

PEOPLE



The cast of Electronic Big Top outside the golden dome of the Shanghai Circus World.

Dance troupe Shanghaied

DANCER turned director Jon Burt's Electronic Big Top proved such a success at the Shanghai Arts Festival last month that the Chinese have invited him to come back and work with them on a new show.

Electronic Big Top, first performed at the Regal Theatre for the Festival of Perth in 1999, was the opening event of a week devoted to Australian arts at Shanghai's annual festival.

But it was a greatly expanded version of the Festival show that Chinese audiences saw, with Burt and his creative team beefing up its blend of circus skills, dance and movement, aerial gymnastics, music and comedy.

"We were the flagship for the Australian artists, with 16 of our 21 members from WA," Burt says.

The opening night drew a capacity crowd with a host of Chinese dignitaries and Australian officials, including Foreign Affairs Minister Alexander Downer.

"It was an amazing opportunity to present our work in an international setting, and the Chinese were impressed with our non-traditional approach to the circus," Burt says.

He is now looking forward to developing his

relationship with the Chinese into a fully-fledged co-production. He hopes to be working with the Shanghai Acrobatic Troupe, a company based in the new golden-domed Shanghai Circus World where Electronic Big Top was performed.

"The Shanghai company has 200 acrobats who work in the building, and they were intrigued at our approach, which is very different from theirs," Burt says. He says the Chinese are also interested in taking his next Australian-made production.

Next month, Burt and co-director Katie Lavers will be artists-in-residence at the Brisbane Powerhouse, where they will conduct multi-art form workshops for emerging artists, culminating in a showing of the work generated in the former powerhouse.

Burt began his career as a dancer in Tasmania, moving to Perth to join the Chrissie Parrott Dance Collective before moving out on his own.

His company skadada specialises in circus-style spectacles that combine aerial performance with puppetry, illusion, video animations, interactive and multi-media technology and electronic music.

RON BANKS

The CRAIC

LATE NIGHT IRISH BAR



THE CRAIC BEGINS
4TH OF MARCH.

WORD UP



poetry + performance + music

with MC Prozac Boy



live reading
Loon X-Wing

live music
Mitey Ko

Win books and a pot of tea from Good Read Book Café

Tuesday 23rd February

upstairs in the Monkey Bar

8-11

Brass Monkey Hotel

art condition

SKADADA Stylish Circus

Anyone who had the pleasure of seeing *boop!*, skadada's last theatrical dance, multimedia offering to Perth audiences, will have some idea of what to expect with this new creation from Jon Burt and Katie Lavers. Only *some* idea though, because as usual these two have developed ideas along increasingly diverse lines.

A sellout season at the Sydney Festival for *Electronic Big Top* is evidence that a great night out is what these innovative theatre creators are out to achieve.

"I think our work has developed out of bringing together unusual combinations," relates a slightly weary Jon Burt, director of skadada newly arrived back from the Sydney Festival. "This show has aerial work, dance, computer animation, interactive sound and puppetry."

"We have always been interested in everyday objects and everyday situations" says Katie Lavers, also a skadada director, "and trying to bring them together in bizarre combinations and make them kind of bizarre. So puppetry is a good way of taking these domestic situations into a different context."

"With the puppetry sequences, objects sort of animate and take on their own life," continues Lavers. "We have things like a very sensuous vacuum cleaner that wraps itself around people, trying to seduce them."

"As they do," finishes Burt, facetiously. With *boop!* there was the inclusion of martial arts moves and sequences and this has been developed in *Electronic Big Top* along with aerial trapeze work.

"*Electronic Big Top* is dance but it is informed by circus, so we have a lot of unusual trapeze sequences and aerial work that use the circus apparatus," explains Burt. "But we use dance as a means of exploring that. We worked with circus trainer Helene Embling, who has taught us all the aerial work and she comes from a traditional circus background."

"She actually performs in the show," chimes in Lavers, enthusiastically. "She does do a more traditional circus trapeze act, which Jon worked on with her in terms of choreography."

There is no doubt that aerial work is finding its way into many dance performances these days, not all of it providing a dynamic



skadada

addition. In review of skadada's show in Sydney however, reviewer Sonia Humphrey of *The Sydney Morning Herald* refers to this incorporation 'The dancing is marvellous... and the aerial work is all that aerial work should be, and almost always isn't'.

The exploration of multimedia and its incorporation into the performance has been enhanced again, since their last performance.

"There is computer animation all the way through," relates Lavers. "It is projected into space. We played with lots of different ways of projecting and we found a way so that the images look as though they are floating in space."

