

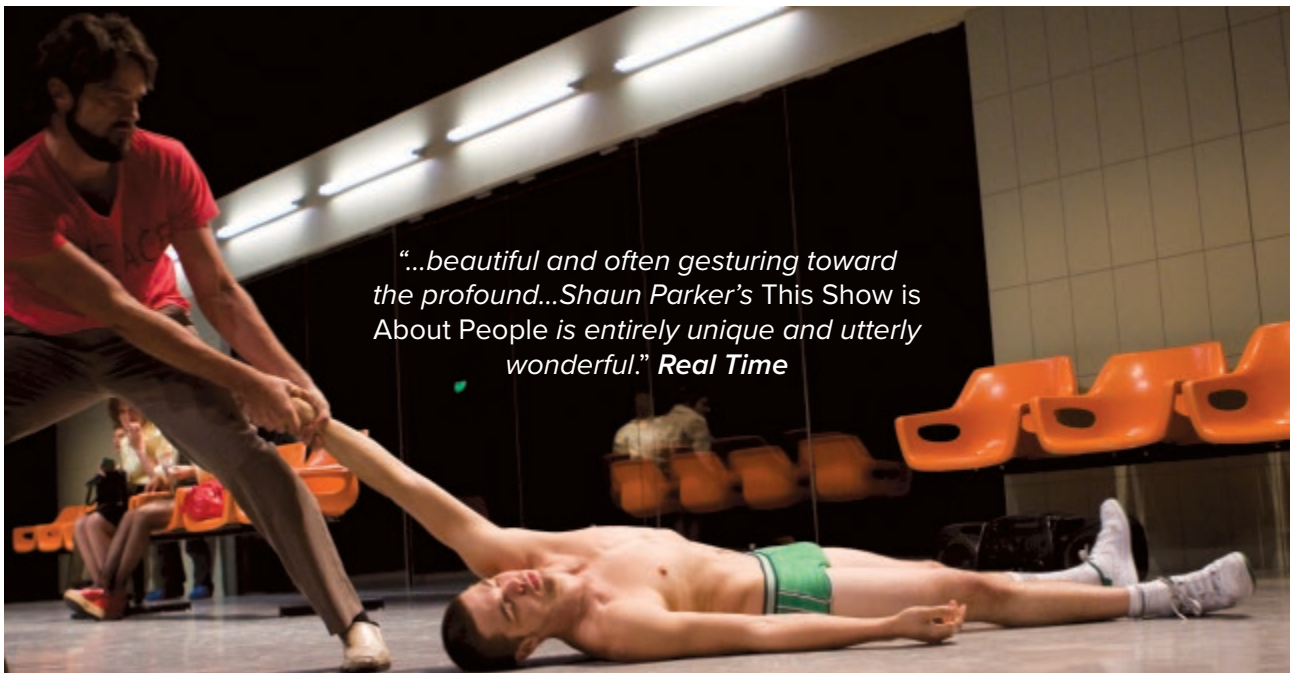
**SHAUN PARKER & COMPANY**

**THIS SHOW IS ABOUT PEOPLE  
PRESENTERS PACK**



# THIS SHOW IS ABOUT PEOPLE

---



## COMPANY PROFILE

Shaun Parker & Company is an exhilarating and bold Sydney-based dance company led by award winning Artistic Director and Choreographer Shaun Parker. The Company creates critically acclaimed contemporary dance productions, which are internationally renowned for their integration of stimulating choreographic forms, arresting musical scores, and theatrical invention and delivers an extensive range of authentic dance programs for young people

Prominent works in recent years include the large-scale MFI productions *Am I*, co-commissioned by Sydney, Adelaide and Melbourne Festivals and presented internationally in Germany, Sweden, Luxembourg and Malaysia. *Happy As Larry*, co-commissioned by Brisbane, Sydney, Perth and New Zealand International Arts Festivals, which then toured internationally to 37 cities in 9 countries and to 12 regional centres in Australia; and *This Show is About People*, co-commissioned by Sydney and Melbourne Festivals. The Australian Dance Award winning youth dance work *The Yard*; dynamic outdoor dance works *Trolleys* and *Spill*, which both premiered at the London 2012 Cultural Olympiad; and most recently the interactive community participation project *Tut* commissioned by Art & About Sydney.

