

MADE

MATURE ARTISTS DANCE EXPERIENCE

# To Carry / To Hold



Photo by Amy Brown

Duration: **50 minutes, no interval**

*To Carry / To Hold* – choreographed by Liesel Zink with Ensemble members of Mature Artists Dance Experience (MADE) had its premiere performance in the Studio of the Theatre Royal Hobart on 11 April 2024 and was presented for two performances at the Burnie Arts Centre the following week alongside a MADE Dance Community Connect program in NW Tasmania.

Choreography by  
Liesel Zink



THEATRE  
ROYAL

## About the work

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MADE is so delighted to be working again with Liesel Zink one of Australia's leading choreographers who has an artistic practice deeply embedded in community and social engagement. Liesel has led the creative team of *To Carry / To Hold* in a genuinely collaborative process to create a remarkable new work that brings a fresh perspective to the experience of mature lives within the complexity of life in Tasmania in 2024. In a post-pandemic world face where we face the challenges of the everyday within a larger awareness of loss, war and climate emergency, the importance of building community through creative expression has never been greater. To share that work with audiences who care about the perspectives of mature lives and that value the ability of our Ensemble members to communicate complex ideas through movement is a great privilege for MADE.

MADE has been creating works that intersect between professional and non-professional dance practice since 2005. Each year we aim to commission work that we think of being 'distinctly MADE' from leading choreographers. Distinctly MADE – original, fresh and fearless works that forefront the experiences and perspectives of mature lives through contemporary dance. All of our works are created through extensive partnerships – with Ensemble members, with professional artists, companies, venues and volunteers. These works are also supported by critical arts and community funding, by fundraising and philanthropy and by partnerships with local businesses. What you see on stage is the central expression of what MADE is here to do and I hope that this new work – created in a true partnership with Liesel Zink and her creative team – surprises and moves you, that it brings you joy and that it stays with you after the performance and hopefully makes you think a little differently about mature lives and creative expression.

– Carin Mistry Executive Producer, MADE

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### PERFORMERS – MEMBERS OF THE MADE ENSEMBLE

**Christine Bell**

**Penny Carey-Wells**

**Jill Clennett**

**Shirley Gibson**

**Annie Greenhill**

**Christine Keele**

**Kate Ireland**

**Lucinda Sharp**

**Aska Smietanska**

Biographies for all current members of the MADE Ensemble are available on our website: [madecompany.com.au/ensemble](http://madecompany.com.au/ensemble)

### PRODUCTION CREDITS

Choreographer **Liesel Zink**

Lighting / Sound Design **Jason James**

Costume and Scenic Design **Roz Wren**

Costume Construction **Roz Wren and Anja Reinalda**

Production Manager **Jason James**

Stage Manager **Finn Carter**

Rehearsal Director **Angela Barnard**

Photographer **Amy Brown**

Videographer **Peter Oldham**

Video Editor **Craige Langworthy**

*My body holds information about my past experiences; whatever my eyes have seen, my ears heard, every scent and every touch. Where does my body store it – in my brain or in my heart? I can look at each experience and choose to hold it or to throw it away. Would it be good to throw it away? Everything that my body has been holding and carrying for all these years made me who I am now.*

*Reflections written by Ensemble member,  
Aska Smietanska*

Marketing/PR **Maria Pate, M.A.P. Consulting**

Voice Coach **Gabrielle Adkins**

Volunteer Assistant Stage Manager

**Sharyn Wilson**

## Choreographer's statement

Put simply, *To Carry / To Hold* is an exploration of the things we carry and hold; from the stories in our body, to the groceries in our hands, to the hope we hold for our community.

As Maira Kalman so eloquently articulates: 'What do women hold? The home and the family. And the children and the food. The friendships. The work. The work of the world. And the work of being human. The memories. And the troubles. And the sorrows and the triumphs. And the love.'

It's my hope that this performance honours these seemingly humble but wholly invaluable acts, while encouraging us to consider how we, as humans, and might carry and hold each other through this moment in time.

*To Carry / To Hold* has been made in collaboration with the MADE dancers. I'm incredibly grateful to work with such exquisite performers who generously bring so much of themselves to the process and performance. It has been a joy and an honour. I'd also like to thank the entire team who have helped make this project possible - I'm very grateful for your flexibility, support and faith in me as an artist.

**LIESEL ZINK** is an award-winning choreographer of Ukrainian and German descent, working on the unceded lands of the Turrbal and Jagera people. She has socially-engaged practice that has seen her develop and present work around Australia, Asia and Eastern Europe. She's passionate about using the arts to initiate dialogue between people of different backgrounds, cultures and generations.

