

# *Rochelle Carmichael*



Robert Brassington The Red Swan from Plucked (Image: Batchedit)

## *Liquid Skin*

# INDUSTRY AWARDS

- Finalist** AICD Dance Creation 2014  
*Enter Question*
- Short Listed** Australian Dance Awards  
Outstanding Achievement in Dance on Film/New Media  
*Plucked (nine short films)*
- Winner** The Australian Choreographic Competition  
*CROWD (2014)*
- Winner** The Australian Choreographic Competition  
*Out of No Thing (2013)*
- Winner** Short and Sweet Melbourne Outstanding Choreographic Award  
*Out of No Thing (2013)*
- Winner** Melbourne Fringe Movement Award (2004) for *Aoroi*
- Nominated** Artzmedia Antenna Award (2004) for *Aoroi*
- Winner** Dancehouse Choreographic Innovation Award (2000)  
*Study at Ground Level*
- Nominated** Greenmill Festival's Young Choreographers Award (1997)  
*The Plumbing of Venus Beneath the Surface of the Vanity Basin*
- Winner** Peoples Choice Award at Dancehouse (1996)  
*RUSH Slips Sex & Marbles*



# *About Liquid Skin*

**Liquid Skin** has been operating since 1994 under the direction of Rochelle Carmichael.

Carmichael creates powerful and emotionally infused Dance Theatre. Carmichael works to create stories with strong emotional and visceral connections. She blends fresh new ideas in design, costume, sound, light, illusion and puppetry, with virtuosic dance, and highly visual theatre. Rochelle's works are well known for their diversity and ability to engage audiences.

Carmichael's highly visual aesthetic stems from her professional background with Meryl Tankard, and 30 years in the independent industry. Bypassing trends, she has forged her own unique style, described as 'innovative' and 'seductive'. Her style of movement is 'curvaceous, and fluid, with a strong and earthy physicality, capable of taking audiences on a full sensory journey'. (Jordan Beth Vincent)

Liquid Skin is always in constant motion, a project by project based company, striving to evolve, and pursuing opportunities that bring opportunities to performers and new audiences.

Carmichael was busy in 2018 to 2019 travelling to Indonesia and Malaysia to create new work in collaboration with Dimar Dance Theatre; the development and sell out season *Scream Bloody Murder*; 'Earth' toured to Florence, Italy for the Florence Dance Festival; new trio 'Anomaly' tours to Karawang International Festival in Indonesia. Rochelle is currently residing in Baw Baw shire Gippsland Victoria, where she continues her creative journey developing new initiatives and collaborations.



# Scream Bloody Murder

Inspired by Australian female serial killers.

Part horror show, part spectacle, Scream Bloody Murder will be a bold and striking image-based dance theatre performance.



*“This startlingly and affecting work successfully blurred and redefined many established boundaries surrounding contemporary dance and performance making. The use of the Industrial School at Abbotsford Convent, as a site specific space, was both highly innovative and original. Rarely does one experience a synergy of space, movement, visual image and sound that was so nuanced and mutually supportive. This is a mature work in all senses of the word, a creative offer which takes you in, takes you deeper and challenges you. It is beautiful and intelligent work.*

*Rachel Burke. (Lighting Designer)*

*“Looking at these strong poses and stark lighting are very reminiscent of Caravaggio’s artwork. Amazing!” (Harley Freeman)*

*“I won’t forget ‘Scream Bloody Murder’ Visually and viscerally powerful. Thought the space was used brilliantly – the glimpses through the open doorways and the contrast with the overt stuff happening so close to us..... Cast I thought were very effectively chosen for the different stories.” (Jenny Barnett)*

Liquid Skin Dance (Australia) and Dimar Dance Theatre (Indonesia),

# In the Presence of Absence

Presented in Surabaya, Indonesia and Johor Bahru, Malaysia.