Shaun Parker and Company has won two Australian Dance Awards, the Shirley McKechnie Award for Choreography at the Green Room Awards, the Premier's NSW Creative Award, the Bearer of Hope Award in Tanz Germany, the Banksy Award in New Zealand, and the Argus Angel Award in the UK.

## SHOW SYNOPSIS

Part theatre. Part music. Part dance. *This Show Is About People* is a stunning work by Shaun Parker & Company. Set in a transit waiting room, ten outstanding dancers and vocalists tell a story of the innate need within us all to belong to something. Our need for religion. Our need for belief systems. Our need to comprehend the mirrored division between life and death. These are all brilliantly interrogated with humorous reflection by Shaun Parker & his team.

Led by world renowned musicians and vocalists Mara and Llew Kiek, the spine tingling vocal music of Bulgaria collides with songs from medieval Europe, modern gospel, word-art and popular songs of hope. The movement language is informed by highly physical contemporary dance, acrobatic and street dance styles, layered with intricate gesture and manipulative force.

*This Show Is About People* is a powerful and unique production that has moved audiences to tears, evoked belly fits of laughter, and brought people to their feet with heart-felt standing ovations.

Winner of an Australian Dance Award for Outstanding Production, and shortlisted nominee for Best Performance of an Ensemble in a Music Theatre Production.

*This Show is About People* is a Major Festivals Initiative commission, and premiered at the Malthouse Theatre for Melbourne Festival and at the Sydney Opera House, for the Sydney Festival.

The work is being remounted for touring in Australia and Europe for 2019.

# THIS SHOW IS ABOUT PEOPLE

---

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

### COMPANY CREDITS

Choreographer & Director	Shaun Parker
Musical Director	Mara Kiek
Co Musical Director	Llew Kiek
Designer	Robert Cousins
Lighting Designer	Niklas Pajanti
Dramaturg	Veronica Neave
Collaborative Performers	Anton, Matt Cornell, Marnie Palomares and Guy Ryan
Collaborative Musicians	Jarnie Birmingham, Tobias Cole, Silvia Entcheva, Llew Kiek, Mara Kiek and Nick Wales
Production Manager	Neil Jensen
Stage Manager	Jenn Blake

## BIOGRAPHIES

### SHAUN PARKER, DIRECTOR & CHOREOGRAPHER

Shaun Parker is an award-winning choreographer whose work has spanned film, television and live theatre. His work has toured the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Asia, New Zealand, the Middle East, the USA and across Australia. A graduate of BA Dance at Victorian College of the Arts, his performing career spanned seventeen years with leading companies such as Meryl Tankard's Australian Dance Theatre, Kate Champion's Force Majeure, Sydney Theatre Company, Chunky Move, The Song Company, State Theatre Company (of SA), Compagnie ALIAS (Geneva), Meredith Monk (New York), and Sasha Waltz (Berlin).

Parker's works include *Happy As Larry*, commissioned by Sydney, Perth, Brisbane and the New Zealand International Arts Festivals; and *This Show is About People*, commissioned by the Melbourne International Arts Festival and Sydney Festival; *The Yard*, commissioned by Captivate and Seymour Centre; *Divine Harmonies* (Tasdance); *My Little Garden* (Barossa International Music Festival); *Blue Love* (Sydney Opera House); *VAMP* (Meow Meow & Malthouse Theatre); *Love Instalment* (Sydney Dance Company); *Tenebrae III* (The Song Company), and the award winning short films *The Love Trilogy* and *No*.

