

ADELAIDE FESTIVAL **AF**
1-17 March 2019

OREN AMBARCHI
Music

Oren Ambarchi has performed and recorded with a diverse array of artists such as Fennesz, Charlemagne Palestine, Sunn O))), Thomas Brinkmann, Keiji Haino, Alvin Lucier, John Zorn, Annea Lockwood, Manuel Gottsching/ Ash Ra, Merzbow, Jim O'Rourke, Keith Rowe, Akio Suzuki, Phill Niblock, John Tilbury, Richard Pinhas, Evan Parker, crys cole, Fire! and many more. His acclaimed trio with Keiji Haino and Jim O'Rourke performs in Tokyo annually with many of their concerts documented on Ambarchi's Black Truffle label. Ambarchi has released numerous recordings for labels such as Touch, Editions Mego, Drag City, PAN, Southern Lord, Kranky and Tzadik. In 2003 his live release Triste received an honorary mention in the Prix Ars Electronica digital music category. His release *Quixotism* was listed in The Wire magazine's top 50 releases of 2014 and that same year Pitchfork named him Experimental Artist Of The Year. His latest solo release is *Hubris* and features an astonishing cast of players including Crys Cole, Mark Fell, Arto Lindsay, Jim O'Rourke, Keith Fullerton Whitman and Ricardo Villalobos amongst others.

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Image: Sarah Walker

6 - 10 March / Odeon Theatre

Duration 1hr, no interval

THEATRE / AUSTRALIA

Two Jews walk into a Theatre...

Devised and performed by Brian Lipson and Gideon Obarzanek
Direction and choreography Lucy Guerin
Producer Michaela Coventry - Sage Arts
Lighting Design Bosco Shaw
Music Oren Ambarchi

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Everyone has had the shocking experience...

of hearing their parents' voices issuing unbidden from their own mouths. In *Two Jews walk into a theatre...* Brian Lipson and Gideon Obarzanek examine and expand this phenomenon. Although they never cease to be themselves they present their fathers with all the intimacy, understanding and horror that only a son can supply.

It is probably a good thing that Zenek Obarzanek and Laurence Lipson never met in real life, but the fictional meeting of these two irascible old men makes for entertaining and provocative theatre. Their disagreements and affinities are intense and range from the domestic to the global.

This dramatic experiment is a challenging departure for three of the most adventurous and experienced performance makers working in Melbourne today. The result is deceptively simple and subtly affecting. It is also packed with surprise.

The bulk of my professional experience has been as a choreographer behind the scenes; and for Brian as an actor on stage and screen. I can't remember lines and after many years of doing so, Brian hates learning them. So in this performance there is no script, just a complex game guided by prompts and played to rules.

When we began the objective seemed obvious – play our fathers. I mean, who knows them better than us? And of course we've already had a lifetime of experience imitating them in jest... but, and beginning with the three words with which my father starts most sentences, 'The truth is...'; I see my parents through a very narrow, often solipsistic lens. This show is in fact about Brian and me, impersonating our fathers in an attempt to step out of ourselves and make sense of our own memories and perceptions.

Gideon Obarzanek

During the course of a 2011 fellowship I elected to work with 25 different artists with a completely open brief for one week each. One of those artists was Gideon Obarzanek. During my week with Gideon we hit upon the idea of having a conversation as our fathers. We found the experience both liberating and shocking, and that improvisation forms the basis of this show.

Over the last five years our understanding of the four men involved (or six if we count our grandfathers) has developed in ways that would not have been possible otherwise. It's been hard work but it's been fun. I would recommend this form of therapy to anyone.

Brian Lipson

GIDEON OBARZANEK Devisor and Performer

Gideon Obarzanek is an award-winning director, choreographer and performing arts curator. He is the former Artistic Director of **Chunky Move**, a company he founded in 1995. His works have been diverse in form and content – stage productions, installations, site-specific works and film – and have been performed in many festivals and theatres around the world in the U.K, Europe, Asia and the Americas. In 2013 Gideon was a resident artist at the Sydney Theatre Company, where he wrote and directed *I Want to Dance Better at Parties*. He later co-wrote and directed a documentary screen version with Mathew Bate, winning the 2014 Sydney Film Festival Dendy Award. Gideon is a recipient of an Australian Creative Fellowship working with theatre, dance and documentary filmmakers to develop projects with simultaneous live and screen outcomes. Recently Gideon has worked as Artistic Associate with the Melbourne Festival, co-curator for the inaugural Asian Pacific Triennial of Performing Arts and Chair of the Melbourne Fringe Festival.

BRIAN LIPSON Devisor and Performer

Brian Lipson is an actor, director, designer, writer and teacher. He has been working in theatre for 50 years. Brian grew up, and studied Theatre Design, in London. He designed for Lindsay Kemp and Ballet Rambert, and in the 1970s and 80s was a key member of three important English experimental companies. He later acted regularly at The National Theatre, Old Vic and Royal Court, before moving to Melbourne in 1997. He has worked with nearly all the major theatre companies in Australia – from state theatres to the most adventurous independent companies. His work includes his solo shows *A Large Attendance in the Antechamber* and *Edmund. The Beginning* (both of which he wrote, designed and performed). He was made an Australia Council Fellow in 2011.

LUCY GUERIN Director & Choreographer

Born in Adelaide, Lucy Guerin graduated from the Centre for Performing Arts in 1982 before joining the companies of Dance Exchange and Danceworks. She moved to New York in 1989 for seven years where she began to produce her first choreographic works. In 2002, she established Lucy Guerin Inc in Melbourne to support the development, creation and touring of new dance works. Recent creations include *The Dark Chorus* (2016), *Split* (2017) and *Attractor* (2017). Her latest work *Make Your Own World* premieres in Dance Massive in March 2019. Guerin has toured her work extensively and has been commissioned by Mikhail Baryshnikov's White Oak Dance Project (USA), Lyon Opera Ballet (France) and Rambert (UK) among many others.

BOSCO SHAW Lighting Designer

Bosco Shaw works primarily as a Lighting and Set Designer. His interest is in work that involves bodies and movement, how light feeds and influences the performing space and collaborations that propose alternate light sources and means. He works with Paul Lim and Tom Wright as Additive, a collaborative lighting design company. He has recently worked on design projects for Dance North, Chamber Made Opera, Mona Foma, Dark Mofo, Chunky Move, Stephanie Lake, Nicola Gunn and Antony Hamilton.