

ARTS HOUSE, NOT YET IT'S DIFFICULT  
& WUTURI PRESENT

NOT YET IT'S DIFFICULT & WUTURI  
(AUSTRALIA/KOREA)

AMPERS&ND

STAGING A PROCESS OF DISCOVERY

## ARTS HOUSE

ARTS HOUSE,  
NORTH MELBOURNE TOWN HALL

FRI 4 MAY 2012

DURATION: 70 minutes

### ENSEMBLE

Director: **David Pledger**

Performers: **Todd Macdonald, Sang Won Seo, Richard Haynes, Carlee Mellow, Inhsung Song, Tristram Williams, Judith Hamann**

Producers: **Lydia Teychenne, Claire Sung**

[www.notyet.com.au](http://www.notyet.com.au)

[www.wuturi.com](http://www.wuturi.com)

This project has been supported by Connection Box, the Korea-Australia Initiative, a partnership between the Australia Council for the Arts and the Korea Arts Management Service. Also supported by the City of Melbourne through Arts House.

Image: **Todd Macdonald**

### ARTISTIC NOTE

In **AMPERS&ND**, we are trying to develop a new mode of communication in which the act of transferring physical and musical information between performers and musicians is visceral, articulate and affecting, and which provides meaning to both the artists and the audience. Progressing through the current research and development stages we are looking to create a new, shared language around the proposition: how do we sense what we can neither see nor hear? We're very interested in developing a way of 'speaking' to an audience about how humans define

themselves in the 'space of daily life' through their body and their senses. Ultimately this is an experiment in cultivating the liveness of the 'atomic exchange' between the performers, and between the performer and the audience.

This evening we are presenting the second stage of the research and development process in a version of a performance form we seem to be heading towards; and which began with our first stage in Dresden last year, at Hellerau, the European Centre for the Arts. Saying that, it is entirely provisional, and where we might go after this evening is open to our own consideration of the form and the feedback we receive from you. Many thanks for taking the time to come along and see how we go.

*David Pledger*  
Artistic Director, NYID

## BIOGRAPHIES

**not yet it's difficult (Australia)**

Led by Artistic Director David Pledger, not yet it's difficult (NYID) is one of Australia's leading independent arts companies, and a pioneer in developing new models of international collaboration, cross-cultural dialogue, art form hybridisation and creative use of new media. NYID challenges mainstream representations of culture in society and has forged Asian–Australian cultural engagements that originate workable systems for complex international collaborations. With projects of exchange, collaboration, co-production and touring in Korea, China, Japan and Malaysia, NYID has also developed and/or presented work in Germany, Austria, Denmark, Slovenia, Hawaii, Brazil, England and Ireland. NYID's practice is renowned for its rigorous development process, resulting in highly sophisticated and innovative explorations of experimental performance.

**Wuturi (Korea)**

One of Korea's most innovative performing arts companies, specialising in traditional Korean music and theatre, Wuturi has collaborated with NYID since Kim Kwang Lim commissioned *K* in his capacity as Artistic Director of the Seoul Performing Arts Festival (2004–05). One of Korea's revered writer/directors for theatre and cinema, Kim Kwang Lim is a Professor at the Korean National University of Arts (KNUA), where he was a colleague of David Pledger in the 1990s. Wuturi has performed in Korea, France, Austria and the USA; and with NYID has presented *K* (Seoul, 2005), *The Dispossessed* (Seoul, 2008), *strangeland* (Melbourne, 2009) and *AMPERS&ND* (Dresden, 2011), the latter commissioned by the European Centre for the Arts (Hellerau) in Dresden, Germany.

## PERFORMERS

The AMPERS&ND Ensemble is a work of art in itself. Long-standing NYID associate artist, **Todd MacDonald**, joins us from Queensland, where he recently moved to take up the position of Artistic Associate at QTC. He has been a significant contributor to many NYID projects, in performing and producing capacities. Along with **Sang Won Seo** he has been instrumental in developing the Body Listening methodology. Sang Won is a Senior Artist with Wuturi and a graduate of and teacher at KNUA. He has performed in Wuturi productions including *The Korean People*, which recently toured to France; and in all four Wuturi/NYID collaborations.