In 2012, Parker created two new outdoor dance works commissioned for London's Cultural Olympiad: *Spill* and *Trolleys*. *Spill* has toured to over 50 locations across the United Kingdom, to New York's Central Park, and Sydney's Art & About Festival. *Trolleys* has toured Europe, Malaysia and to Sydney's Art & About Festival, and won the Argus Angel Award for Best Work. Most recently his new work *Am I* toured to the Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide Festivals, winning a Green Room Award for Choreography. It was also invited to the MOVIMENTOS Festival in Germany, and toured to Malaysia, Germany, Luxembourg and Sweden in 2015. Parker most recently premiered the interactive community participation project *Tut* commissioned by Art & About Sydney 2016.

### ABOUT THE MUSICIANS & MUSICAL DIRECTOR

*This Show is About People* features two musical trios who specialise in the two key musical genres of this work - "Early Music" with Llew Kiek, Tobias Cole and Nick Wales and "Bulgarian Choral" with Jarnie Birmingham, Silvia Entcheva and Mara Kiek (Trio Pippero).

Musical director, Mara Kiek, is a recognised expert in the Bulgarian singing style, and an award-winning performer of medieval music. Director of Sydney's Bulgarian style choir "Martenitsa" and of her own ARIA-winning world music ensemble "Mara!", with which she has toured to over 20 countries, she has also co-founded a cappella ensembles (Girls in Your Town, Humming Birds, Mesana Salata) specialising in a wide variety of musical styles, and trained choirs in Australia and overseas. Dance and physical theatre musical direction credits include MTADT *Songs with Mara*, One Extra Company's *People like us* and Legs on the Wall *Homeland*.

# THIS SHOW IS ABOUT PEOPLE

---

## **PERFORMANCE SPECIFICS**

### **DURATION**

75 minutes, no interval

### **SUITABLE VENUES**

Suitable for proscenium arch theatres and large black box venues.

### **MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PERFORMANCES PER WEEK**

6 performances in a single venue

### **MINIMUM BREAK BETWEEN PERFORMANCES**

180 minutes

### **TOURING PERSONNEL**

The touring party consists of 14 people.

## **AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT**

### **OVERVIEW**

This show is about community. The powerful street dance and physicality, coupled with the arresting live Bulgarian vocal singing, counter-tenor and gospel singing draws in both music and dance audiences immediately. The stunning set design by Robert Cousins, creates a theatrical space that is compelling to theatre audiences, as well as the razor-sharp dramaturgy by Veronica Neave.

The show is funny, beautiful, poetic, powerful...and above all else...this show is about people! Our audience connect with the production in a very heart-felt way.

### **DESCRIPTION / DETAILS**

Lead Soprano in the production Silvia Entcheva will teach Bulgarian vocal singing to community choirs, and indeed anyone who wants to sing! The local lines and audio/visual tutorial will be available online and sent ahead of the tour for the choirs and individuals to practice before we arrive. Silvia will release a new tutorial online every 3 months following the tour for the next year. The choirs will then film themselves performing each of the Bulgarian vocal songs, which will be edited into a film clip, showing all of the choirs from the vast array of communities we worked with. Each choir will also end up with 3 new Bulgarian vocal songs as part of their ongoing repertoire.

Dance masterclasses and workshops are available with Shaun Parker and the dancers - Shaun's Movement & Meaning Workshop is accessible to dancers and well as actors, circus and physical theatre performers in the region.

### **COST**

Workshops included in the performance fee.

### **TARGET AUDIENCE FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

The Community Engagement is targeted for Community Choirs, and we shall instigate a program to inspire all members of the community to learn to sing through these workshops.

The Meaning & Movement works shops with attract dancers, actors, circus performers and physical theatre practitioners.

We also encourage dance, drama and music teachers to attend our workshops such that they can maintain ongoing skills development with their students.

# THIS SHOW IS ABOUT PEOPLE

---



## MARKETING

### MARKETING COPY

#### ONE LINE

*This Show Is About People* is a stunning production driven by music and dance...intricate and powerful!

