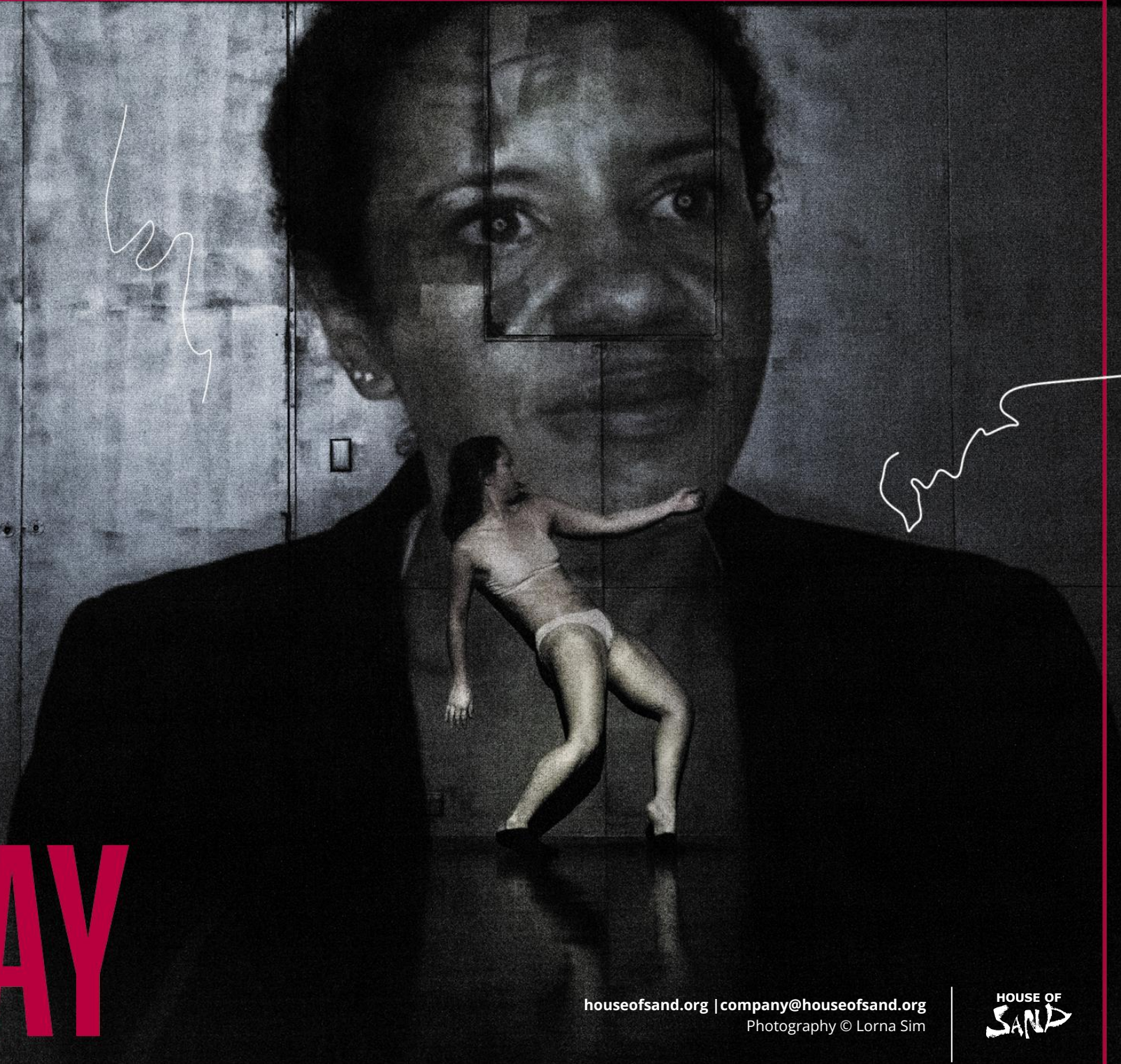


THAT WAS FRIDAY



houseofsand.org | company@houseofsand.org
Photography © Lorna Sim

HOUSE OF
SAND

HOUSE OF SAND

House of Sand created madcap, visceral performance work with a signature expressionistic style in and across artworks including theatre, dance, music, cabaret and visual & performance art.