German-based musician **Richard Haynes** joined AMPERS&ND in Dresden last year as an artist associated with ELISION. He studied at Griffith University and at the Hochschule der Künste Bern, Switzerland. He is a PhD candidate at RMIT's Spatial Information Architecture Laboratory; and works with ensembles including PRAESENZ (Switzerland/Germany), Cikada (Norway), and Ensemble Modern (Germany). **Carlee Mellow** also recently decamped Melbourne, but this time for Sydney. Since graduating from the VCA in 1995 she has worked as choreographer, dancer, actor and collaborator with artists including Gideon Obarzanek (Chunky Move), Phillip Adams (Ballet Lab), Prue Lang (France) and David Pledger (NYID).

Seoul-based performer **Inhsung Song** graduated in 1999 from the KNUA School of Drama where, like Sang Won Seo, she studied with David Pledger. On graduation she performed several works with independent Seoul-based theatre companies, before moving to Sweden to work as a television actress. She continued studying acting, voice, movement and improvisation before returning to Seoul in 2006.

**Tristram Williams** was Associate Principal Trumpet of the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra at age 21, before resigning to concentrate on his solo career. He works internationally as an improviser, educator, soloist and ensemble musician with a keen interest in New Music. He is a member of ELISION, has performed with the Australian Art Orchestra and has worked with numerous composers in Australia and internationally. Melbourne-based musician **Judith Hamann's** main instrument is violoncello. Her practice encompasses improvised, art, experimental and popular music, focusing on new or rarely performed works. She has given numerous Australian and world premieres, is a founding member of ensembles Golden Fur and Atticus, and has collaborated with artists including Jon Rose, Oren Ambarchi, Anthea Caddy, Carolyn Connors, BOLT ensemble, Arcko Symphonic Project and ELISION.

**AMPERS&ND et al**

**AMPERS&ND et al** is a new model for international collaboration that places artistic practice at the centre of our cultural conversation. The spine of the model is the artistic project: a mobile performance laboratory uniting leading innovators in music, dance and theatre from Australia, Korea and Europe. A series

of ancillary activities aims at discovering aspects of artistic and cultural practices that are not immediately evident. They have included a *Body Listening* workshop for actors, dancers and musicians; a roundtable seminar, *Not Just K-Pop*, discussing the Korean Wave with Australian and local Korean students; and the *Asia + Europe = Australia* forum, at which the Ambassadors of the EU and Belgium joined local representatives to discuss Australia's potential as a two-way portal between Asia and Europe.

## THANK YOU

NYID and Wuturi would like to thank H. E. Mr Patrick Renault, H. E. Mr David Daly, Lesley Alway and Michael Shirrefs for their contribution to the Forum; Stellar Kim, Dr Sun Jung and Dr Peter Eckerall for their time and contribution to the Seminar; Fiona Nicholson, Sun Min Oh, the Arts House team, ABC Radio National, Kyung Na and Optical Audio.

## ARTS HOUSE

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Arts House presents contemporary arts in programs encompassing performance, exhibitions, live art, residencies and other activities that nurture, support and stimulate cultural engagement. We value work in which artists at different stages of their careers, as well as our diverse audiences and communities, are actively involved in creating an imaginative, just and environmentally sustainable global society.

Arts House's programs include two curated public seasons of multidisciplinary work each year. From 2013, approximately half of this work will be selected through a new Expression of Interest process. We seek artists who are responding to the urgent issues of our time in imaginative and surprising ways, taking artistic risks and offering multiple ways for audiences to engage with or co-author their work. For more information, please contact us on (03) 9322 3720 or visit artshouse.com.au.

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Arts House is a City of Melbourne  
contemporary arts initiative