

Rewards for the Tribe



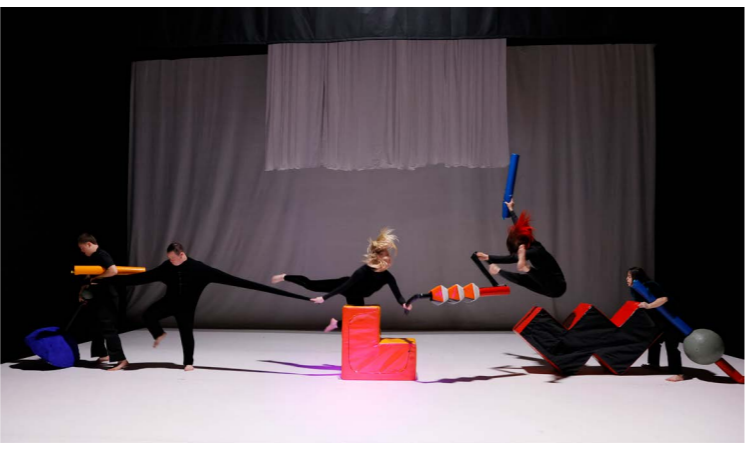
**CHUNKY
MOVE**
restless
DANCE THEATRE

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About the work

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Rewards for the Tribe is an ambitious collaborative dance work for performers with and without disability by Chunky Move (Melbourne) and Restless Dance Theatre (Adelaide).

Rewards for the Tribe plays off notions of idealism in art history, asking, Is there such a thing as utopia by design? Mondrian's 20th century minimalist Colour Composition Series and Da Vinci's Vitruvian Man represent different moments of epiphany in art. In their own way, each represent a utopian ideal that places perfect geometry as a symbol of the divine, channelled through human creativity and intellect. But this presents an impossible archetype to measure the body against. The real world is wonky and filled with irregular non-geometric forms and bodies that are soft and fleshy.

In Rewards for the Tribe, images of so-called perfection collapse, bend and crumple in an unpredictable dance between humans and pliable objects. Choreographed and directed by Chunky Move Artistic Director Antony Hamilton, the work features whimsical set and costume elements by Jonathon Oxlade, a sound design by Aviva Endean that incorporates the unique expressive voices of the dancers, and a nostalgic and understated minimal lighting design by Jenny Hector.

Performers (Jianna Georgiou, Michael Hodyl & Charlie Wilkins from Restless and Cody Lavery & Benjamin Hancock from Chunky Move) explore the complicated relationship between humans and the material world via a stage environment that is both ambiguous and uncompromising. What is revealed as the world around the performers twist and warp, is the need for collaboration, for creativity and for the time-honoured ritual of image making to create a meaningful reality.

Rewards for the Tribe has been co-commissioned by Warwick Arts Centre and Coventry UK City of Culture, who will present the work in the UK in October 2022. First dreamt up in 2018, and with many COVID-19 delays to development along the way, it has been a labour of love for Chunky Move and Restless Dance Theatre to collectively carry this project to this point. The two companies' commitment to work in these unprecedented times is a testament to the importance of representation and diversity on stage.

A documentary about the creation of Rewards for the Tribe is being created by esteemed production company Film Camp.

Photos by Jeff Busby and Roy Vandervegt.

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Creative team

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About Chunky Move

Chunky Move was established in 1995 and as Victoria's flagship contemporary dance company, is one of the most influential arts organisations in Australia. Under the creative leadership of Artistic Director, Antony Hamilton, Chunky Move creates bold, visually striking, and genre-defying dance works that merge the body with other artistic mediums. Chunky Move's works interact with varied spaces and presentation contexts and are underpinned by an ethos of collaboration and experimentation. Artists and audiences are at the heart of our company, and our partnerships and projects, expressed through a program of major works, commissions, residencies, workshops and public classes, aim to increase the visibility of contemporary dance as an everyday artform.