"Eliza and Charley Sanders are important artists who give us an alternate view of the world"
— Suzy Wrong, Suzy goes see & Auditorium (UK)

House of Sand is the brainchild of siblings Charley Sanders and Eliza Sanders, but it is more than a funny play on the surname Sanders. It's a way of describing how our sibling creative partnership works: We're like children on windblown beaches building castles, each one a collection of a billion tiny grains of inspiration, following our own sense of play. We gather people and ideas and build epic imaginative creations - knowing that eventually, whether with the next tide or the king tide - they will finally be washed away.

We came together through a shared belief in the potentials and joys of cross-artform and inter-cultural collaboration, resulting in innovative new ways of working and modes of performance. We embrace collaborators from all artforms, who bring with them to the company formally and culturally diverse art-making practices. We build tight-knit family style groups of collaborators, which allows us to embrace the transience of working in many different places.

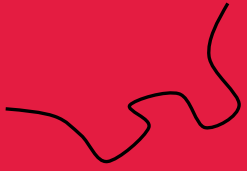
Since the beginning of 2015, we've worked with over 100 collaborators in 3 countries and 6 cities and partnered with 7 venues to present 24 seasons of 15 productions independently and at 6 festivals and 18 venues. We've been supported by 11 partner producers and 10 funding bodies, to create and perform 21 seasons of 13 shows (and 3 more in development!).

We explore what it means to be a citizen of the world by looking towards the very personal, intimate and specific. And we've developed a methodology which brings the idea of global/local citizenship into the body, the muscles and the guts, and results in a signature aesthetic: visceral, expressionistic, and slightly absurd.

Charley Sanders & Eliza Sanders - Co-Artistic Directors

Connect with us: company@houseofsand.org





House of Sand

NOMINATED
TWO 2018 ADELAIDE CRITICS
CIRCLE AWARDS

NOMINATED
TWO 2018 BROADWAY WORLD
SYDNEY AWARDS

WINNER
BEST EMERGING COMPANY- NZ
FRINGE 2016

WINNER
THREE NZ FRINGE AWARDS 2016

WINNER
BEST DANCE WEEKLY, ADELAIDE
FRINGE 2018

THAT WAS FRIDAY

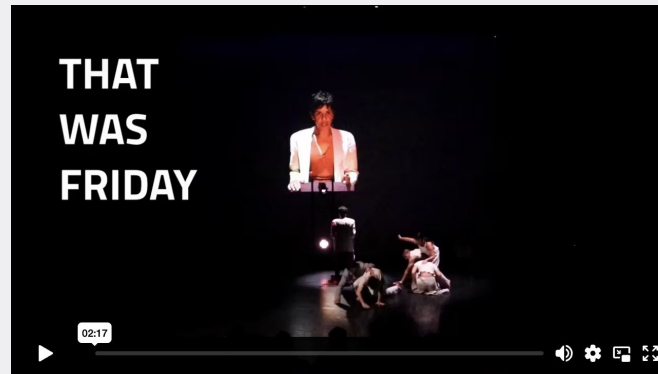
A dark theatre, lights come up, and Five Dancers groove like daggy dads at a school dance to an incredibly sexy cover of Bowie's "Boys Keep Swinging". A young man jumps between them - thrashing something out - and a young woman projected on screen with half-packed suitcase, waits for someone to answer her phone call.

In the coming moments you'll learn that the young man and woman are siblings who's mother has just died. And you'll meet an immigrant artist with profound ideas and a fluid gender expression.

Over the next two hours the mother struggles to keep her kids close; the son falls blindingly in love; and the daughter grapples with a surprise pregnancy. You'll learn that the immigrant artist is a refugee from a place where their very existence is a crime, and the dancers will carry you through the web of interconnection between them towards a place where family is **found**, **re-found** or **chosen anew**; where you can honour the past you got handed, and celebrate who you have chosen to become.

Moulded from the experience of the queer, trans & culturally diverse team, **That Was Friday** layers dance, theatre and video in a theatrical collage of experiences in the search for a sense of home. This ground-breaking new work fills the gaps between art forms to create a new experience of connection. Darkly humorous, joyful, and visually stunning, **That Was Friday** will take your heart and squeeze it.

Watch the [THAT WAS FRIDAY TRAILER](#)





THE VOYAGE SO FAR

That Was Friday was conceived back in 2019 by Charley Sanders and Eliza Sanders, and created with Jack Sullivan, Amrit Tohari and the ensemble.

First public development at QL2 Dance, Canberra.
January 2020 (Funded by Arts ACT)

Second digital development online and at PACT, Sydney.
July 2020 (Funded by the City of Sydney)

Third Development at QL2 Dance, Canberra.
January 2022 (Funded by ArtsACT)

Final Development and Premiere Season at Belco Arts, Canberra.
November 2022 (Funded by the Australia Council and Arts Act)

Next stop... (insert your venue or festival here).

