

# MACRO

**Gravity & Other Myths**  
**Djuki Mala**  
**Aidan O'Rourke**  
**Ekrem Eli Phoenix**

Friday 5 August 9.30pm

**BT MURRAYFIELD**

The performance lasts approximately  
1 hour 10 minutes.

Please ensure that all mobile phones  
and electronic devices are switched  
off or put on silent.

This performance contains strobe  
lights and haze.

Edinburgh International Festival 75th Anniversary is supported by the  
**Scottish Government's Platforms for Creative Excellence Resilience Fund**

Supported by

**EventScotland™**



United  
Kingdom/  
Australia  
2021-22

Part of the **UK/Australia Season 2021-22**, a joint initiative  
of the **British Council** and **Australian Government's Department  
of Foreign Affairs and Trade**



Government of South Australia  
Arts South Australia

In collaboration with **Scottish Rugby**



# MACRO

## Gravity & Other Myths

### Djuki Mala



Director  
Associate Director  
Designer  
Designer/Production Manager  
Co-Composer & Musical Director  
Co-Composer  
Conductor

**Darcy Grant (Gravity & Other Myths)**  
**Josh Bond (Djuki Mala)**  
**Geoff Cobham**  
**Matthew Adey**  
**Ekrem Eli Phoenix**  
**Aidan O'Rourke**  
**Atalya Masi**

Fiddle  
Vocals  
Pipes  
Cello  
Spoken Word

**Aidan O'Rourke, Lauren MacColl**  
**Kathleen MacInnes, Ekrem Eli Phoenix**  
**Brighde Chaimbeul**  
**Duncan Strachan**  
**Hannah Lavery**

## **National Youth Choir of Scotland**

**Mark Evans** Associate Conductor

This production is part of the UK/Australia Season 2021–22, a landmark cultural exchange between the UK and Australia. A collaboration between the British Council and the Australian Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Season runs until December 2022 in the UK and spans a wide range of visual arts, theatre, film, music and literature.

*MACRO* is a co-production between Edinburgh International Festival and Adelaide Festival.

# DIRECTOR'S NOTE

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*MACRO* is a co-commission by Adelaide Festival and Edinburgh International Festival that was born from a need to reconnect and recover from a fundamentally disconnected couple of years.

While borders were essentially closed, artists from Edinburgh, Adelaide, Arnhem Land and Istanbul began to imagine an opening event with collaboration at its core; an epic celebration of connection to place, time and tradition as imagined by a group as diverse as the geography suggests.

When first approached to imagine an opening event shared by the two festivals, it was immediately clear to me that a meaningful partnership would only be realised by acknowledging and celebrating the ancient and contemporary traditions that exist in both places.

Central to the piece is how the spirit of a place can be defined by how the landscape and the people upon it co-exist. You could say that *MACRO* is about the act of collaboration itself.

Musically and choreographically *MACRO* takes inspiration from natural systems, their beauty, scale and volatility and the way that waves of human history that play out within them. I've always

been fascinated with how music and the body can remind us of forces much bigger than ourselves (cosmic, ancestral, primordial) and the sheer number of people and voices within *MACRO* has been my most exciting experience of this yet.

When Gravity & Other Myths, Djuki Mala, the National Youth Choir of Scotland, a team of Scottish musicians and the Makar of Edinburgh find themselves onstage at Murrayfield Stadium together, what will you experience? My hope is for a few things:

A powerful alloy of First Nations Australian physicality and Eastern European inspired acrobatics.

A Fusion of Gaelic, western classical, Turkic and Slavic musical traditions.

A virtuosic, cultural mosaic that reminds us of a world too big to see.

*MACRO*, if executed properly, should ultimately be about people, for people, and the wondrous traditions that make us proud to be human. Our muscle and music and magic.

I hope you enjoy *MACRO*: an up-close view of a very big picture.