About Restless Dance Theatre

Restless Dance Theatre is Australia's leading creator and collaborator of dance theatre by dancers with and without disability. Led by Artistic Director Michelle Ryan, an award-winning artist with disability, Restless creates loud, strong, and original dance theatre nationally and internationally. The work is collaboratively devised, inclusive and informed by disability. Our artists invigorate, influence, and diversify Australian dance. Restless brings artists with diverse minds, bodies, and imaginations together to create contemporary dance theatre from everyday lived experiences; manifested into beautiful art, embedding inclusion into our screens, on our stages and in unexpected places. Restless Dance Theatre is a place where diversity is celebrated, and all artists thrive creatively.

Concept, Direction & Choreography	Antony Hamilton
Performers	Jianna Georgiou, Benjamin Hancock, Michael Hodyl, Cody Lavery, Charlie Wilkins
Understudies	Darcy Carpenter and Caitlin Mewett
Creative Contributor	Chris Dyke
Sound Designer & Composer	Aviva Endean
Set & Costume Designer	Jonathon Oxlade
Lighting Designer	Jenny Hector
Rehearsal Director	Larissa McGowan
Support Worker	Emma Stokes
Production Manager	Blair Hart
Lighting Operator	Siobhain Geaney
Producer	Kristina Arnott
Executive Director & Co-CEO, Chunky Move	Kristy Ayre

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Marketing information

Copy

For millennia, artists have strived to articulate the human experience in divine forms. Images of 'perfection' are everywhere. But we live in an imperfect world full of unpredictability and wonky angles.

In Rewards for the Tribe, two of the country's most influential and innovative dance companies Chunky Move and Restless Dance Theatre, collaborate for the first time. Together they ask, "is there such a thing as utopia by design?"

Five dancers, with and without disability, wrestle with the archetypes of divine geometry laid out by the Old Masters. Together they bend, crumple and reorganise a Mondrian-inspired whimsical objects, that both reference and topple idealistic modernist forms. Rewards for the Tribe celebrates the imaginations of artists while embracing life's exquisite chaos.

Duration

Approx. 60 minutes

Media

"A brilliant piece of contemporary dance that speaks to the audience on many levels." – 4.5 stars, [Glam Adelaide](#)

"Rather than striving for impossible perfection, the work seems to say, true satisfaction lies in embracing all the messy absurdity of existence – a simple enough proposition, embodied here joyfully and beautifully." – 4 stars, [ArtsHub](#)

"This production clearly fulfils choreographer Antony Hamilton's agenda to create images that help make sense of a wonky world." – 4.5 stars, [Limelight Magazine](#)

"Endean's score is particularly remarkable, circling through delicate and diverse sound palettes that, refreshingly, depart from contemporary dance's ubiquitous, industrial throb and pulse templates." – [The Australian](#)

Images

Hero imagery: [Dropbox](#)
Development images: [Dropbox](#)
Production images: [Dropbox](#)

Video

Documentation of 2022 RISING season (full length): [Vimeo](#)
Documentation of 2022 RISING season (highlights): [Vimeo](#)
Trailers by NON Studio: [Dropbox](#)
Documentation of 2020 in-studio / virtual creative development: [Vimeo](#)

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Websites/socials

Chunky Move website: www.chunkymove.com.au
Chunky Move Instagram: [@chunkymove](https://www.instagram.com/chunkymove)
Chunky Move Facebook: [@CHUNKYMOVE](https://www.facebook.com/CHUNKYMOVE)
Chunky Move Twitter: [@ChunkyMove](https://twitter.com/ChunkyMove)

Restless Dance Theatre website: www.restlessdance.org
Restless Dance Theatre Instagram: [@restless_dance_theatre](https://www.instagram.com/restless_dance_theatre)
Restless Dance Theatre Facebook: [@RestlessDanceTheatre](https://www.facebook.com/RestlessDanceTheatre)

Marketing summary

Rewards for the Tribe is suitable for audiences of all ages. The playful/absurd choreographic language and whimsical costumes and set design engage audiences with minimal exposure to contemporary dance, while regular dance audiences appreciate Hamilton's carefully composed choreography and the dancers' skill in manipulating their environment.

The world premiere audience at RISING was predominantly female, aged 35-44 years, and the majority had attended contemporary dance before. 14% of audience members identified as being disabled and/or neurodivergent, a notable increase from previous Chunky Move audiences. Rewards for the Tribe has large potential to reach disability communities through outreach, representative marketing materials and programming of relaxed performances, sign interpretation and audio description.

