

VULCANA

21-22 Nov



BODY CODE



Lost in code?
Circus, AI, and its
impact on disability.



SCAN FOR TICKETS
vulcana.org.au



Proudly supported by

PERFORMING CAST

ON STAGE

Aline Chapet-Batle

Allycia Staples

Annika Strand

Bianca Reynolds

Chaos Fae

David Goldsmith

Freya Toussaint

Kristie Chadwick

Mike Russell

Sally Walker

Tara Denman

IN VIDEO

Imelda Middleton

Julie Lyons



CREATIVE TEAM

Director, costume and prop maker – Celia White
Assistant director - Lauren Watson
Assistant director, prop maker - Emma Aitcheson
Composer, musician - Frankie Dyson-Reilly
Writer, deviser - Courtney McKee
Creative Producer – Angela Willock
Videographer – Paris Owen
Lighting Designer – Brooke Wilson
Rigging - Helen Clifford
Production Manager - Mayu Muto
Researcher and advisor - Laurianne Sitbon
Communication support and stage assistants - Scotia Monkivitch, Kate McDowell, Sean West, Penny Hamilton, Alice Owen
Sound operator – Ben Gibson
Rigging assistance – Deb Cleland
Photography - Jade Ellis
Body Code Poster - Billie Wilson-Coffey (Image) & Grace Law (Design)

CO-DIRECTORS NOTE

Body Code was created in collaboration with the ensemble of performers and artists.

With creative development starting in 2024 and continuing in the second half of 2025 the world of AI that we have been exploring has changed significantly. The feelings and ideas explored by the group continue to shift and change as the reality of this new technology is experienced or realised. We have gained more insights into its impacts, and possible opportunities, its inclusions and exclusions, its commercial imperatives and global ownership verses its open source versions that we might claim and make our own. We have developed our collective understanding of this technology and how relevant that might or might not be to each of us. Hopefully it will give us more capacity to understand our choices of whether or how we might participate if we are granted that choice, and how we might respond if we are not given that choice.

I want to thank the performers and artists who contributed so much time to each other to find a way to communicate across a range of different communication needs, and find a common performance language together. It was a privilege to work with this team of performers and artists.

Our process was supported by the ongoing partnership with The Brotherhood of the Wordless, the support workers who accompanied artists throughout the process, and the research team at QUT, Laurianne Sitbon, Bree Hadley and Steph Hutchison.

Many thanks to those who contributed to the devising process, Axel Flame, Dilsah De Rham, and Amanda Dell. Thanks to Josh Harris, Cassandra Bennet and the Vulcana team.



Celia White

BIOGRAPHIES

A Line In The Air (Aline) is a multidisciplinary circus performer and director with a background in aerials, contemporary dance, and bubble artistry. Originally from France and now based in Meanjin (Brisbane), she trained at the Académie Fratellini in Paris and has performed in Festivals across Australia and internationally such as the Australian Circus Festival or the Great Wall Cup of China. Recent works include directing the CirQuest performance troupe in the sold-out show R/Evolve, performing and co-directing the shows Parisian Nights and Excursions with live musician Eric Roeting, and performing in the disability-led show 6 Degrees by Chimera Arts.

Allycia Staples is a passionate, creative, disability advocate who believes in the power of the arts as a way to express herself, enjoy herself, build community and speak to injustice. She is a performing artist and founding member of the Sunshine Troupe and the Aha Ensemble. Allycia has been developing her own show, Be Lagertha through Vulcana's Agitate Program and performed in Impact in 2023. She has participated in prestigious residencies in Australia and overseas and has been a finalist with Queensland Young Achievers. Her creative practice is steeped in her advocacy – she sees the stage and screen as important vehicles for bringing messages of inclusion and diversity. Allycia has performed in numerous productions locally, interstate and overseas.

Annika Strand is a Swedish Australian emerging artist who lives in Meanjin, she grew up in the Gold Coast in a close-knit family with Albie her dog. Art for Annika is a home and a challenge, a delightful struggle searching for identity and authenticity. Annika is currently studying a diploma in visual arts.