#### SHORT - 100 WORDS

Fusing music, theatre and dance, *This Show Is About People* explores transitory lives and the weird and wonderful moments when paths of strangers cross, blur and repel.

*This Show* is an intricate and expressive work, featuring a tantalizing array of live music, from modern gospel and spoken word to songs from medieval Europe and Bulgaria, alongside high impact and celebratory dance.

*This Show is About People* world premiered at Melbourne and Sydney Festivals, and was the Winner of an Australian Dance Award and nominated for 4 Green Room Awards.

#### EXTENDED - 300 WORDS

Bulgarian vocal singing, mixes with Renaissance counter-tenors, and layers them both with robust high-impact dance. *This Show Is About People* is a daring music-theatre-dance collaboration between director-choreographer Shaun Parker and renowned musicians and vocalists, Mara and Llew Kiek.

The musical canvas is also peppered with references to popular culture - current and recent. So hip-hop, pop, and gospel alternately pierce the sacred and protected worlds of ancient tradition, demanding that we expect the unexpected. Likewise the movement vocabulary draws on modern street dance styles, highly physical contemporary dance and gestural motifs that are both timeless and universal. Text, both spoken and sung, also plays a key role in the realisation of *This Show Is About People*.

Adventurous in concept and form this live music, theatre and dance production has proven to appeal to a broad audience, from young to old. The performances in Sydney and Melbourne played to sell out houses. The truthful, universal nature of the work makes people think, feel and quite often laugh.

*This Show is About People* world premiered at Melbourne and Sydney Festivals, and was the Winner of an Australian Dance Award and nominated for 4 Green Room Awards.

# THIS SHOW IS ABOUT PEOPLE

---

## MEDIA QUOTES

"*This Show is About People* by the choreographer and performer Shaun Parker explores transitory lives and the weird and wonderful moments when paths cross, blur and repel. It's an intricate and expressive work manipulated by music and machinery, and features movements that are both sensuous and hard-edged. When the dancers hurl themselves against the floor or arch their bodies as though lifted by meat hooks, the fluorescent-lit spectacle is dangerous and daring. *This Show Is About People* is stylistically refreshing in the way it marries humour, lyricism and urban grit to examine themes of isolation and belonging." - *Sydney Morning Herald*

"The dance style comes from the street and is frequently tough and dangerous. But there is also some exquisitely delicate, liquid use of arms and hands. *This Show* asserts that life is full of complexities, connections, disjunctions and oppositions and that desolation and great beauty can walk hand in hand." - *The Australian*

"A very clever piece, it's easy to identify with each character and their matching choreography - the hip-hop groover, the slow moving nerd who sings beautiful counter-tenor, straight-laced twins always together and joined by the tart, and the outrageous physicality danced by the handsome young man and attractive woman." - *On Show 2008*

"...beautiful and often gesturing toward the profound...Shaun Parker's *This Show is About People* is entirely unique and utterly wonderful." - *Real Time*

"Shaun Parker has a deft, original touch in creating theatre. Along with his love of dance and music, it turns his ideas into something audiences can laugh at, sympathise with, and generally have a good time while they are watching - then leave something for the mental doggie bag to take away and think about afterwards...this is a terrific show about people." - *Sydney Morning Herald*

"*This Show Is About People* plays beautifully with perception. Parker is a master of the art of directing your attention, which can make it seem like magic is happening at the other end of the stage, where things have changed completely while you weren't looking. The choreography is sharp, witty, precise, full of violence and desire and longing." - *Theatre Notes*

## COLLEAGUE RECOMMENDATIONS

"... from the reaction of the audience I would say they certainly felt it was for them... it was a privilege to have experienced what Parker and his collaborators made. Totally full of wit and devastating in its clarity."

