South Australia as part of Country Art SA's Shows on The Road program. Country Arts SA's programmer Tammy Hall says, "Shows On The Road is a great way for local communities to host professional performances in their own town and to really make the night an event," she says.

Media enquiries: Helene Sobolewski, Helene.sobolewski@countryarts.org.au or 8444 0429.

Every show will be followed by a Q&A. Workshops are available in Port Lincoln on June 17 and Streaky Bay on June 20.

Dates:

Clare High School, Clare – Wednesday June 15, 7:30pm

BOOK - CLARE VALLEY WINE, FOOD & TOURISM CENTRE 08 8842 2131

St Joseph's Performing Arts Centre, Port Lincoln – Friday June 17, 7:30pm

BOOK - BEERS NEWSAGENCY, TASMAN TERRACE

Streaky Bay Institute, Streaky Bay – Saturday June 18, 7:30pm

BOOK - STREAKY BAY VISITOR CENTRE 8626 7033

Tickets:

Recommended age 12+

Adult \$26

Under 17 \$15

Groups 6+ \$23



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