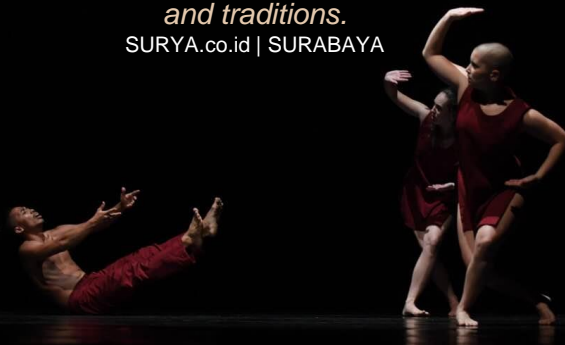


Images by zabur karuru

*Rochelle brings together three differences in a stunning dance performance. The choreographer, Rochelle Charmichael from Australia tried to bring together three dancers. Dian Bokir from Trenggalek, Martina Feiertag from Germany, and Luisa Kastl from Germany, in a dance full of energy, dynamics, between Asia and Europe.*

*Their body movements which are full of acrobatic elements become unifying, although every dancer has a dance experience that is very much different from one another's culture and traditions.*

SURYA.co.id | SURABAYA



# Out of No Thing



***Out of No Thing** is Rochelle's first purely abstract work in 15 years, focusing on series of solos, duets and trios that explore elements of large bodily flow with articulate layers of gesture, negotiating between tension and release, rebounding in relationship to gravity, inversions & suspensions, examining unpredictable pathways, and exploring spatial relationships in these complex interactions.*

***Performed** first performed at Geelong's Performing Arts Centre, & Chapel off Chapel Melbourne, in Sydney for the Short and Sweet Festival, and toured internationally to the, Sibu International Dance Festival, Malaysia.*

*'**Out of No Thing** ', the concluding work choreographed by Rochelle Carmichael was strong, powerful and dramatic. The cast wore simple yet elegant black costumes .Choreographically at times there were laser sharp movements, a frieze like line at one point , some writhing ,sculptural tableaux and some most unusual lifts. Mini duets and trios featured rolling floor work. Did I detect a possible Bonachela influence combined with Butoh ? One to watch out for.'* (LYNNE LANCASTER)



**WINNER**

Australian Choreographic Award 2013

**WINNER**

Short and Sweet Melbourne Outstanding Choreographic Award 2013



## *Plucked*

This is the first major collaboration between Rochelle Carmichael (Liquid Skin) and Justin Batchelor (BATCHEDIT). The resulting work will be presented in live theatrical and film formats, enabling a wider audience to see the work.

***“For dramatic and expertly crafted film depicting and intimate reflection on life before death, and for a fascinating collaboration between dance, theatre, video and music artists.”***  
***(Australian Dance Awards Panel)***

Nine new dance works in development, filmed specifically for the screen at high resolution 4K and with music composed by some of Melbourne's brightest music makers. Choreographed by Rochelle Carmichael, featuring the dancers of Liquidskinstudio and filmed by Justin Batchelor of Batchedit, Plucked marks the beginning of a journey in the process of creating dance theatre and film.

**Short Listed for the *Australian Dance Awards Outstanding Achievement in Dance on Film/New Media.***



# Victorian College of the Arts



- 2018 Sucked In
- 2017 No One Knows & Around
- 2016 Around
- 2014 Stone
- 2013 T.Issue
- 2012 Found Together
- 2011 I am Familiar
- 2006 Ellipsis
- 2004 Signature
- 1995 An Edge of Cloth

'Around' by Rochelle Carmichael was a standout. I've seen her works in previous years, like, 'T.Issue' and 'Stone', and was always impressed by her unique, theatrical expressions.

*"I want to thank you personally for your commitment to high artistic standards and your willingness to help both dance and production students aspire to professionalism."* (Jenny Kinder – Head of Dance VCA)

*"Rochelle's choreography was outstanding for its innovation of vocabulary and clear and imaginative structure"* (Hellen Sky)



"This production wasn't anything I've seen before. It's very difficult to describe it. It's part of Tim Burton-esque mysterious fantasy world. It also suddenly descends into 'Gangnam Style' cacophonous incongruity.

Choreography itself was fascinating, a series of very complicated movements, but, dancers obviously were capable of pulling it off effortlessly. With dream-like costume, clever prop and soundtrack, this is a production that dares to challenge our imagination.