- Kristy Edmunds, Artistic Director, Melbourne International Festival 2007

## VIDEO LINKS

<https://vimeo.com/173581334>

## MARKETING MATERIALS

- Full marketing materials are available (stunning production images, and broadcast quality footage, marketing blurbs and digital assets)
- The director and cast are available for media interviews and sponsor talks
- Education Pack suitable for senior arts, music, drama and dance students
- The full soundtrack of the production was released on CD, and are played on local radio leading into the season
- The Artistic Director was a featured tango dancer in Baz Luhrmann's *Moulin Rouge* and has choreographed for *So You Think You Can Dance* - these have proven to be great selling points for Regional areas in the past

## SPONSOR OR OTHER ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Supported by the Major Festivals Initiative in association with Melbourne Festival, Sydney Festival and Adelaide Festival, Seymour Centre, Australia Council, Community Arts NSW.

## TEACHER'S RESOURCES

The Company provides a Teacher's Resource Pack suitable for senior drama, dance, music and art students.

## PRODUCTION DETAILS

See attached Full Tech Specs.

# THIS SHOW IS ABOUT PEOPLE TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

---

## SET

Set Design: Bob Cousins.

## DESCRIPTION

The Set primarily consists of a 14.4 meter wall with 3 pairs of French action sliding doors.

The Floor is a gray tarkett with the downstage 6m underlaid with 30mm jigsaw mats, the upstage 4 meters of tarkett may be placed directly onto the sprung dance floor.

Other set elements include a vending machine, musician's rostra, 3 single chairs, 4 sets of 4 seat beam chairs, telephone and an LED sign.

## VENUE/LOCAL FESTIVAL TO PROVIDE:

### FLOORING

A Clean and undamaged light gray tarkett to cover the stage. 5 rolls at 2 metres wide x 15 meters long

Floor tape must be the same colour match as the tarkett.

If the Tarkett is not exactly 15m or 14.4m or 13.6m long, then it the PS and OP edges of the tarkett will have to be covered with a black covering – such as car carpet, or cut to fit.

### MASKING

Black Masking for PS and OP to extend from the PS and OP edges of Wall to the extremity of the venue.

The venue should provide masking for the front of the stage to neaten the downstage edge of the tarkett and underlay. This should be approximately 35mm tall. A suggestion is to use 90mm x 45mm timber painted black.

### INSTALLATION EQUIPMENT

Motorized chain block for lifting the hardwood truss into position. (approx 700kg)

2 x black Steel Wire Rope (SWR) droppers with turnbuckles to support the set and remove deflection from the truss. These will stay attached during the performances.

4 x 2.4m A-frame ladders

# THIS SHOW IS ABOUT PEOPLE TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

## LIGHTING

Lighting Designer: Niklas Pajanti

All equipment to be supplied by the presenter/venue unless otherwise stated as provided.

Note: The Lighting Plan can be reworked to tailor to the theatre's home-stock LX equipment.

## PRE-RIG

A lighting pre-rig, prior to our arrival, would be preferable. Please discuss with us if this is not possible.

## CUES

There are approximately 40 cues in the piece. (Available on file for Strand 530)

## PLOTTING

During the plotting session it is preferable that the Lighting board operator is at the production desk in the Auditorium,

## CONTROL DESK

Computer based Lighting control desk capable of pre-recorded timed cue playback.

## LAMP LIST

QUANTITY	TYPE	NOTES
35	SL 15/32	one with IRIS [channel 77]
38	Selecon and Cadenza 2KF	
24	Harmony PC 1000W	
15	Par 16 LV	
25	SL 23/50	
8	Selecon Fresnel 1200W	
1	Practical circuit	Vending machine fluorescent lamp (provided)
3	1495mm fluorescent batten	(provided)
6	1200mm fluorescent batten	(provided)

## OTHER EQUIPMENT

QUANTITY	TYPE	NOTES
16	1800mm high booms	with boom arms for 26 lamps

## GEL

It is requested that presenter provide the Gel at the venue prior to rigging.

