

MEDIA RELEASE

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MALTHOUSE THEATRE AT THE CUB MALTHOUSE 113 STURT STREET SOUTHBANK VIC AUSTRALIA 3006 T +61 3 9685 5100 F +61 3 9685 5112
WWW.MALTHOUSETHEATRE.COM.AU



MALTHOUSE THEATRE & THE GOETHE INSTITUTE PRESENT

MAYBE FOREVER

MERLYN THEATRE
JUNE 23 – JUNE 26
AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

CHOREOGRAPHED & PERFORMED BY MEG STUART & PHILIPP GEHMACHER
LIVE MUSICIAN NIKO HAFKENSCHIED
DRAMATURGE MYRIAM VAN IMSCHOOT
LIGHTING DESIGNER JAN MAERTENS
SET & COSTUME DESIGNER JANINA AUDICK
SOUND DESIGNER VINCENT MALSTAF
ASSISTANT CHOREOGRAPHER SIGAL ZOUK
PRODUCTION MANAGER TANJA THOMSEN
SET & COSTUME ASSISTANT INGA TIMM
A DAMAGED GOODS & MUMBLING FISH PRODUCTION

MAYBE FOREVER is an ode to failed love. Since its 2007 world premiere in Brussels and subsequent tours throughout Europe and America, this refined, melancholic work has received lavish praise for its deep excavations into heartbreak. The delicate, emotive choreography of **Meg Stuart** and **Philipp Gehmacher** speak, gesture, and collapse through a minefield-strewn romantic history of 'what-ifs?' and 'if-onlys...', accompanied by the live music of Belgian singer-songwriter **Niko Hafkenschied**.

An unlikely pairing, Meg Stuart and Philipp Gehehmacher conjured *MAYBE FOREVER* from five days improvising in a dance studio, the extremities of their choreographic styles becoming caught in cycles of aversion and touch. **Meg Stuart** moved from America to Belgium over 20 years ago and formed her company, Damaged Goods, inspired by the imperfection of the human body. Her style is blunt, exuberant and vulnerable. Contrasting this is the inward minimalism of Austrian **Philipp Gehmacher**, whose work retains emphasis on tension, silence and effort. Having trained in London for ten years, Gehmacher has since returned to Vienna, where his Mumbling Fish company is based. This is the first time that either of these artists has performed in Melbourne, and together in *MAYBE FOREVER* they reinvigorate contemporary dance, creating something far more than a sum of their distinctive parts.

Framed by a photograph of two dandelions relenting their seeds to the breeze, the two ex-lover characters tell their story in a succession of dance duets and solos, soliloquies and songs. Singer-songwriter **Niko Hafkenschied** (of electronic rock combo aMute) performs live on stage in a sparkly blue tuxedo, tracing the couple's stories of desire and longing. *MAYBE FOREVER* will startle audiences with its tenderness and honesty, and quietly summon our own revelations in matters of the heart.

"IT'S A SENSITIVE PIECE, BEGINNING AND ENDING WITH A MOOD OF INEVITABLE LOSS, YET AS THE TWO INDIVIDUALS ROLL AND ROMP BAREFOOT AND DISHEVELED THE JOY OF THE NOW IS INFECTIOUS." THE BULLETIN, BELGIUM

THIS PRESENTATION HAS BEEN MADE POSSIBLE WITH SUPPORT FROM THE GOETHE INSTITUTE, BERLIN.



SEASON INFO

VENUE: MERLYN THEATRE, THE CUB MALTHOUSE, 113 STURT STREET SOUTHBANK VIC AUSTRALIA 3006
SEASON: 23 JUNE – 26 JUNE. ALL PERFORMANCES AT 7.30PM.
OPENING NIGHT: WEDNESDAY 23 JUNE AT 7.30PM
BOOKING INFO: WWW.MALTHOUSETHEATRE.COM.AU / 03 9685 5111
TICKET PRICES: \$23 – \$49 + MIN BOOKING FEE \$1.50

MEDIA CONTACT:

ANNETTE VIEUSSEUX – 03 9685 5173/ MEDIAMANAGER@MALTHOUSETHEATRE.COM.AU
ABBY ALLEN – 03 9685 5175/ MEDIAASSISTANT@MALTHOUSETHEATRE.COM.AU
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