

Media Release

Inert

How close is too close?

A performance installation by: **Simon Ellis (performance/choreography)**
David Corbet (sound/audio composition)
Scott Mitchell (sculpture/design)
Cormac Lally (videography)
Shannon Bott (performance/choreography)

- **10–13 & 17-21 May 2006**
- **Dancehouse, 150 Princes St, North Carlton VIC 3054 AUSTRALIA**
- **Tickets: \$20**
- **Entry is by booking only: 03 9347 2860 or info@dancehouse.com.au**
- **There are multiple performance times; please visit www.skellis.net/Inert for details.**

Inert is a new performance work by choreographer Simon Ellis, with visual artist Scott Mitchell, sound designer David Corbet, videographer Cormac Lally and choreographer/performer Shannon Bott. It is a short work – approximately 20 minutes long – in which the audience is taken on a sort of *performance ride*: an intimate tour of the (micro)worlds of two people; a psychological game whereby the two viewers, located in a rich sensory world that occurs both *to* and *at* them, are unusually accountable for how they relate to the performers.

The work hovers around themes of helplessness and communication both within and outside of love: How much of our conversations are heard by the other? Do they hear what we expect them to listen to? How can we know? What are we able to glimpse in the other that is not shared, and that is unspoken. *Inert* aspires to enable the viewer to *retreat* (or be lowered) into intimacy; to be caught in a complex matrix of possibilities and events, in which their helplessness as a viewer is mirrored and heightened by a pervasive sense of inertia and uncertainty in the words and actions of the performers. Indeed *Inert* offers an exaggerated experience in *passivity* – a kind of antidote to interactivity, that is more focused on an intensely personal dance performance/installation experience – an *intraactive* environment?

Two performers.

Two viewers.

Love in two parts.

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Inert is presented in association with Dancehouse, and has support from Arts Victoria and The University of Northampton.

www.skellis.net/Inert

Artists

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Simon Ellis – choreography & performance

Simon is an independent performance maker, performer and teacher with a practice encompassing a range of forms founded on dance and choreographic traditions. These have included site-specific investigations, videoDance, and more conventional black box works. Recent choreographies include *Full* (2001), *Lying* (2002), *Indelible* (2003), *Sleep. Wake. Dream* (2004, developed as part of an Asialink Residency in Malaysia), *A Little Dance* (2005) and *Portrait* (2006). As a performer Simon has worked with, among others, Douglas Wright, Anna Smith, Shaun McLeod, Jude Walton, Shannon Bott, Tony Yap and Bagryana Popov.

David Corbet – audio design & sound composition

David is a multidisciplinary artist who has been working in the performing arts since 1990. He has developed and created work as a musician, composer, dancer, choreographer, director and editor, and has worked regularly with choreographers Rosalind Crisp, Paul Romano, Simon Ellis, and Shaun McLeod, both as a dancer and a composer/musician. In the last few years he has had collaborative residencies in Antwerp and Berlin with Rosalind Crisp, lived as an angel for 10 days on the Victorian Arts Centre spire as part of Colony, and convinced 10 men to dance/improvise for the Melbourne International Arts Festival as The Boys.

Scott Mitchell – sculpture & design

Scott's art practice is the site of an ongoing investigation into perception. He sees this as a pre-personal and communal engagement with perception, and the work seeks a dialogue with social forces, which often result in collaborative or group projects. The focal point for his practice is the role of the object in perception. The term sculpture provides a useful orientation to Scott's practice but the work also extends into domains such as video installation, performance and most recently industrial design.

Cormac Lally – videography

Cormac is a Melbourne based visual artist/filmmaker as well as a freelance editor and director of photography. He has filmed and edited numerous projects for David Rosetsky, including *Maniac Deluxe*, which was part of the Australia Now exhibition at ACMI. Selected freelance cinematography and editing credits include: *Solvent* (2004, David Rostesky), *Untouchable* (2003, David Rosetsky), *Plasticine Park* (2003, David Rostesky/Lucy Guerin), *Pulse* (2002), and *Chamber* (2001, Shaun McLeod).

Shannon Bott – performance & choreography

Shannon's artistic practice involves dance, theatre, visual/media arts, and music. She has performed for companies such as Loaded, and Fieldworks Performance Group, and has worked and/or collaborated with independent artists including Simon Ellis, Lucy Guerin, Sue Peacock, Claudia Alessi, Chrissie Parrott, and Sally Richardson. In 2004 Shannon undertook the development of *Racket* and worked with Kage on *A Momentary Myth*. In June/July 2004, she created and presented *The Drift* at Clubs Project Inc. Shannon performed in Jude Walton's *No Hope No Reason*, and late in 2004 performed *Lost Air* at the Artrage Festival in Perth, Western Australia; a solo choreographic work created for her by Lucy Guerin. Most recently, Shannon developed a short work for Natalie Cursio's *Album Project*, and performed in *The Drover's Wives* as part of the 2006 Perth Festival.