

ON THE BOARDS PRESENTS

# Tanja Liedtke

*construct*

APR 2 - 4, 2009

running time 60 minutes

Conceived and directed by Tanja Liedtke

Choreographed by Tanja Liedtke

in collaboration with Kristina Chan & Paul White

Creative Coordinator & Remount Director.....Solon Ulbrich

Performers.....Kristina Chan,  
Alessandra Mattana &  
Paul White

Set and Lighting Design.....Ben Cobham &  
Geoff Cobham, Bluebottle

Sound Design.....DJ TR!P

Dramaturgy consultant.....Joshua Tyler

Photography.....Chris Herzfeld

Producer.....Performing Lines

Production Manager & Lighting Operator.....Natasha James

Stage Manager & Sound Operator.....Blair Ryan

*construct* was originally developed with funding from the Australia Council for the Arts, Arts SA and the Keir Foundation; with commissioning funds from The Southbank Centre (London) and Tanja Farman (through the National Endowment of Science, Technology and the Arts); and with support from CultureLab City of Melbourne and the Adelaide Festival Centre.



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## A note from Solon Ulbrich, Creative Coordinator for *construct*

It is a true pleasure to bring *construct* to On the Boards. I am very proud to see Tanja's engaging dance theatre at this adventurous and inspiring venue.

*construct* was Tanja's final work, and all involved cherish this opportunity to share her captivating ideas, clearly expressed in the language of dance. The creative process for this work forged an ongoing creative relationship with the stunning original cast of collaborators you see performing on this tour.

I am personally indebted to the dancers for their dedication and commitment to Tanja's vision. My thanks also to Fenn Gordon and Performing Lines, our producers, Lane and all the team at On the Boards, whose tireless ongoing efforts make it possible to share Tanja's work with you.

Solon Ulbrich

The tour of *construct* to On the Boards is supported by the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts, its arts funding and advisory body; and by the South Australia Government through Arts SA.



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Additional support for *construct* comes from



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# BIOS

German born **Tanja Liedtke** began her dance and theatre studies in Madrid, then continued her training at the Elmhurst Ballet School, and Ballet Rambert School in the U.K. In 1996 she took up residence in Sydney, Australia, and in 1999 joined Australian Dance Theatre (ADT) under the directorship of Garry Stewart. Tanja danced with ADT for four years, touring across Australia, Asia, the U.K. and North America. In 2003 she joined Lloyd Newson's DV8 Physical Theatre for the award winning Channel Four film and European tour of the *Cost of Living*, and the 2005 creation and international tour of *Just For Show*. Tanja also developed her distinctive choreographic voice and was commissioned to create works across four continents including Tasdance (Australia); De Anima Ballet Contemporaneo (Brazil); Akademie des Tanzes (Germany); Taipei Idea (Taiwan); and David Hughes Dance Company (Scotland) amongst others. She was also recognised with a Fellowship from The Australian Choreographic Centre. During her career she received several noted awards, including Dance Australia Critic's Choice for Most Promising Choreography in 1999 and 2000; the Australian Dance Award for Outstanding Achievement in Choreography for her work *Twelfth Floor*; and Best Choreography in the 2008 Helpmann Awards for her work *construct*. Tanja was the newly appointed Artistic Director of Sydney Dance Company at the time of her accidental death in August 2007.

## PERFORMERS

**Kristina Chan** has performed with numerous dance and theatre companies throughout Australia including Australian Dance Theatre, Chunky Move, One Extra Company, Tasdance, Stalker Theatre Company, West Australian Opera, Sydney Theatre Company, and Theatre of Image. Kristina has featured in two dance films: *River Woman* directed by Michelle Mahrer, and *Hansel and Gretel* directed by Anton.

Kristina worked closely with independent choreographer Tanja Liedtke creating works *Endstation Wunderkind*, *To my Suite*, *Defiled*, *Figures Fragile*, *Twelfth Floor*, and *construct*. She has also worked as assistant to Liedtke at DeAnima Ballet Contemporaneo in Rio de Janeiro, on the remount of two short works by Liedtke. Kristina won the 2006 Australian Dance Award for Outstanding Performance by a Female Dancer for her performance in *Twelfth Floor*, was nominated for the Rolex Mentor and Protégé Arts Initiative 2006-2007, the Greenroom Awards 2007 for Most Outstanding Performance by a Female Dancer for *Twelfth Floor*, and in 2005 the Australian Dance Award for *Narelle Benjamin's Out of Water*.

