

SYNOPSIS

Caught in the Middle is inspired by the lived experiences of Indigenous artists Heath Bergersen, Elle Sofe Henriksen, Sara Marielle Gaup and Ánne Mággá Wigelius and urges us all to consider our own identity and our connection to First Nations people.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

The older I get, the more aware I am and the more outraged I am by the injustices I see around me.

Caught in the Middle is a project born out of a desire to learn more about my own history as a white Australian and to find parallels with other Indigenous cultures on the other side of the world. I am indebted to the artists involved for their generosity and willingness to explore confronting and complex principles.

Collectively, we tried to approach the work with curiosity, empathy and respect. Caught in the Middle is a true collaboration where the voices of each artist involved have been integral in the creation of the work.

I would like to acknowledge the guidance and support I have received from Aboriginal mentors : Richard J Frankland, Josie Boyle, Kutcha Edwards and Heath Bergersen. I am also immeasurably grateful for the generosity of Sámi mentors : Elle Sofe Henriksen, Sara Marielle Gaup and Ánne Mággá Wigelius.

This work would not have been realised without a leap of faith and the unwavering support from Susanne Næss Nielsen (Dansearena Nord) and Birgit Berndt (Norrlandsoperan).

Kate Denborough

CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE



Photography: Alison Laird

Concept and Direction: Kate Denborough

Performers: Heath Bergersen, Elle Evangelista, Timothy Ohl, Eirik Fuglesteg Luksengard, Ánne Mággá Wigelius

Musicians: Arvvas - Sara Marielle Gaup and Steinar Raknes

Original Composition: Steinar Raknes

Costumes: Kajsa Kvernmo

Technical Director and Lighting Designer: Martina Olsson

Sámi Consultant and Mentor: Elle Sofe Henriksen

Aboriginal Consultant and Mentor: Josie Boyle

TOURING IN 2018

March 3 Norrlandsoperan Umeå, Sweden

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March 8 Sotku Theatre, Kuopio, Finland

March 12 Harstad Kulturus, Harstad, Norway

March 14 Istindsportalen, Måslev, Norway

March 15 and 16 Finnsnes Kulturus, Finnsnes, Norway

March 18 Arctic Cultural Centre, Hammerfest, Norway

March 20 Alta Kulturus, Alta, Norway

March 22 Rikesscenen, Oslo, Norway

Director: KATE DENBOROUGH

Kate is recognised as one of Australia's foremost choreographers and directors of dance-theatre. She is an award-winning creator of original performances, which integrate the mediums of dance, theatre and visual artistry. In 1997 she co-founded KAGE with Gerard Van Dyck. As the Artistic Director of KAGE, Kate has devised, directed and/or performed in all the Company's works. Kate has choreographed new work for Australian Dance Theatre, Chunky Move and Tasdance. Many of her works have won industry awards and national and international recognition. In 2013 Kate was recognised in The Australian Financial Review and Westpac Group 100 Women of Influence Awards.

Performer: HEATH BERGERSEN

Heath was born in Derby, Western Australia. He is an actor and musician and has appeared in a variety of film, theatre and television performances. Heath's film credits include ReFraction (2017), Rabbit-Proof Fence (2002), In the Air (2012), My Past My Present (2008) and for television; Secret River (2014), History of the World (2012), Australia on Trial (2011), Wild Boys (2011), Mabo (2011) and Breakers (1997-99). While still in his teens he shared the role of Willy in the Black Swan Theatre Company production of Bran Nue Day (1993). Heath has played the didgeridoo in bands and for numerous local and international functions.

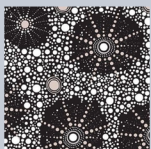
Performer: ELLE EVANGELISTA

Prior to completing her Bachelor of Arts from WAAPA in 2013, Elle completed a Bachelor of Arts (English) from UWA, 2010. Professional credits include: ensemble member in The King and I (Opera Australia and GFO), Ghenoa Gela's work Fragments of Malungoka - Women of the Sea, which won the 2016 Keir Choreographic Award, Nick Cave's HEARD-SYD and artist in residence at Shopfront. Elle has a strong interest in integrated arts practices and has facilitated and assisted in workshops, company classes and creative settings for Force Majeure, Studio Artes, DirtyFeet and as participant in the Catalyst Dance Program.