"It is much more dreamlike, compared to *boop!* and they have a more futuristic, mystical feel about them," adds Burt.

All this and so much more go to creating skadada's *Electronic Big Top*. You can experience this unique Perth company at the Regal Theatre from Wednesday, February 24 to Saturday 27, 1999.

— MARY O'DONOVAN. *Compagnie Rasposo, Triptyque*

FESTIVAL UPDATES

As everyone would be aware, Festivals mean the bringing together of a myriad of cultures, a plethora of performers and more stage settings, equipment and lighting than is (logistically speaking) sensible. In spite of that, most things happen without a hitch. Some of the, ever so slight, hiccups in the program follow.

At the **World Music Weekend**, Uilleann pipe master, **Liam O'Flynn** will perform in the place of Iarla O'Lionard, on Saturday, February 20. O'Flynn has appeared with international performers such as Enya, Kate Bush and Mark Knopfler.

An additional **FREE** performance by *Compagnie Rasposo's Triptyque* will take place in Mandurah at Hall Park. The performances are now at 7.30pm on Sunday, February 28 and March 1. The Bunbury show has been cancelled.

In the Opera, **Damnation of Faust** Sarah Connelly will replace Markella Hatziano in the role of Marguerite in the concert performances on February 19 and 20 at 8pm.

Please note that at the performance **Blood Vessel**, for the happiness of all patrons, you are not to bring along deckchairs. A rug, cushion or ground level chair will make for general audience contentment.



There's a whole new

free!
All Age RAGE

Monday, 12 August
musicians including Carl Mackey, 9pm.

Thursday, 15 August

The Vienna Boys Choir @ Perth Concert Hall. Touring Australia after their 50th anniversary in 1999.



Monday, 12 August
The Devils Backbone @ Luna Leederville. A chilling Spanish ghost story set in the Spanish Civil War. Season starts today. See www.lunapalace.com.au for session details.

Thursday, 15 August

The Navigators @ Luna Leederville. Ken Loach's new film follows a Yorkshire gang of track-maintenance workers during the privatisation of British Rail in 1995. See www.lunapalace.com.au for session details.

Friday, 9 August
Inglewood Hotel - Works original rock bands - Nordenes and Wilberforce. \$3 entry fee.

Thursday, 8 August

Danbury Brass Band @ WAAPA. One of the worlds leading brass bands, featuring soloists from New York and New Zealand. Free.

Friday, 9 August

StyleAID 2002 @ Burswood International Resort Ballroom. 750 of Perth's most stylish people perform and put to raise funds for the WA AIDS Council

Monday 5 August
The Vagina Monologues @ The Playhouse. Perth Theatre Company is bringing the show back to Perth and everyone who wished they could get their hands on tickets last time have their chance! Until 17 August.

Tuesday, 6 August

Rogers & Hammerstein @ Burswood Theatre. Tickets at BOCs.

Tuesday, 6 August
Rapture @ SPECTrUm. Sarah Fell (WAAPA's first PhD student) presents a living art installation. Opens today 6pm and continues until Sunday 11 August.

Monday 5 August

Musica Viva: C'est si Bon @ Perth Concert Hall. Presents Debussy, six string quartets at 8pm.

Wednesday, 7 August

Storm in a D Cup @ His Majesty's Theatre. Cabaret featuring songs and monologues from blues to comedy, starting Kelly-Ella McAulay. Starts 8.30pm, downstairs at the Maj.

Thursday, 1 August
The Devils Backbone @ Luna Leederville. A chilling Spanish ghost story set in the Spanish Civil War. Season starts today. See www.lunapalace.com.au for session details.

Thursday, 1 August

Inglewood Hotel - Works original rock band - Humbug with Mukatzake. \$3 entry fee.

Thursday, 1 August
BioFeel: art and biology @ PICCA. A new breed of artists migrated from studio to laboratory to explore the new palette biological and medical technologies offer. Until 25 August.

Thursday, 1 August

The Boys of Onyx @ Onyx Bar. A regular jazz trio playing every Thursday nights from 7pm. Admission free.

Thursday, 1 August

Cockatoos by Conolan - Cockatoo painting by Queensland artist David Edward Conolan. Hackett Hall Foyer for the WA Museum until 13 October. The

Saturday, 27 July
Illuminations, Warramba and Homeground @ Fremantle Arts Centre. Until 25 August.

Saturday, 27 July

Spirit of the Dance @ Burswood Theatre. Featuring 30 world champion performers of Irish Dance. Until Tuesday 30 July.