To create That Was Friday, House of Sand brought together fifteen brilliant artists from around the globe. Over three years, we gathered to share our experiences of the search for home and belonging. We shared through word and movement and gesture and sound and story. Some of us cleaved to geography or biology, others to queer ideas of logical rather than biological family, but everyone reflected on community. Some had experienced more trauma, others had been fortunate to find ever increasing security, but we all found succour in gathering with the ones we love to trade tales and share meals.

As the time to share the work with our first audiences came near, we distilled our diverse experiences into what we called a *theatrical montage of intimate moments in the lives of global citizens*, the theme refracted through staged scenes, live-cinema and documentary video, and carried along by a roiling explosion of expressive dance.

The result: a collection of moments in the lives of a far-flung family, on all sides of the globe, struggling to find a meaningful sense of home, sitting beside a video-diary documentary of one person's journey across continents to find home within, interspersed and overlaid with our ensemble of dancers, moving together organically, in shapes and patterns that evoke dis/connection in many ways, and woven together into a whole by a sweeping electronic symphonic score, an elegant suite of garments and a video design that inspires wonder.

It's a complex work with a simple centre: a plea for the power of connection and empathy.

And because community is at the centre of That Was Friday we want to keep sharing it with communities around Australia (and maybe the world).

LET'S CREATE CONNECTION TOGETHER

That Was Friday is a work about community. We want to work with you to create an experience that is inspiring and fulfilling for your communities.

We build compassionate working relationships with supporters and organisations (like yours!), because we are passionate about bringing meaningful live experiences to audiences and sharing ideas and experiences with a range of communities. .

We can offer your audiences a range of experiences to create a deeper connection to the work, the themes and the processes used in creating That Was Friday, including:

Pre-show audience briefing

Post-show audience Q&A/panel

Educators' pack and/or student-specific Q&A/Panel for senior secondary students

Workshops* for artists of all levels of experience in:
Physical Actors' Performance
Yoga and Meditation
Contemporary Dance (Counter technique)
Creating from Lived Experience
Devising for Performance

Seminars, panels and roundtables* around the issues and ideas in the piece

Relaxed, Audio Described* and Auslan Interpreted* Performances

*available for an additional fee

That Was Friday has, to date, delivered performances and/or community events in partnership with:

QL2 Dance, Belco Arts, You Are Here, PACT and AusdanceACT.

Join the family!



THE FRIDAY FAMILY

The creative team of That Was Friday spans the globe. A family developed and consolidated by this project. What other independent theatre work can claim a playwright from the USA, a creator/performer from Turkey via Canada, and team members with backgrounds on every continent (except Antarctica) and from four Australia states and New Zealand .



The Central Creative team:

Charley Sanders
Eliza Sanders
Jack Sullivan
Amrit Tohari

That Was Friday is a collaborative work, but we each bring a unique field of expertise to the work:

Charley's principal practice is as a director and dramaturge, a shaper of events.

Eliza's principal practice is as a dancer and choreographer, an embodied practitioner.

Jack's principal practice is as a writer, a wordsmith and sculptor of moments.

Amrit's principal practice is as a performance artist, with a focus on care and tenderness - a movement therapist.

We humbly offer up the fruits of our creative labour for your audiences' nourishment.

CREATIVE TEAM

CHARLEY SANDERS __ CREATOR & DIRECTOR

Charley Sanders, Creator & Dramaturge. Charley is a director and theatre-maker and Co Artistic Director of House of Sand. She holds an Adv. Dip. Arts (Acting) from AC Arts and an MFA (Directing) from NIDA and has received an Adelaide Critics Circle Award, numerous Fringe Awards from festivals around Australia and New Zealand, and nominations for an ATG Curtain Call Award, a Broadway World Award and two further Adelaide Critics Circle Awards. Directorial credits include Pedal, Castles, Knitting While Sleeping, Feet.Us, Fear of Eggs, all Hours, REVOLT. SHE SAID. REVOLT AGAIN. (HoS) Welcome The Bright World (HoS & STCSA), Titus Andronicus; Mother Courage; O Go My Man; Slavs; 5 Years (AC Arts) Trans Scripts (Paul Lucas Prod. NYC) Infected (NIDA) Flood (LHE), Love Child, Seven Jewish Children, The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later and Like A Fishbone (Early Worx) As assistant director: Julia (STC) Cosi Fan Tutte (Opera Australia), Maggie Stone (STCSA) . In Addition to their core practice, Charley has experience as a teacher of acting and directing, an actor, musical theatre and cabaret performer, drag artist, dramaturge, producer and tour manager.