R119 Light Hamburg Frost x 20 SL 15/32

R132 Quarter Hamburg Frost x 15 SL 15/32, x 25 SL 23/50

R98 Medium Grey x 8 2KF

L085 Deeper Blue x 4 1.2KF

L202 Half CTB x 20 SL 15/32

L203 Quarter CTB x 15 SL 15/32, x 17 SL 23/50

L213 White Flame Green x 12 1.2KF

L345 Fuchsia Pink x 4 1.2KF

L711 Cold Blue x 8 2KF, x 8 SL 23/50

L744 Dirty White x 8 2KF, x 12 1.2KF

## PLANS

Plans are available in PDF, and Vector-Works dwg file formats



# THIS SHOW IS ABOUT PEOPLE TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

---

## AUDIO

Audio Design: Peter Kennard / Peter Nielsen

Essentially the show is a live music presentation 2 instrumentalists - 3 vocalists - and 3 mic'd actors creating beat box and sfx with voice as well as spoken word. Add live audio manipulation and playback of sound design elements (atmospheres-pre record music etc) and you have a show that is as big as any live music concert.

### BASIC REQUIREMENTS:

A sound system suited to the venue, capable of producing clear sound for live audio performance

Midas mixer (a manual board) - alternative: Soundcraft "Venue"

8x8 matrix

6 to 8 auxiliaries (pref 8) with on/off facility

individual channels with 4 band parametric

### Groups as follows:

group Mara, Sylvia, Jarnie and Toby

group 2 telephone mic

group 7,8 Nick and Llew

The FX were sent through the same mixer

Also need a group one of the dancer's on radio and any mics that might be across the front for larger venues

### 6 monitor sends, 6 monitor speakers

1: DS OP Llew (musician)

2: DS OP Nick (musician)

3: DS OP

4: DS PS

5: US OP

6: US PS

## ON STAGE AUDIO

8 x radio mics DPA style "hair clip" mics - not wire headsets. + Spare unit in case of fault.

4 x condensor mics to hang above central downstage area -

2 x xlr lines to OP mid stage where the two instrumentalists will be seated on a small riser.

1 x wireless foldback unit (eg in ear with output to RCA) (for audio from boombox)

6 x preferably "low visual impact" monitors - 2 centre downstage edge of stage - 1 OP mid stage for instrumentalists - 1 PS mid stage - 2 upstage behind sliding doors

## FOH

FOH speakers as to suit the Venue.

Mixing Console to suit

Delay and reverb FX Units.

## LICENSING / APRA

We have APRA Licenses to use the tracks which are in the piece: details are available from Shaun Parker & Company.

# THIS SHOW IS ABOUT PEOPLE TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

---

## **COSTUME**

Costume Designer: Bob Cousins

### **DESCRIPTION**

The costumes are general contemporary street ware, with some special items requiring particular care.

### **WASHING INSTRUCTIONS**

The costumes will be washed each evening post show and all items will be put on to dry before the SM departs for the evening, unless wardrobe staff are able to put the costumes on to dry first thing in the morning. The SM will take care of this or work with your wardrobe person to come to an arrangement.

### **VENUE REQUIREMENTS**

Washing facilities and detergents are required at the venue.

A drying closet and tumble dryer facilities are required at the venue.

Iron and ironing board will also be required.

## **VISUAL (AV, PROJECTION, SCREENS)**

### **DIGITAL LED SIGN**

We have a digital LED sign as part of the set design.

This is controlled from a laptop by the SFX operator or the production/stage manager who will have a control position no greater than a 20m cable run length from the sign.

There are no other AV requirements

## **SHOW CREW POSITIONS**

### **STAGE MANAGER (TOURING CREW)**

The stage manager should be in a position where they are able to see the full stage, preferably from DSPS or from Front of house.

### **LED SIGN OPERATOR (TOURING CREW)**

The LED sign operator should be in a position no greater than a 20 meter cable run away from the LED sign, in a position where the LED sign is completely visible.

### **MECHANIST (LOCAL CREW)**

The Mechanist will be positioned behind the set wall on PS, from here they will be required to operate the hand line driven Perspex sliding doors.