"I attended this show with my young daughter who has Down syndrome. I loved the show, and my daughter was transfixed the entire time. It was powerful for her to see dancers with Down syndrome. It was an utterly validating experience, as both a creative and a social event." – Audience feedback.

Additionally, the work has strong potential to reach a large audience by leveraging the reputations of the two collaborating companies. Chunky Move has built an enviable international profile, presenting ground-breaking dance works that have provided global audiences with a sophisticated experience of Australian contemporary dance. Restless Dance Theatre are known for creating inclusive and uninhibited dance theatre, and as Australia's leading dance theatre company working with artists with and without disability have created a body of outstanding dance theatre works over their 30-year history.

In parallel to the creation of Rewards for the Tribe, a documentary crew, led by esteemed film production company Film Camp, has been capturing the development of the work to record this unique collaboration during its creation in Melbourne and Adelaide. This film will be presented on its own or as part of a program of materials alongside the work to help audiences gain deeper insight into the creative process undertaken to make the work.

Should COVID-19 present issues with in-person realisation of the work, the documentary and the filmed performance could be presented in screenings alongside live streamed artists talks or workshops. Associated workshops may be programmed for local artists with and without disability, to be led by Restless Dance Theatre Artistic Director Michelle Ryan and/or Chunky Move Artistic Director Antony Hamilton.

Artist biographies

Antony Hamilton

Antony Hamilton was appointed Artistic Director and co-CEO of Chunky Move in 2019, and his connection to the company goes back more than 17 years. His acclaimed works involve a sophisticated melding of movement, sound, and visual design, and are underpinned by an examination of the body that is at once primitive, contemporary and future bound. Antony has received prestigious fellowships from Bangarra Dance Theatre, the Tanja Liedtke Foundation, the Australia Council for the Arts and the Sidney Myer Foundation. He has won numerous Green Room Awards and a New York Performing Arts Award ‘Bessie’ for Outstanding Production for MEETING.

Aviva Endean

Aviva Endean is a sound artist, clarinetist, improviser, curator, and collaborator on interdisciplinary projects. Her practice is dedicated to fostering a deep engagement with (and care for) sound and music, with the hope that attentive listening can connect people with each other and their environment. As a performance maker, Aviva curates new experiences with sound by creating unusual, spatially engaged, and participatory contexts for listening. Her work has been shown at Dark MOFO, MONA FOMA, Darwin Festival, BIFEM, Sydney Contemporary Art Fair and Liquid Architecture. Aviva is the recipient of numerous awards including the prestigious Freedman Fellowship, The APRA/AMCOS Art Music Fund, and the Peggy Glaville Hicks composers residency.

Jonathon Oxlade

Jonathon Oxlade is a multi-award winning Australian Film and Theatre Designer. He studied Illustration and Sculpture at the Queensland College of Art. He has designed sets, costumes and spaces for Queensland Theatre, Guesswork TV, LaBoite Theatre, Is This Yours?, Aphids, Arena Theatre Company, The Real TV Project, Polytoxic, Men of Steel, Lemony S Puppet Theatre, Terrapin Puppet Theatre, Vitalstatistix, Barking Gecko, Bell Shakespeare, Red Moon Theatre Co, The Border Project, The Last Great Hunt, Stan TV, State Theatre of South Australia, Sydney Theatre Company, The Escapists, Sandpit, Sydney Opera House, Asia TOPA, Adelaide Festival, The Brisbane Festival, The Malthouse, Performance Space, Queensland Art Gallery, Melbourne Theatre Company, Belvoir Street and Windmill Theatre Co, where he is currently Resident Designer.

Jenny Hector

Since graduating from The Victorian College of the Arts in 1992, Jenny has developed a strong design aesthetic driven by her collaborations and the spaces they find themselves in. Her work as a lighting and set designer has been experienced nationally and internationally, most recently with Kamila Andini’s The Seen and The Unseen for Asia TOPA (Jakarta, Singapore and Melbourne), Sydney Chamber Opera’s The Howling Girls for Tokyo Festival World Competition 2019 and X-Risk, Kuopio Finland, collaborating with Madeleine Flynn, Tim Humphrey, Pekka Mäkinen, and Johanna Tuukkanen. Jenny is the recipient of two Green Room Awards, for Balletlab’s Miracle and Jenny Kemp’s Madeleine, and received the 2016 Award for Technical Achievement.

