



Image: Emma Fishwick

terra

Created & Performed by Alice Cummins

terra emerged from the imminent ferocity of fire burning all along the east coast of Australia in 2020. As I experimented with the paper, the emergent sounds evoked a threatening sense of danger and I sensed the incremental tectonic shifts that eventually create seismic shifts in the earth's crust. Millennia pass and the earth splits open, mountains erupt, and oceans deliver tsunamis. The speed with which these events happen bears little relationship to the geological pace with which they have accrued momentum. The power behind them reflects this huge elemental force of nature. Underneath the paper I am reminded of Sunday mornings in winter making cubbies with my blankets – the intimacy, light and secrecy. The memory has the 'glow' of a William Blake painting. These paradoxical elements exist lightly together in my imagination – the tenderness of early life memories and the fury and savagery of the fires and the agony of the earth. *terra* reflects this critical time in our living world.

terra team:

Nikki Heywood: direction
Veronica Bolzon: producer
Bosco Shaw: lighting designer
Peter Young: lighting technician
Cobie Orger: videography
Emma Fishwick: videography
Paea Leach: creative companion & production
Jacqui Otago: FOH volunteer

My gratitude extends to the many people who have supported me in the realisation of *terra* and to Laetitia Wilson, curator, Holmes à Court Gallery, for her unwavering belief in the project.

Alice Cummins **Creator Performer**

Alice is an Australian dance artist, with a 40-year history of contemporary performance making. She is a provocative and versatile performer creating work that interrogates and disrupts social and cultural narratives. Her enduring artistic enquiry into the moving body enables compositional refinement and distillation of experience into performance through the coalescence of aesthetics|ethics and physiology. Her approach generates a radical philosophy and practice that informs her work as a performance maker and educator influencing artists across diverse disciplines of dance, theatre, writing, sound, visual art, sculpture and film making.

In making work Alice is interested in questioning her audience's interiority and imagination. She has collaborated with musicians, writers, visual artists and filmmakers, and her work has been presented in theatres, art galleries, public spaces, and studios.

Self-devised and collaborative work include: A Walking Dance/A Moving Lecture, Bus Projects, Melbourne (2021); Now Pieces, Dancehouse, Melbourne (2021); Alice With Black Object, film project with Siobhan Murphy (2019); disappearance, film installation with Michele Theunissen (2016-18); In Memory of the Last Sunset, with Neha Choksi, Carriageworks, Biennale of Sydney, (2016); lumbar, with Sarita Beraha, Paris (2011); alicec, with Rose-Anne Spradlin, New York City, (2009); hear her breathe, Melbourne and Perth (2008).

Other recent performance and film work include: Sex and Death and the Internet by Samara Hersch, Adelaide Festival (2022); The Mountains Are a Dream That Call to Me, director Cedric Cheung-lau, Sundance (2020); Evanescence, Amos Gebhardt's film installation, Adelaide Biennial (2018) & The Substation, Melbourne (2021).

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Nikki Heywood **Artistic Direction**

Nikki is a Sydney-based interdisciplinary artist working across dance, performance, writing and live art. With a focus on embodiment, her long professional practice has centred upon devising and directing original performance. Her connection with WA dates back to performing in Dancers are Space Eaters and running workshops at PICA in 1995, as well as a performance writing workshop for Magdalena Australia in 2010. She directed James Berlyn's Crash Course for PICA 2013, and devised a large work with graduating students for ECU's Performance course 2007 (occupying the entire Rechabites Hall prior to renovation) and mentored graduates who went on to form companies Duck House and The Last Great Hunt.

Her long-standing improvisational practice, often working with musicians, has resulted in a body of work spanning solo and collaborative performance. Since the 1990's her work has been presented at venues such as Performance Space, PICA (Perth), Adelaide Festival, Edinburgh Festival, Theatreworks and NGV (Melbourne), AGNSW, Griffin Theatre, PACT, Brisbane Powerhouse and Metro Arts, Magdalena Women's festivals in Colombia, New Zealand and Brisbane, and recently at Sound Out Improvised Music Festival Canberra. For the past decade Nikki has collaborated with double bass player Mark Cauvin writing and performing existential chamber opera, Broadcast into Oblivion and more recently Something about Horizons with Clayton Thomas.

Veronica Bolzon **Producer**

Veronica is a performing arts industry professional with experience in arts management, community engagement and programming roles, in a broad range of organisations within the independent arts, government, corporate and not for profit sectors, including as Program Producer at Dancehouse, Executive Producer of YIRRAMBOI First Nations Arts Festival, Executive Director, Philip Adams Ballet Lab and Senior Producer for Blak & Bright First Nations Literary Festival 2019 and 2022. Veronica is currently Executive Producer of Joel Bray Dance.

She is passionate about community engagement, strategic planning, relationship management and artistic collaboration, and actively involved in the arts and culture sectors both locally and nationally. She recently completed a Masters in Cultural Leadership at NIDA.

Veronica is focused on leadership in small to medium arts organisations, and working with diverse and underrepresented cultures, artists and individuals, with a contemporary arts focus.