

Image: Alex Efrimoff



Borderline Arts Ensemble | Aotearoa/New Zealand

Strasbourg 1518

Creative team

**Director and
Choreographer**
Lucy Marinkovich

Writer and Composer
Lucien Johnson

Production Design
Lucy Marinkovich

Lighting Design
Marcus McShane

Costume Design
Lucy Marinkovich
Lauren Hooper
Poppy Serano

Set Design
Poppy Serano

Note: *Contains nudity.*

*Commissioned by New Zealand Festival of the Arts.
Supported by Creative New Zealand, Wellington City
Council, Wallace Arts Trust, Wellesley Studios, The University
of Auckland Dance Studies program, Wellington Community
Trust and the Australian High Commission.*

Please make sure your mobile phone is turned off. Latecomers will only be seated during an appropriate break. Strictly no readmittance. Taking photographs and using a recording device at any Festival performance are strictly forbidden. Ticket holders consent to be filmed as part of the audience. The information in this programme is correct at the time of publication. The Festival reserves the right to alter, without notice, events, programmes and artists.

Tell us what you think of the show

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Cast

The Rational Man
France Hervé

The Choreomaniacs
Jana Castillo
Sean MacDonald
Xin Ji
Katie Rudd
Emmanuelle Reynaud
Hannah Tasker-Poland

The Musician
Lucien Johnson

The Maiden
Lucy Marinkovich

Death
Michael Parmenter

Community Chorus

Community Coordinator
Verity Schommer

Preshow performers
Luisa Beltran-Castillon
Janet Campbell
Shereen Capper
Pauline Clarke
Tony Clarke
Francine Corhumel
Nicola Davies
Phil Edgar
Sumara Fraser
Anna Groves ten Broeke
Rachel Horwell
Maria Alice Iles
Genia Ishanina
Brian Johns
Kat Kellie
Louise Kotze
Dorata Kurzawinska
Elaine Little
Inge Mautz-Cooreman
Keith McLeod
Sam Marshall
Rebecca Martin
Liora Noy
Jaimee Ramage
Ingo Schommer
Verity Schommer
Anna Sheffield
Nicole Stanton
Rob ten Broeke
Nathan Williams

Thu 12 Mar-Sat 14 Mar,
6.30pm
Sun 15 Mar, 4pm

Circa Theatre

1hr 10mins

Artist Talk
Post-show, Sat 14 Mar
Circa Theatre
Facilitated by Yadana Saw

Partnered by:

BALANCED ∞
INVESTMENTS

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New Zealand
Festival OF THE ARTS

21 Feb – 15 Mar 2020

Makers' Notes

Historically, acts of rebellion can generally be placed into two camps. The bloodthirsty, violent lacerations of the French or Bolshevik revolutions, full of acts of revenge, fear and oppression, from which a nation state can take decades, if not centuries, to recover. Alternatively, and subsequently championed by media and authorities for whom it is in reality much less of a direct threat, the art of passive resistance, of sit-ins and hunger strikes, which take decades if not centuries to succeed and require the complicity of popular opinion.

The story of *Strasbourg 1518* represents a third method, one which is neither violent nor passive in outlook. When Frau Troffea walked out of her home in 1518 and began to dance it was an act of rebellion. However unconscious it may have been, it was a political gesture, rallying against the oppression of the poor, the disease and the hunger, the violence of the patriarchy, against working-class women in particular. But it was also an act of artistic expression. Art, which began as an act of political uprising but then became something even more powerful as the trance took hold of the city. Art as exploration. Art as self-realisation. Art as a communion with others and with nature. Art as regeneration.

Many have researched and written about the 'dancing plagues'. They have focussed on the events as a form of 'disease', 'hysteria', and 'psychogenic illness' which even took the lives of some, it is said. They have sought rational explanations to explain away the mystery of the phenomena. Few, if any, have attempted to see what the dance was from inside. Our aim with this piece is to begin to show this story. In a time of similar societal distress and multiple looming crises, it is clear that politicians do not have the power to be as transformational as they would like. Like Frau Troffea, our revolution begins with art.

Lucy Marinkovich and Lucien Johnson

Lucy and Lucien would like to acknowledge the artistic contributions of Borderline's cast, collaborators and designers in the creation of *Strasbourg 1518*.

Biographies



Lucy Marinkovich CHOREOGRAPHER AND DIRECTOR

Lucy Marinkovich is a New Zealand-based contemporary dancer and choreographer. As a performer, Lucy has worked with New Zealand's elite contemporary dance companies such as Footnote Dance Company, New Zealand Dance Company and Movement of the Human, and was a dance educator for the Royal New Zealand Ballet. Her dancing has been described by critics as "mesmerising...completely captivating. She attacks her role with incredible energy, focus and a real presence" (*Theatreview*). Her choreographic work, notably the dance-theatre productions she has created with her company Borderline Arts Ensemble, investigate the realm of the subconscious, positioning the performer as an intermediary between dreams and reality.



Lucien Johnson WRITER AND COMPOSER

Lucien Johnson has been described as "a saxophonist and composer of rare excellence and mettle" (Wellington Jazz Festival). His iconoclastic musical style is distinctive for its lack of adherence to existing formulas and defiance of genre categorisation. Although rooted in the free jazz of the 1960s and 70s, Lucien has forged an intuitive path through the European free improvisation scene through to research into various African musical genres alongside fully composed piano music and composition for theatre and dance. As saxophonist or composer, Johnson typically takes a post-impressionist approach to sonic exploration, which is often underpinned by an affinity for rhythms derived from various traditional sources.