As an Independent choreographer she is most well-known for the creation of large-scale public space performances, most significantly 'The Stance' which was performed on over 80 dancers in 10 cities world-wide and recreated with MADE in 2016. *The Stance* won the 2017 Australian Dance Award for Outstanding Achievement in Independent Dance. In 2023 she premiered her en-masse project *Us And All Of This* at Arts Centre Melbourne, Geelong and Bunjil Place. Other recent independent productions include: *Awesome: a state of wonder and fear* (World Science Festival 2021); *Our New* (IMA Gallery 2020); *We and the Uncertain* (Ukraine 2019); and *Inter* (Flowstate 2018).

As a choreographer, Liesel has also been commissioned to choreograph for Sydney Dance Company PPy, ADC Youth Dance Company, Expressions Dance Company, Tasdance and LINK.



**JASON JAMES** (lighting/sound design) works with electricity to make art. He has had several artworks presented in festivals, and galleries, around Tasmania. He has designed lights, and or projection, for dozens of professional productions. He has a strong focus on new Australian works, and projects with social benefit. He has won three Tasmanian Theatre Awards for lighting design: Terrapin's *Big Baby*, Hobart Repertory's *Speaking in Tongues* and Archipelago Productions' *The Maids*.

Selected recent credits include design for *Bleeding Tree* 2020 and *The Maids* 2021 for Archipelago Productions 2020, *On Memory* 2021 Sonia Heap, *Dark Path* Dark MOFO 2019, *F\*ck Invisible Practice* 2020, *Seven Deadly Sins* 2020, *Belvedere Ballroom* 2021, *Heirloom* and *HandMADE* Mature Artist Dance Ensemble 2023.

**ROZ WREN** (costume and scenic design) is a freelance Designer/Maker and Artist with over 25 years' experience specialising in theatrical costume and set design, festival and event design, community arts workshops and puppet construction.

Roz works on many varied projects and loves bringing grand visions into reality, she happily engages with people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds. Designing and making all manner of things, collaborating and sharing knowledge are all part of her professional world. Roz has designed for a number of MADE productions including *Seven Deadly Sins*, *Belvedere Ballroom* and *Heirloom*.

Roz is the recipient of four Tasmanian Theatre Council awards: set design for Second Echo Ensemble's *Outside Boy*; costume design for Big Monkey Theatre's *Wind in the Willows*, 2019/2020; design for Tasmanian Theatre Company's *An Inconvenient Woman*, 2018; and set design for Hobart Repertory Theatre's *Our Selection*, 2016.

## About MADE



Mature Artists Dance Experience (MADE) is a revolutionary arts organisation, a pioneer, an Australian leader creating spectacular work for audiences by building pathways between the mature non-professional dancer and the professional artist to create high quality dance productions for audiences in Tasmania and beyond, often in non-traditional performance spaces.

We are a celebration of movement, artform and wisdom. Founded in 2005 with 18 years of success, including national and international touring, our vision is to:

- lead the dance with high quality original performance
- connect people through participation
- ambitiously drive a global agenda
- redefine the mature body onstage

### TEAM MADE

Executive Producer **Carin Mistry**

Associate Producer *To Carry / To Hold* **Felicity Bott**

Board members **Louisa Gordon (Chair/Acting Treasurer), Shirley Gibson (Public Officer), Jess Brough, Lesley Clementson, Nicolette Johnston, Emma Peel**

## Support us

MADE is fortunate to receive vital support via arts and community grants. That funding, combined with the valuable support of a group of dedicated and highly skilled volunteers combined with the income we receive from classes provides the backbone of our organisation. However, as a not-for-profit registered charity, MADE relies on the generosity of our broad community of supporters to keep our productions and classes accessible and to continue creating positive opportunities for the mature adult community.

Each gift, no matter what size, makes a difference.... **DONATE NOW:**

MADE accepts donations to its Giving Program through [GiveNow.com.au](https://www.givewith.com.au) – all donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

## Supporters

### GOVERNMENT FUNDING

MADE is assisted through Arts Tasmania

MADE's touring in 2024 is made possible through the Tasmanian Performing Arts Centres (TPAC) Strategic Touring Fund.

Many thanks to Stompin for your generous collegiality and to Assembly 197 and Fivepin for much valued equipment loans.



### PRESENTING PARTNERS



### ACCOMMODATION PARTNER



### VENUE SPONSOR



## Contacts

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*We acknowledge the traditional owners of this land and when we dance on their country it is done so with deep respect.*