**Alessandra Mattana** was born in Belo Horizonte and began her dance studies in Brazil. She danced with Companhia de Dança de Minas Gerais and was a member of Grupo Corpo Brazilian Dance Theater for four years touring across Europe, USA, Canada, Israel and South America. She studied Communication Sciences at the University Católica de Minas Gerais before moving to Europe in 2002. Since then she has performed with DV8 Physical Theatre where she and Tanja Liedtke were colleagues, with Alias Cie. de Danse, and Volksoper Vienna. Recently her work has included performing with David Hughes Dance Company (Scotland) with guest choreographers Rafael Bonachela and Tanja Liedtke; and Travel Light choreographer Philip Bergmann.

**Paul White** began his dance training at age three in Mackay, North Queensland. Working as a dancer in the commercial sector since he was thirteen, Paul joined Australian Dance Theatre in 2001, under the directorship of Garry Stewart. During his time with ADT, he performed and toured in numerous productions choreographed by Stewart, including *Birdbrain* and *HELD*. He also choreographed two works for the company's annual Ignition Season. In 2004 Paul joined DV8 Physical Theatre for the

development of *Just For Show* and the Asian and European tours. In 2006 he performed as a guest artist in *Exodo* with Venezuelan dance company Danzahoy at the Joyce Theatre, New York. In 2006, Paul returned to Australia to participate in the *Honour Bound* project (Sydney Opera House/ Malthouse Theatre, Melbourne) and to perform in Tanja Liedtke's *Twelfth Floor*. In 2007, he worked with Liedtke on the development of her new work *construct*, and performed in the premiere season at the Southbank Centre, London. In 2008 he performed in the Sydney season of *construct* at the 2008 Sydney Festival. Paul also worked on the development of a new work *The Red Room* for David Hughes Dance Edinburgh, Scotland, choreographed a short piece for Quantum Leap ACT, and collaborated with Meryl Tankard on a solo work *The Oracle*. For his role in Liedtke's *construct*, Paul won the 2008 Helpmann Award for the Best Male Dancer in a Dance or Theatre Production, and for his role in *Honour Bound* he received the 2008 Australian Dance Award for the Most Outstanding Performance by a Male Dancer.

## **CREATIVE TEAM**

### **Solon Ulbrich**

#### **Creative Coordinator & Remount Director**

Sol is an Australian independent director, choreographer, teacher and arts producer. A graduate of the Victorian College of the Arts, Sol's performance career features engagements with Australian Dance Theatre and Ricochet Dance Productions (UK). Sol's choreographic career has been recognised by a Choreographic Fellowship from the Australian Choreographic Centre. The short film *Restoration* which he co-choreographed and performed with Narelle Benjamin won the Australian Dance Award 1999 for Best Dance on Film. Sol was Artistic Associate in a partnership with choreographer Tanja Liedtke, providing artistic collaboration and project management and is director for her repertoire. Having completed a Graduate Diploma in Management (Arts) from the University of

South Australia, Sol held the position of Dance and Performance Event Co-ordinator for the Southbank Centre London and Rehearsal Director for Australian Dance Theatre. He has been lecturer in movement for the Circus Space degree course (London) in 2004-2005, and Project Director for *Soft Landing* (QL2 Centre for Youth Dance's annual intensive career development program) since 2006

### **Joshua Tyler**

#### **Dramaturg & Script Development**

Joshua Tyler has been a working dramaturg for over five years in both Contemporary Dance and text based Drama. Working with established choreographers such as Tanja Liedtke to emerging playwrights such as Duncan Graham, Joshua's breadth of experience ranges across all forms of live performance. With a Masters in Screenwriting from the Australian Film Television and Radio School (AFTRS) and an Advanced Diploma in Acting from ACArts Joshua has spent the last ten years working in both stage and screen. His short films have screened at major festivals around the world, his plays have won various awards and his theatre productions have played to audiences around Australia. Joshua worked on both of Tanja Liedtke's two major works *Twelfth Floor* and *construct* and as researcher, writer and performer on various other projects. Joshua has worked with other choreographers including Solon Ulbrich, Anton, Kelly Alexander and Ros Warby. Joshua has recently been working with Lisa Griffiths and Craig Bary and guest teaching at the NIDA Playwrights Studio in Sydney.

### **DJ TR!P**

#### **Composer**

DJ TR!P is an independent electronic musician who creates and composes for an eclectic range of arts projects. TR!P performs his music live & also works as a DJ, remix artist, workshop tutor and composer for theatre, dance, film & radio. He has performed & collaborated under many aliases such as The New Pollutants, Echelon & Cooperblack. With The New Pollutants he rescored