Saturday, 27 July
Yates Springtime at Araluen - From today until Sunday 13 October. The

Saturday, 27 July

1001 Nights Party - Presented by The Art Gallery of WA. Guests are expected to dress in theme or black tie and the Gallery will be transformed with camels, tents and jewelled caves.

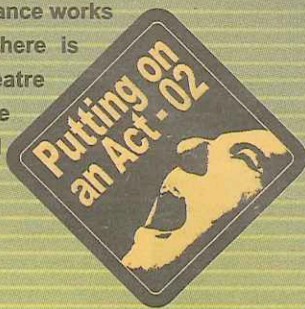
Saturday, 27 July

Yago de Cuba Festival @ Kulcha - Yalla Cuba Friendship Society. Book starts 7pm.

guide to what is happening in Perth

Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts presents

This year's *Putting on an Act* showcases a wild and eclectic range of original performance and audio/visual works created by Perth-based artists committed to experimentation and artistic risk. There are noisy works, sound works, musical works and quiet works; there are dance works with video and some without; There is improvised theatre, physical theatre and live art. Some are funny. Some are sad. Some are poignant and some are downright tragic!



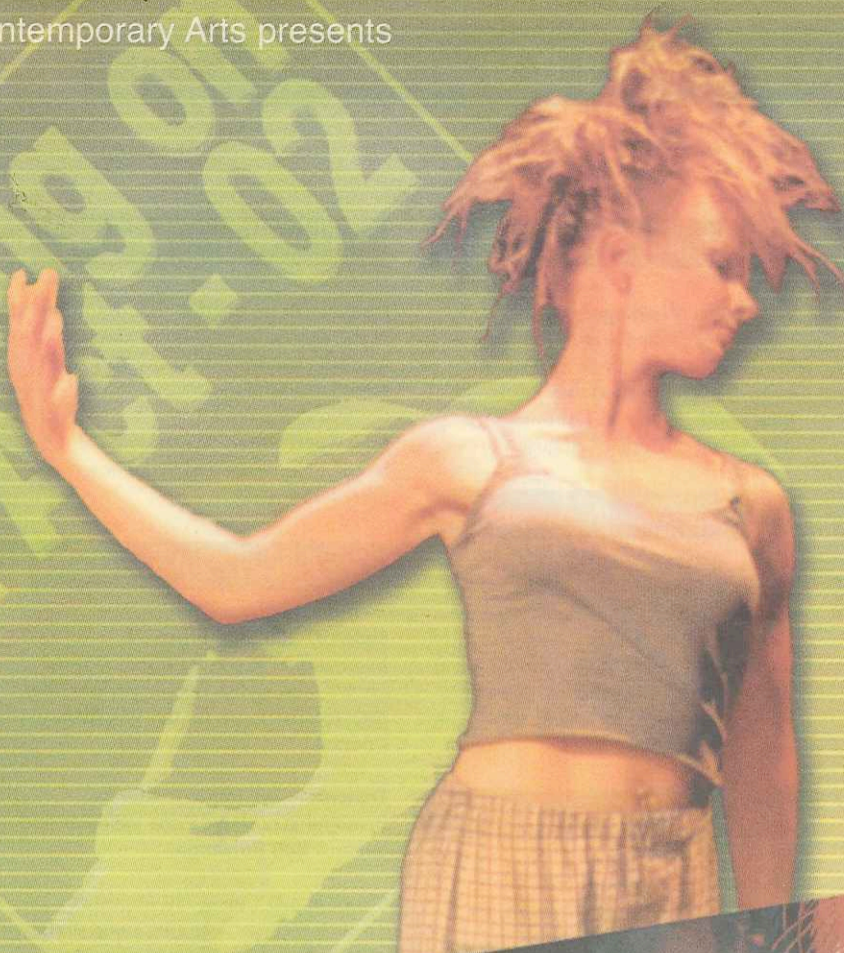
Play it Safe Short Performance Festival

Wednesday July 17 - Saturday July 20, 8pm
Tickets: \$7 / Free to PICA members (available from 6pm)

Jury Selection Nights: July 26 & 27, 8pm
Tickets: \$7 - bookings at PICA on 9227 9339

program available at PICA, ph 9227 6144 or at www.pica.org.au

Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts
51 James St, Northbridge



Tara Doney in Show Me a Sign from Putting on an Act 01



reel dance

International Dance on Screen Festival

Presented by One Extra Dance in association with PICA

SESSION 1: SATURDAY AUGUST 10 @ 12.30PM

International Dance Films

New dance shorts from the UK, Netherlands, Norway, France and Canada. From military drills performed in a deathly quiet country field, through a dance ritual set against a bombed-out cityscape in Chechnya, to the very best of dance-theatre by Holland's Hans Hof Ensemble, this session offers a broad range of examples of screen choreography.