Jianna Georgiou (Restless Dance Theatre)

Since joining Restless Dance Theatre in 2006, Jianna Georgiou has been a dancer, choreographer and tutor. She has been involved in all major productions, films and tours, including Necessary Games, Intimate Space, Zizanie, Seeing Through Darkness and Guttered. She was the inaugural South Australian recipient of the Creative Young Stars Program and also received a 2013 JUMP Mentorship through the Australia Council. Jianna travelled to the UK in 2019 as part of the creative exploration of Rewards for the Tribe, working with Antony Hamilton and with dancers from Chunky Move and Candoco Dance Company. In 2020 Jianna received the prestigious South Australian Ruby Award.

Benjamin Hancock (Chunky Move)

Benjamin Hancock is a Melbourne dancer and choreographer, who graduated from the Victorian College of the Arts (VCA) in 2008 with a Bachelor of Dance. Benjamin is a prolific solo performer, having presented his award-winning work as a contemporary dancer and performance artist within Australia and the USA. He has presented solo work through programs at Chunky Move, Lucy Guerin Inc, and Mona Gallery & New Orleans Biennial (USA) among others. Benjamin recently received an Australian Dance Award, a Green Room Award and a Helpmann Award Nomination for Outstanding Male Dancer. Benjamin is also an acclaimed performance artist in drag cabaret and club venues and has been a core member of drag cabaret ensemble YUMMY since 2015.

Michael Hodyl (Restless Dance Theatre)

Michael joined Restless Dance Theatre in 2013, and has appeared both on stage and film in ten major productions, including Intimate Space, Creating the Spectacle, Seeing Through Darkness and Guttered . Michael has toured nationally and internationally with the company and is a regular member of the tutor team. In 2019 Michael performed in Meryl Tankard’s Zizanie for the Adelaide Festival, and travelled to the UK, where he worked with Antony Hamilton, Chunky Move and Candoco on a creative exploration of Rewards for the Tribe. Later that year he also performed Intimate Space in Seoul, South Korea.

Cody Lavery (Chunky Move)

Cody Lavery studied at Sydney Dance Company’s Pre-Professional Year in 2016 & 2017, under the guidance of Linda Gamblin and Shane Carroll. In 2018, Cody worked on a restaging of Merce Cunningham’s Travelogueat the New York City Centre. She also began developing Sara Black’s Double Beat as part of Dirty Feet’s Out of the Studio and Antony Hamilton’s Universal Estate, which premiered at Dance Massive in 2019. Cody then began collaborating with Tasdance on an interactive dance work Trolls, directed by Adam Wheeler. Throughout 2019 and 2020, Cody has worked with Chunky Move in collaboration with Restless Dance Theatre to develop Rewards for the Tribe.

Charlie Wilkins (Restless Dance Theatre)

Charlie joined Restless Dance Theatre in 2017 and performed in Creating the Spectacle for the 2018 Adelaide Film Festival. Since becoming a Company dancer in 2020, he has performed in Seeing Through Darkness, Guttered and Ecoute Pour Voir – Listen to See. He is currently involved in Restless’ upcoming work Exposed, directed by Michelle Ryan.

Project supporters

Acknowledgements

Created by Antony Hamilton, Rewards for the Tribe is a co-production between Chunky Move and Restless Dance Theatre.

Rewards for the Tribe is commissioned by Warwick Arts Centre and Coventry UK City of Culture.

Rewards for the Tribe is supported by the Australia Council for the Arts, Creative Victoria, Arts South Australia, the Restart Investment to Sustain and Expand (RISE) Fund – an Australian Government initiative, the Australian Government as part of the UK/Australia Season, University of Warwick, the City of Melbourne through its Arts and Creative Investment Partnership Program, the Besen Family Foundation, the Alexander & Lloyd Martin Family Foundation, the James and Diana Ramsay Foundation, and by Supercell: Festival of Contemporary Dance and HOTA Home of the Arts through The Makers Program.

Logos can be downloaded here: <https://bit.ly/3HbtaWL>