Fritz Lang's *Metropolis*, which was performed live at the Adelaide Film Festival, Perth's Revelations Film Festival & Melbourne's Next Wave Festival at ACMI. As a soundtrack composer he has written for companies including the State Theatre of SA, Australian Dance Theatre (Ignition Series x 3), Adelaide Fringe Festival, Kurruru Indigenous Youth Performing Arts, Tasdance, & Restless Dance Company. In 2006 he created a music score for the Dream Seed Projects Live Installation at Federation Square in Melbourne on New Year's Eve. He had a strong relationship with choreographer Tanja Liedtke, collaborating on many award winning shows, including *Twelfth Floor* (Australian Tour 2006) and *construct* (U.K. Tour 2007 & Australian premiere at the Sydney Festival 2008). His upcoming work includes music for Windmill, Zephyr Quartet & Kage Physical Theatre. He was most recently the Australian support for John Foxx (Ultra Vox) & was a featured guest in Melbourne at ACMI's *Game On* (Video Game Exhibition from the Barbican Art Gallery London), where he performed his own 8-bit set before the Australian Premiere of (US) Documentary 8-Bit. He was also part of a Game On panel, talking about some collecting & the use of outmoded computer & console technology in his composition. In 2003 & 2004 he won dB Magazines Reader Awards for most popular DJ.

## **Geoff Cobham**

**(Bluebottle) – Set & Lighting Designer**

Geoff has worked as a Production Manager, Lighting Designer, Set Designer, Event Producer, and Venue Designer. His recent Set & Lighting designs include *The Age I'm In, Already Elsewhere, Same same But Different* (Force Majeure); *construct* (Tanja Liedtke); *La Voix & Bastien Bastiena* (State Opera), *Hickory Dickory & Emily loves to Bounce* (Patch Theatre); *448 Psychosis* (Brink); *HELD* (Australian Dance Theatre); *Future of the Species* (Vitalstatistics); and *The Caretaker* (Brink).

His recent Lighting Designs include: *G* (Australian Dance Theatre); *Burning Daylight* (Stalker); *Attempts On Her Life, Night Letters, The Goat* (State Theatre Company); *This Uncharted Hour & Drums in the*

*Night* (Brink); *Impulse, Satyagraha, Einstein on the Beach, Quick Brown Fox & Akhnaten* (Leigh Warren & Dancers); *Cake* (Vitalstatistics); *Here Lies Love* (David Byrne); *Translations* (Flying Penguin); *Vocabulary* (ADT/Restless); *Beetle Graduation, Drums in the Night* (Brink); *Rebel* (Restless Dance); and *Dinosaurs @ Australian Museum & Anzac Hall @ National War Memorial*.

## **Ben Cobham**

**(Bluebottle) Set & Lighting Designer**

Ben established Bluebottle with Andrew Livingston in Melbourne in 1991 to produce design in creative and unconventional ways in theatres, galleries and museums. Bluebottle has worked with Arena Theatre Company, Chunky Move, Circus Oz, Flying Fruit Fly Circus, Helen Herbertson, Legs on the Wall, Lucy Guerin Inc, Melbourne Theatre Company, and Playbox Theatre Company, amongst many others. The company has won several Green Room Awards, a John Truscott Award for Excellence in Design and an Australian Dance Award for Morphia Series (with Helen Herbertson). Ben says about himself: "Family man. Often building - conquered the square moving to angles may one day reach the curve."

## **Performing Lines**

Performing Lines develops, produces and tours new Australian performance nationally and internationally — across genres including physical theatre, circus, dance, indigenous and intercultural arts, music theatre, hybrid work, and text-based theatre.

At a time when many Australian artists and presenters are exploring new ways of working, many are looking to the independent producer model pioneered by Performing Lines – and to our 25 years of experience and contacts.

Performing Lines has created national and international opportunities for many major Australian artists over the past 20 years, including William Yang, Kate Champion, Nigel Jamieson, Paul Grabowsky, Meryl Tankard, Wesley Enoch,

Jack Davis, Jenny Kemp, Legs on the Wall, Sydney Front, and Chamber Made Opera. More recently, Performing Lines has produced or toured some of Australia's most exciting new practitioners, including Tanja Liedtke, Branch Nebula, Rebecca Clarke, version 1.0, erth, Splintergroup, and Back to Back Theatre.

Performing Lines is also active in developing new audiences and circuits within Australia for innovative Australian work, managing touring initiatives such as Mobile States: Touring Contemporary Performance Australia, Tasmania Performs, and Sound Travellers (for contemporary music and sound).

**[performinglines.org.au](http://performinglines.org.au)**

## **Tanja Liedtke Foundation**

For Tanja Liedtke, dance was a universal language of inspiration and discovery – a language which speaks to everyone, which speaks for humanity and for the issues that we face in our lifetimes. The Tanja Liedtke Foundation was established in 2008 in honour of Tanja to support the enrichment and advancement of contemporary dance and the development of Australian/European artistic connections.

The Foundation seeks to achieve this by encouraging a spirit of creative adventure in choreography and dance practice, and enabling valuable opportunities for a broad range of dance artists. For more information please visit the website listed below.

**[tanja-liedtke-foundation.org](http://tanja-liedtke-foundation.org)**