BIOGRAPHIES

Bianca Reynolds is a First Nations artist based in Meanjin. She is currently studying Creative Arts at QUT and is a research student assisting the QUT team that are partnering with the Body Code project. She is a fierce advocate for access to the performing arts for people with a disability as creators and performers. And she believes First Nation artists with disabilities need the same rights and recognition as all artists.

Chaos Beth, (I/We pronouns) are a queer, neurodivergent, disabled emerging circus, burlesque and performance artist. They are part of the disability led and focused circus ensemble, 'Chimera Arts', creating '6 Degrees' (2024). They also perform under the stage name, 'Fae Wilds' and have exhibited at Galore Presents: 'DIVINE TRASH' (2024); and Vulcana Circus': 'Tipping Point Cabaret' (2024). Chaos' journey in the circus arts is an ongoing exploration of how to creatively express the complexity of living with disabilities, plurality, and neurodivergence. Chaos' work is deeply personal and often explores the intersections of identity/ies, physicality, and mental health through a personal lens.

David Goldsmith is a world-class trapeze artist and ladies' man extraordinaire. He has been known to play with fire and come off second best. Please enjoy him rambling around on stage tonight. He's put a lot of effort into being the funniest clown in the room. He is a long-term member of The Brotherhood of the Wordless, a group of non-verbal poets and writers who have created and performed in cabarets, musicals and other performance events. He's also single.

Freya Toussaint is a visual artist, dancer, and comic physical performer with a love for ballet and tutus. She co-owns Thinking of You gift shop with her mother Donna. Her artworks feature on gift cards, and she has exhibited her original paintings in Brisbane. Freya is an Ensemble member of Sprung! Dance Theatre and Golden Thursdays, both based in NSW. Freya has an extraordinary ability to observe dance, store it, and reproduce it with her own flair. Her improvisation skills shine when she transforms influences from peers into new creations. Whether embodying ballet, tap, or even the very essence of water, Freya dances with joy, imagination, and depth.

Imelda Middleton is an ALM - Auslan Language Model teacher, supporting young people with disabilities in education. She is exploring Auslan poetry through song and its connection to music.

BIOGRAPHIES

Julie Lyons is one of leading Auslan Teachers in Queensland for more than 30 years. She organises the highly popular Auslan workshops at Woodford Folks Festival. She specialises in Auslan, Deaf culture, Deaf awareness and storytelling in Auslan. She participated in Vulcana's circus program where she has done several of performances such as "Strange Creatures" and "Over the Back Fence". She is currently working with QUT's School of Creative Arts, Faculty of Creative Industries, Education and Social Justice doing the Auslan Translation to develop accessible devices for deaf people through personal assistance device using AI and Avatar.

Kristie Chadwick is a 32-year-old support worker who never quite grew out of her love for the spotlight. Fuelled by ambitious (and sometimes impulsive) ADHD energy, she's forever trying out new hobbies — from belting it out in choirs, to cheering on her friends and clients, to sneaking away into the magic of musicals. These days, she's even dipped a toe (and maybe a cartwheel) into circus life through her work. For Kristie, performing isn't just a pastime — it's a way of finding joy, connection, and a little bit of mischief.

Micheal Russell is a man of many dimensions. He has filled hearts and minds with his inner journey of Autism through poetry, prose and playwriting. He joined the circus a couple of years ago and found another love. In this collaboration he found an expression of minds and bodies working together. Lion tamers need not apply.

Sally Walker has performed across circus, theatre and music for much of her life, always eager to try something new. A lover of sci-fi, coffee and dogs, she's delighted to explore Body Code. This bio was (perhaps inevitably) written with a little help from AI.

Tara Denman is a deaf/disabled emerging aerial artist and movement performer who lives and works on the Gold Coast. Tara has a strong connection to the sea and tides, growing up on a boat. With a large part of her life off land, she naturally gravitated to aerial arts and how freeing it is to be off the ground. Using her background in dance and musical theatre, she also instructs and facilitates workshops and classes with a strong focus on inclusion. Tara looks for change in how we make art and how it needs to be accessible for everyone especially the deaf community.

BODY CODE SUPPORTERS

All of Vulcana's projects are supported by the kind donations and dedicated fundraising efforts of our community.

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Queensland
Government

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Australian Government



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