I liked it a lot. " Around 2016/17 (Hiro)





# The Faders



*"DO YOU want to be famous? Be careful what you wish for. In *The Faders*, choreographer Rochelle Carmichael explores the cult of celebrity and the perils of valuing one's self worth in the currency of public adoration. *The Faders* is refreshingly old-fashioned in its use of highly physical and complex movement sequences and simple props. The dancing is the star here, and Carmichael is at her best developing intricate partnering work. *The Faders* is Fringe at its finest."* **Jordan Beth Vincent** *The Age* **October 6th 2012**

*"The Faders by Rochelle Carmichael is a really ambitious piece - eight dancers, HUGE, cavernous space at The Substation in Newport. This is Carmichael's most complex work to date.*

*The partnering and the choreographic formations shine. Carmichael is really good at curvacous, fluid, sometimes slightly aggressive groupings. (I think this comes from her time with Meryl Tankard...)*

*A strong, earthy physicality permeates the whole piece. Also a highlight is Carmichael's use of the ridiculously deep space - diagonals, lines, clusters, upstage, downstage - she finds a way to use it all."*

**Stephanie Glickman** <http://dancereviewsmelbourne.blogspot.com.au>



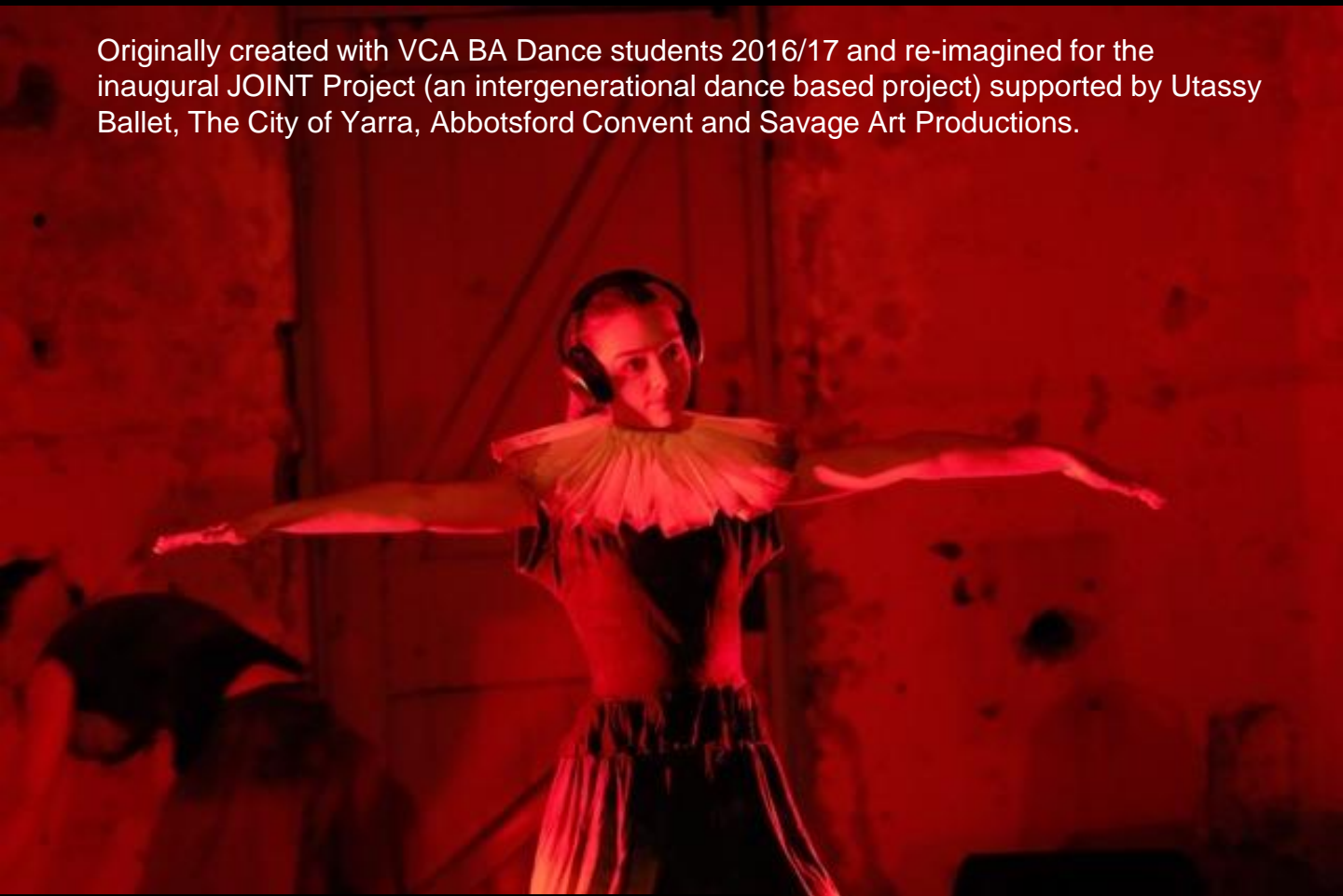
# Earth

New commission for  
DanceBourne Arts  
Season June 2017  
Melbourne, Australia  
&  
Florence Dance Festival  
Italy  
2018



# *Around About*

Originally created with VCA BA Dance students 2016/17 and re-imagined for the inaugural JOINT Project (an intergenerational dance based project) supported by Utassy Ballet, The City of Yarra, Abbotsford Convent and Savage Art Productions.



# WINNER

## Melbourne Fringe Festival's Movement Award

*"Aoroi the second piece by Rochelle Carmichael, involves more complex choreography and engaging physical imagery. (Danced by Larissa O'Brien & Paul Schembri) Larissa is a delightful dancer with great versatility and a compelling presence. She and Schembri begin in semi-darkness with bicycle lamps on their heads as if in a mineshaft. They move like some peculiar subterranean or nocturnal creatures: lizard, marsupial or bird. Their dance shifts from the spasmodic movements of the underground to a fluid and beautiful duo on a chair."*

