

**MEDIA RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**AFTER SMASHING IT AT EDINBURGH FRINGE, BRISBANE'S BOUNDARY BASHING DANCE MAKERS BRING 'ANGEL MONSTER' TO MELBOURNE!**

***Angel Monster is raw, visceral, confessional, 5-star performance from one of Queensland's most prolific dance-theatre artists, Phluxus2 Dance Collective, choreographed by the award-winning Nerida Matthaai.***

Combining contemporary dance and spoken word, this spintangling production delves into the depths of womanhood, shattering boundaries and inviting audiences on an electrifying journey. After two years of 'best of the fest' at Edinburgh Fringe, Melbourne has its turn to see this unmissable performance.

***Enter a space caught in a cross-hairs: halfway between your bedroom-floor at 3am and an otherworldly celestial limbo. Here, inside a field of laundry, explosive choreography ignites and combusts beside you as an army of dancers explore the dreams and the nightmares, the tremble, and the limits of the female experience.***

From the moment you enter the theatre, 'Angel Monster' immerses you in an extraordinary experience. The talented Brisbane company of five dancers greets you with an almost manic, people-pleasing enthusiasm, reminiscent of femme-bots seeking connection. Dressed in nude control-wear with striking streaks of contour make-up, the dancers serve as blank canvases ready to be transformed, just as the haunting soundtrack, composed by Andrew Milz, amplifies the mood.

Above, hand crafted hanging sculptures, part Lilly part vulva part lingerie, unzip to reveal donated women's clothing, becoming the primary props for the dancers. These pieces envelop, bind, and intertwine the performers, creating mesmerising shapes and metaphor with their movements.

***Sex, consent, violence, and empowerment crash-tackle together in a full-bodied conversation where the agenda is Equality, Ownership, and Individuality.***

The music of 'Angel Monster' weaves a captivating tapestry of spoken word, memories, experiences, and vocal experiments from the dancers themselves, layered over a dynamic electronic backdrop that is complex in its creation. Pulling together unusual sounds, like the inside of Matthaai's handbag and the unborn heartbeat of Hsin-Ju Ely's daughter, its rise and fall mirror the trajectory of the piece, drawing the audience deeper into its evocative atmosphere.

In a powerful moment, the familiar yet grotesque refrain of a rearticulated version of Shania Twain's "Man! I Feel Like a Woman" reverberates, triggering a surge of energy and performative behaviour from each dancer. As the sound of crunching glass and stone fills the air, the dancers' bodies convulse, evoking the sensation of bones being shattered and realigned. Past, present, future, everything these artists love, hate and rage about being a woman is woven together in an incredible confession that has left audiences feeling empowered.

***The acclaimed Angel Monster is a portrait, a requiem, and a call to arms for sisters, mothers, angels, and monsters alike.***

The collaborative dancers Jade Brider, Asher Bowen-Saunders, Hsin-Ju Ely, Makira Horner, and Nadia Milford, alongside creatives Keith Clark, Donald Mackenzie, Rozina Sulliman, Tiffany Beckwith Skinner and Andrew Milz are some of Brisbane's leading artistic practitioners. This unforgettable production speaks to the female experience, blending the surreal with undeniable relatability. The unwavering commitment of each performer, coupled with exceptional set design, a meticulously crafted soundtrack, and innovative choreography, creates a powerfully honest, captivating, and empowering experience.

**Do not miss 'Angel Monster' as it takes the stage at Theatre Works, 14 Acland Street, St Kilda, Victoria 3182, from 14<sup>th</sup> February – 24<sup>th</sup> February 2024 @ 7.30pm**

About Phluxus2 Dance Collective. An acclaimed Queensland company known for pushing artistic boundaries and captivating audiences with their innovative contemporary performances. With a unique fusion of contemporary dance, body horror, and spoken word, Phluxus2 Dance Collective continues to pioneer thought-provoking productions. Phluxus2.com

About Nerida Matthaei. An award-winning choreographer, performer, and the Artistic Director of Phluxus2. The underlying pulse of her work comes from an ingrained passion for contemporary choreographic practice as a beautifully planned anarchy of mind-body collaboration. Driven by challenging socio-political orthodoxy and breaking conventions through physical performance, she is a much sought-after collaborator across the dance and performance sectors internationally.



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<https://www.theatreworks.org.au/2024/angel-monster>

### CRITICAL REVIEW

- ☆☆☆☆☆ 'gorgeously directed... goosebumps' - Three Weeks
- ☆☆☆☆☆ 'unmissable!' - Everywhere Theatre
- ☆☆☆☆☆ 'Thrilling... deeply moving, powerful piece of work. Clever and confident' – The Stage UK
- ☆☆☆☆☆ 'impressive' - Culture Fix
- ☆☆☆☆☆ 'powerful innovative cutting edge contemporary dance' – The Scottish Field
- ☆☆☆☆☆ 'visceral blend of contemporary dance, body horror & spoken word... spine-tingling' -The List UK
- ☆☆☆☆☆ 'hugely important... a must see' - Deadline News
- ☆☆☆☆☆ 'engaging and enraging in equal measure' - The Wee Review
- ☆☆☆☆☆ 'Matthaei's choreography is incredible' - F Gosling
- 'world class... blown away' - Nothing Ever Happens in Brisbane
- 'high-octane dance with a strong beating heart' – The Scotsman

### AUDIENCE REVIEW

'This is a beautiful, emotional, thrilling piece of dance/physical theatre... it grabs you by the throat/heart/vagina. I felt a LOT of feels, and I highly recommend you go see ASAP' – Katy

'Like watching a poetry in motion... I felt unable to speak or breathe after. So beautiful and absolutely worth the watch.' Juliet

This was the best artistic depiction of expectations on women in our western culture that I have ever seen. It was hilarious and sad and so frustrating. And the performers were spectacular. Thank you for producing this important work. – Jen

'The dance skill level from these women is astounding. I was fully present and engaged for the whole heartbreaking piece. I will carry the memory of it with me for a long time'. - Melissa