### **AUDIO – FOH ENGINEER (LOCAL CREW)**

The FOH Engineer should be positioned in the auditorium in a position where they will be able to accurately hear the FOH mix as presented to the audience.

### **AUDIO – RADIO MIC TECHNICIAN/ SOUND FX OPERATOR (LOCAL CREW)**

The Radio Mic Technician /Sound FX operator will be positioned in the PS wings where they will have access to the performers during presentation of the performance.

### **LIGHTING OPERATOR (LOCAL CREW)**

The Lighting board operator may operate from the standard operation position for the venue. Cues will be called. During the plotting session it would be preferable that the operator be at the production desk in the auditorium.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

### **TALKBACK**

Talkback communications will be required at all crew positions.

### **PAGING**

The Stage Manager will require a paging system to the dressing rooms.

# THIS SHOW IS ABOUT PEOPLE TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

## FREIGHT

### DESCRIPTION

Freight will be in Crates, except when performing locally, in which case some elements will be transported individually or pre-built.

### FREIGHT CRATE DETAILS

ITEM (ALL TO BE CONFIRMED)	LENGTH (MM)	DEPTH (MM)	HEIGHT (MM)	WEIGHT (KG)	CASE EMPTY WEIGHT (KG)
Mat Crate 1	1795	1106	1250	120 approx	
Mat Crate 2	1795	1106	1250	120 approx	
Set Crate 1	2500	1300	1450	600 approx	
Vending Machine	1067	820	1900	200 approx	
Truss	2960	700	700	200 approx	

## CREWING AND SCHEDULES

### VENUE REQUIREMENTS

This show is about people has been designed to be shown in a proscenium arch or warehouse style theatre seating between 400 -1200 patrons. It does not require a fly tower; however pickup points will be required for the set. As the performance has a base in dance it is preferable that the audience is raked to allow good sightlines to the stage floor.

Due to the nature of the set, it is unsuitable to share the venue with another performance during the season.

### STAGE SPECIFICATIONS

MINIMUM STAGE SIZE	14m WIDE X 11m DEEP x 8m HIGH
Stage Surface	Light Gray Tarkett 15m x 10m
Rake	The stage must not have a rake of anything greater than 3mm per meter

### WARM UP / REHEARSAL SPACE

MINIMUM REHEARSAL SIZE	10m WIDE x 8m DEEP
Stage Surface	Suitable for Dancing (tarkett / sprung floor)

Required for Day 1 and Day 2.

### WARDROBE / WASHING FACILITIES

The venue must have the following available for our use:

Washing Machine, Dryer, Clothes Rack, Iron and Ironing Board

### FREIGHT STORAGE FACILITIES

Please be aware there will need to be storage at the venue during the season for the Freight Crates and road cases.

### PARKING

There should be parking for the Cast Van and Crew/Equipment Truck available at the Venue.

### CREW REQUIREMENTS - BUMP IN, SHOW AND BUMP OUT

*This Show Is About People* has a 2 day bump in schedule, with a pre-rig prior to arrival. Bump in on Day 1 and Tech and Open on Day 2.

Day 1 09-13 RIG LX Over Stag Sound Install.  
Day 1 14-18 Build Wall / LX FOH  
Day 1 19-23 Build Wall / Rigging . Sound Plot & Audio Check  
Day 2 09-13 Plot/Tech  
Day 2 14-18 Tech/Dress  
Day 2 19-23 1<sup>st</sup> Public Performance



## SHAUN PARKER & COMPANY

CONTACT DETAILS:

[projects@shaunparkercompany.com](mailto:projects@shaunparkercompany.com)

+61 2 9351 1941

C/O SEYMOUR CENTRE  
PO BOX 553, BROADWAY NSW 2007  
AUSTRALIA

[SHAUNPARKERCOMPANY.COM](http://SHAUNPARKERCOMPANY.COM)

---