JACK SULLIVAN __ CREATOR (WRITER)

Jack Sullivan is a poet, playwright, and filmmaker living in Brooklyn, New York. He received his B.A. in International Relations and Political Theory from Sarah Lawrence College, and his M.F.A. in Screenwriting from Brooklyn College. His plays have been seen at Dixon Place and The Tank in New York City; his films have premiered at Brooklyn Horror Film Festival, and New Filmmakers LA. Jack's work centers around notions of 'major' and 'minor' literature. Given his positionality as a middle class white man, he is interested in subjecting genres such as the family drama, the 'social problem' play, and coming of age stories -- the usual province of twentieth century white male playwrights -- to queering. His writing process usually involves some degree of improvisation and collaboration; by moving away from a singular voice, the process reflects the influences and transmission that regularly goes into the creation of a queer, or 'minor', identities. Through interpolation of documentary material, durational performance, and language poetics into seemingly conventional texts, he hopes to expose notions of traditional form as social conditioning, and deconstruct its foundations to find the messy, screaming, truthful id inside.



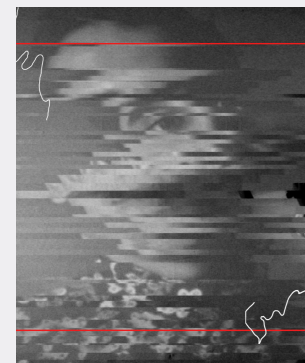
ELIZA SANDERS __ CREATOR & CHOREOGRAPHER

Eliza is a choreographer, dancer, teacher, actor and graduate of The New Zealand School of Dance. She is the co- artistic director of House of Sand for whom she has choreographed three ensemble dance works, created and performed two multi award winning contemporary performance solos, an improvised duet with musician Brendan Anderson, and a solo dance work in close collaboration with designer Glenn Ashworth. She danced for 24 hours straight in all Hours and performed as an actor in REVOLT. SHE SAID. REVOLT AGAIN. Eliza has created numerous works for QL2 Dance, Footnote Dance Company - the second time in collaboration with James O'Hara and New Zealand School of Dance. As a performer Eliza has worked for Body Cartography, The Australian Dance Party, The World of Wearable Art, Battleground Productions, Little Dove Theatre Art and Java Dance Theatre. Eliza is a certified Countertechnique teacher and is a key artist on the Make a Move program, working to improve dance education in schools for the Australian National Curriculum. Eliza was an invited international artists at Transformation Dance Festival Montreal in 2017 and her film M.G.W.H premiered at the F.O.R.M Festival in Vancouver 2016.



AMRIT TOHARI __ CREATOR (PERFORMANCE ARTIST)

Amrit's true identity has been obscured in respect of the artist's wishes. Audiences can discover the complex voyage to anonymity taken by "Amrit" inside That Was Friday.



THE FRIDAY FAMILY (CONTINUED)

That Was Friday is created by a team of artist from across genres, artforms and backgrounds. Each collaborator's rich personal relationship to concepts of home, belonging and community shaped the work and resonates in the performance. A few of them are recognisable names and faces, many soon will be.



Cast

Actors

Enya Daly (Siren Theatre's The Moors)
Sara Zwangobani (The Lord of the Rings: The Rings of Power, STC's Streetcar)
Lachlan Martin (Strictly Ballroom & The Bodyguard)

Dancers

Billy Keohavong (T.H.E. Dance Company)
Ryan Stone (Australian Dance Party)
Jareen Wee (In Play)
Ella Williams (Java Dance Theatre)

Design Team

Composer

Mario Spate (Best Producer, SA Music Awards 2018, 19, 20)

Production & Video Designer

Laura Turner (STC, Bell's Hamlet)
Associate Video Designers
Susie Henderson (STC's Julia) and Morgan Moroney (Redline's Cleansed)

Garment Designers

William Fitzgeralds (RNZB) and
Monique Bartosh (RNZB)

Lighting Designer

Tony Black (Footnote)



FURTHER READING AND VIEWING AT HOUSEOFSAND.ORG/FRIDAY

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[REVIEWS AND STILLS GALLERY](#)

[TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS](#)

OUR OTHER WORKS AT VIMEO.COM/HOUSEOFSAND