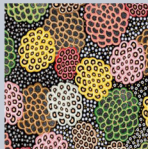
Performer: EIRIK FUGLESTEG LUKSENGARD

Eirik was born and raised in Ål in Hallingdal, Norway. He has danced for 13 years and professionally for 9 years, specialising in traditional Norwegian folk dance. He has worked regularly as an actor for children's theatre Klatremus and the other animals in Hakkebakkeskogen and has played the roles of Morten Skogmus and Klatremus. In 2008, he undertook 2 years of training and mentorship with the dance company Frikar. After that he toured with the company with performances KRUK, The Snuff Grinders and with Alexander Rybakk. Eirik is a member of the dance company Kartellet. He will recently perform in their show Doppler. With all of these performances he has danced around Norway including at the Norwegian Opera and various venues in Europe.

The costumes in Caught In The Middle proudly feature printed art by indigenous Australian artists:



Seven Sisters
MARLENE DOOLAN



Dancing Flowers
JUNE SMITH



Bush Melon
BETTY MBITJANA

Performer: TIMOTHY OHL

Timothy is an accomplished actor, dancer, acrobat, singer and writer with over 16 years experience devising original physical theatre in collaboration with companies including KAGE, Force Majeure, Legs on the Wall, Chunky Move, Lucy Guerin Inc., Shaun Parker & Company, Stalker and choreographer Meryl Tankard. Timothy has been writing and performing his own work since 2006, receiving rave reviews for his satire fuelled solo Jack for Sydney Opera House's IOU series, the beat making Squid Dreams and the darkly humorous Naked Habit. Most recently, his show King TV debuted, to great accolade at the 2016 Sydney Comedy Festival.

Performer: ÁNNE MÁGGÁ WIGELIUS

Ánne Mággá is an actress, singer and performing artist. She debuted in the film Kautokeinoopprøret directed by Nils Gaup, and has worked with theater, film and television since. Ánne was part of Philippe Genty's Company in the stage production Ne M'oubliez Pas (Forget Me Not), a very successful performance in Europe and Asia. It was nominated for a Theatre du Palmarés Award in France twice, during the «Prix du Spectacle Public» in 2013 and «Molière de la Création Visuelle» in 2014. In Spring 2017, Ánne starred in TV3's series Elven, and fall 2017 she will appear in NRK's series Monster directed by Anne Sewitsky and Pål Jackman.

Performer: STEINAR RAKNES

Steinar is one of Norway's foremost jazz bassists, vocalists and songwriters. With his fearless and explosive musical style, he is (as a bass player) often compared with the legendary Charles Mingus, and (as a singer) compared with artists such as Tom Waits and Bruce Springsteen. Many know Raknes for his collaborations with artists such as Chick Corea, Michael Brecker, Bobby McFerrin, Ola Kvernberg, Bill Payne and Kim Wilson. After completing a Master of Arts (music) degree in jazz at NTNU in 2001, he has collaborated in a number of Norwegian jazz-bands and has toured the world with his music. Steinar plays in Arvvas with Sara Marielle Gaup.

Performer: SARA MARIELLE GAUP

Sara Marielle is a Sámi joiker from the reindeer-herding community of Guovdageaidnu in Finnmark County, northern Norway. Born into a family of skilful joikers, she is best known for her work with Adjágas, the acclaimed Sámi band who blend joik with various contemporary influences. Sara Marielle plays with Steinar Raknes in Arvvas.

Sámi Mentor and Consultant: ELLE SOFE HENRIKSEN

Elle Sofe is from Guovdageaidnu/ Kautokeino, Norway. Elle Sofe works with dance, choreography and film. Elle Sofe is engaged in presenting Sámi expressions from an insider's perspective to a wider audience through dance and film. She has a Masters degree in choreography from Oslo National Academy of the Arts and a BA in Dance at the Laban School in London. Her dance performances Jorggáhallan and Beatnaga ii galgga gulgii geahččat have toured nationally and internationally to excellent reviews.

Thankyous:

Sigurd Johan Heide, Jørgen Knudsen, Jo Stømgren, Bronwyn Goss, Clare McKenzie, Simone Schinkel, Gerard Van Dyck, Gordon Wilson.

Special thanks to: Susanne Næss Nielsen, Birgit Berndt, Linda Wiklund.

KAGE Board: Fabienne Michaux, Hugh Crosthwaite, Sarah Connelly, Carol Benson, Jayne Lovelock.