*(Kate Herbert Herald Sun, Tuesday October 6<sup>th</sup> 2004)*

AOROI has been  
commissioned by the  
Geelong Performing Arts  
Center's Poppykettle Festival  
2013.



*Aoroi, a tantalising, dark dance fantasy, choreographed by Rochelle Carmichael, follows the vicious antics of two nasty — but delightfully supple — fairies.*

*"Remember watching Pinocchio for the first time, and the excitement you felt when the blue fairy appeared? Aoroi is a beautiful, intelligent movement piece about the allure of fairies. With a witty musical score, the dancers build an enchanted world that the audience is lucky enough to witness. The two dancers, Larissa O'Brien and Paul Schembri, move well together, maintaining strong characters throughout. Reading fairy tales, loosing your teeth, and meeting the blue fairy... all your favourites are in the show. The colourful, childlike wonder of Aoroi. Devised by Rochelle Carmichael, makes for a beaming audience throughout the performance. You might just worry about how many fairies you're killing with all the applause."*.....

Stage Review : By Lisa Pham VIC 28.09.04.....

### **Antenna Awards finalist nominations**

*We are pleased to note the following finalist nominations in the Antenna Awards, the national community television awards: **We didn't forget dance, of course. Rochelle Carmichael's lovely choreography and Paul Schembri and Larissa O'Brien's dance came together in Aoroi. You couldn't ask for much more drama in half an hour. Which other show could deal with that many themes with that many actors and with such televisual pace?*** <http://artzmedia.net/blog/>

*Paper Man &  
The 499<sup>th</sup> day*

**Melbourne Fringe Festival Review, Herald Sun**

"Rochelle Carmichael's work is Fringe in budget only. If she had one-tenth of the time and money that Philippe Genty has to create a work, she'd be bigger than (Lion King director) Julie Taymor." Chris Boyd Herald Sun, Friday, October 1, 2010.