SESSION 2: SATURDAY AUGUST 10 @ 2.30PM

Australian & New Zealand dance on film/video awards

Introduced by ReelDance Curator Erin Brannigan, this session showcases the best works from the ReelDance Competition for new Australian or New Zealand Dance film/video, featuring the Digital Pictures Award for Best Short Dance Film/Video.

SESSION 3: SUNDAY AUGUST 11 @ 5.30PM

Legends of Tap and Jazz

Introduced by Nicolas Villodre of the Cinematheque de la Danse in Paris. A double-session featuring a selection from the Cinematheque de la Danse archives in Paris. This rare collection of short films and excerpts celebrates the golden age of jazz and features some fantastic dancing and great music performances by Josephine Baker, Bill (Bojangles) Robinson, the Nicholas Brothers, Fred Astaire, Gene Kelly and champion performers from the Savoy and much much more. The program also features the Origins of hip-hop.

SESSION 4: SUNDAY 11 AUGUST @ 8PM

Dance in Music Video

Some of the most recent and radical examples of dance on screen from the cutting edge genre of music video by artists such as Fatboy Slim, Blur, Daft-Punk, Nick Cave and Madonna. This session features both trained and non-trained dancers, from Spike Jonze's 'mockumentary' featuring The Torrance Community Dance Troupe, to Lisa French's musical-inspired group choreography for *Girls Like That*.

Full program details available at www.pica.org.au

screening: August 10 & 11 at Cinema Paradiso
164 James St Northbridge

Session Tickets: \$15 Full; \$10 S/P/U
Season Ticket (4 Sessions): \$40 full; \$30 S/P/U
Bookings: Call PICA 9227 9339
Door Sales: Cinema Paradiso

free exhibition

BioFeel: art and biology

Curated by Oron Catts, SymbioticA and featuring:
SymbioticA Research Group • Tissue Culture and Art Project •
Adam Zaretsky • Amy Youngs • Marta de Menezes • André Brodyk

A new breed of artist has migrated from studio to laboratory to explore the new palette biological and medical technologies offer. A working laboratory will be set up in the main space of PICA to cultivate living tissue into art.

Opening: Wednesday July 31, 6-8pm (free admission)
To be opened by Professor Roy Ascott, CALIA-STAR Founding Director and featuring a free performance sampler by HEDKIKR

Exhibiting: August 1 - August 25 (free admission)
BioFeel is presented at PICA as part of The Biennale for Electronic Arts Perth (BEAP) www.beap.org

The Aesthetics of Care?

SymbioticA Symposium - Monday August 5, 9am-7pm
Presented by SymbioticA and The Institute of Advanced Studies University of Western Australia.

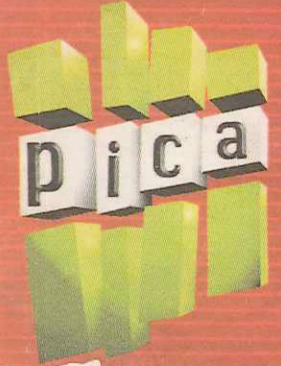
International scholars and artists, including all the artists in BioFeel, discuss biological art and the profound ethical, political and cultural implications that arise when artists become creators dealing in living tissues and genetic codes.

For a full list of delegates and the topics to be discussed go to www.beap.org
Registration \$110 / Students \$55. To book your place ring: 9266 2259 or register online.

Symbiotica performance HEDKIKR : interXection

Darren Moore (drums) and Lindsay Vickery (saxes) work with SymbioticA to put the physicality of performance under the microscope. 8pm, Sunday 4 August at PICA (\$15 / \$10 conc.) Book at PICA on 9227 6144.

This project has been assisted by the Commonwealth Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body. BioFeel has been sponsored by the University of Western Australia, School of Anatomy and Human Biology UWA, Faculty of Science UWA, PICA, Curtin University, Australia Network for Art and Technology, Hotel Northbridge, Little Creatures, Coherent Scientific, Nikon Japan, CTEC, Jumbo Vision, Medic Vision, Plaza Cameras, DX Computers, SoTech Pty Ltd, Email Air Handling, The Daniel Langlois Foundation for Art, Science and Technology, and Square Peg.



Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts - 51 James St, Northbridge
Monday, 11am - 7pm • Ph 9227 6144 • Bookings 9227 9339 • info@pica.org.au
More info available at www.pica.org.au