© **Darcy Grant**

# GRAVITY AND OTHER MYTHS

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Gravity & Other Myths (GOM) was formed in Adelaide in 2009 by a group of young Adelaide artists with a passion for circus and physical theatre. Its work aims to challenge the ecology of New Circus through creating conceptually sophisticated shows with a focus on human connection and acrobatic virtuosity. GOM's first show, *A Simple Space*, received numerous awards and has been performed more than 1,000 times in 34 countries. The follow-up production, *Backbone*, was created in 2017; nominated for three Helpmann Awards (including Best Choreography

and Best New Australian Work), it cemented GOM's reputation as a leader in contemporary circus. *Out of Chaos...* received its world premiere at the 2019 Adelaide Festival and received the Helpmann Award for Best Physical Theatre. Owing to recent travel restrictions, GOM remained in Adelaide throughout the 2020–21 season, providing the opportunity to diversify its repertory and reconnect with South Australian audiences.

# DJUKI MALA

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Djuki Mala, originally known as The Chooky Dancers, first came to international attention in 2007, when a video clip of the group dancing to *Zorba the Greek* was uploaded to YouTube and went viral. Since then the group has created several shows combining reinterpretations of popular culture and dance with narrative and drama. The style of dancing and comedic element of its performances have their origins in Yolngu culture as much as in the traditional dance; reflecting the juxtapositions that the dancers see in contemporary Yolngu culture, the

work offers an insight into Aboriginal Australia. Djuki Mala has toured extensively. In 2016 it toured Europe and the Middle East as part of a Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Cultural Diplomacy programme, including performances in Tel Aviv, Cairo, Lebanon and Cyprus. It has also performed in China, the Solomon Islands and Canada, and at the Sydney Festival, Sydney Opera House, the Melbourne International Comedy Festival, the Perth and Adelaide Fringe Festivals, the Edinburgh Festival Fringe and the Ten Days on the Island festival (Tasmania).

# NATIONAL YOUTH CHOIR OF SCOTLAND

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Formed in 1996 by its Artistic Director and Conductor, Christopher Bell, the National Youth Choir of Scotland (NYCoS) is dedicated to encouraging singing for young people aged 16 to 25 in Scotland. Yearly auditions are open to singers born, resident or studying in Scotland. NYCoS has performed at events throughout the UK and internationally, including regular appearances at the Edinburgh International Festival, where it enjoyed a residency in 2018 as part of Scotland's Year of Young People and won a Herald Angel Award for its performance of Haydn's *The Creation* in the Opening Concert. Its other major engagements include Berlioz's *Lélio* with the Orchestre Révolutionnaire et Romantique under John Eliot Gardiner

at Carnegie Hall, New York, and with Les Siècles under François-Xavier Roth at the Philharmonie, Paris; appearances at the BBC Proms, Festival Berlioz (La Côte-Saint-André, France) and the Grant Park and Grand Teton Music Festivals (USA); performances with the BBC Scottish Symphony, Scottish Chamber and Royal Scottish National Orchestras; and events such as the Opening Ceremony of the 2014 Commonwealth Games, the 20th anniversary of the first sitting of the Scottish Parliament and the BBC's Passchendaele Centenary Commemorations. In 2012 NYCoS became the first youth company to win a Royal Philharmonic Society Music Award in the Ensemble category.

**SOPRANOS 1**

**Stephanie Bell  
Laura Murphy  
Beth Taylor  
Lorna Murray  
Iona Rae**

**SOPRANOS 2**

**Heather Cartwright  
Kristen Forbes  
Lucy McVicar  
Katherine Morrow  
Emily Wishart**

**ALTOS 1**

**Rebecca Crooks  
Emily Henderson  
Josie Law  
Scarlet Penman  
Grace Sutherland  
Olivia Mackenzie Smith  
Sòlas McDonald  
Emily Phillips**

**ALTOS 2**

**Amy Anderson  
Sara Gatland  
Ellen MacDougall  
Clara Marks Lewin  
Niamh Paddon  
Rebecca Pennykid  
Yajie Ye**

# HOUSE OF OZ

AT KING'S HALL  
5TH TO 29TH AUGUST 2022



**SHOWS OF AUSTRALIA: DRAMA, COMEDY, CABARET SOUNDS OF AUSTRALIA: POETRY, MUSIC, DANCING TASTE OF AUSTRALIA: CASUAL DINING, NATIVE INGREDIENTS SPIRIT OF AUSTRALIA: SIGNATURE COCKTAILS, WINES & BEER**  
**HOUSEOFOZ.CO.UK THEATRE. GARDEN. HANGOUT.**  
**10PM TIL LATE 41A SOUTH CLERK STREET FRINGE VENUE # 73C 5TH -29TH AUG**