**"THE ARTS - A pleasant change of pace", Melbourne Fringe Festival Review, The Age**

*Choreographed and directed by Rochelle Carmichael, this double bill is elegant in performance, whimsical in style, and demonstrates some of the simple joys of contemporary dance.*

*Carmichael's work veers towards emotional, rather than abstract, a pleasant change of pace. Performances by all three dancers are sophisticated and refined, enhanced by the inclusion of familiar classical music."*

**Jordan Beth Vincent. The Age, 2010.**

*"PaPer Man is a sweet piece where you're drawn into the world of two characters, a man and a woman, and he is challenged in a very charming way.*

*The use of props in this piece is amusing, thoughtful and eloquent, producing some delightful tableaux. The siren's playful tricks with balloons and papers nearly tempt the staid man but in the end produce in him a destructive defensiveness."*

**ONLINE - Review: Liza Dezfouli [Australian Stage] September 28th, 2010**



**Clickity CLack [Dont look Back] & Aoroi.**

May 27th, 2009

ONLINE Review: Alison Croggon [Theatrenotes]

... It was a relief, then, to see Rochelle Carmichael's **Clickity Clack** and **Aoroi**, two short dance pieces presented at Theatre Works. Combining circus, black light puppetry and physical theatre, Clickity Clack is a **witty take** on the erotics of dress with some wonderful costumes - a skirt levitated by red helium balloons, a cut-out paper business suit with a huge bow tie - and some fun reveals.

Aoroi seems to be a *concept taken straight from a fantasy art website*, with fairies creeping out from beneath a curtain, half insect, half human, to play their amoral and predatory games.

**These are seductive pieces, with a touch of the exuberant embrace of popular kitsch that animates so much of BalletLab's work.**

## Other works Media

### ***RUSH* Slips Sex & Marbles**

**Throw a Mudfest and watch it click:** Melbourne University Arts Festival 1995

*"Rochelle Carmichael's RUSH, for four dancers, defies description. It has ballistic spinning tumbles, brawling girlishness, trousers that won't stay up, diamond-hard lines of dialogue (by Craig Goddard) and handfuls of marbles. It is an accomplished short work full of unexpected twists and swerves."*

(Chris Boyd - Herald Sun)

**If there was an award for best dance title it would go to...**

### ***The Plumbing of Venus Beneath the Surface of the Vanity Basin***

'Praise is due to Rochelle Carmichael, who Produced and Directed both works.'

'There is also an unusual clarity and persistence.'

(Robin Grove - The age)

*"The Plumbing of Venus Beneath the Surface of the Vanity Basin is confronting contemporary dance theatre designed to challenge the traditional roles of women. Rochelle's work emphasises the creation of dance for mature performers. 'Her works challenge the 'ageist' views of many within contemporary culture.'*

(Berwick Leader Paper)

### ***Aoroi***

*"The colourful, childlike wonder of Aoroi, devised by Rochelle Carmichael, makes for a beaming audience throughout the performance. You might just worry about how many fairies you're killing with all the applause."* (Lisa Pham: Stage Review VIC 28.02.04)

### ***Breathing Space***

*"...is a highly developed, imaginistic and complex dance work; it is innovative, visually interesting and clearly realised throughout."*

### ***Ellipsis***

*"The wonderful choreography is matched with the talented dancers who are able to create different moods by performing in a group, in pairs or solo. The energy, trust and camaraderie is evident through their movements."* (Lisa Pham)

### ***Study at Ground Level***

*"It was also defined by a lovely gentle & vaguely erotic sense of comedy."* (Jonathan Marshall 2000)

### ***Man.In.2Parts. Part two***

*"Rochelle Carmichael's Man.In.2Parts. Part two was a dynamic and thoughtful exploration of masculine space. "* (Jacqueline Pascoe – Dance Australia Aug/Sept 2002)

## VIDEO LINKS



Compilation Rochelle Carmichael  
<https://vimeo.com/215450799>

Out of No Thing (2016) Siby Malaysia  
<https://vimeo.com/205115812>



T.Issue (2013) Victorian College of the Arts  
Excerpt  
<https://vimeo.com/164076547>

Around (2016 & 2017) Victorian College of the Arts - Excerpt  
Password: Around  
<https://vimeo.com/237851763>



CROWD (2014) Australian Choreographic Competition – winner  
<https://vimeo.com/122057373>

Plucked (2013/14)  
The Red Swan: <https://vimeo.com/74271344>

In the Mangroves I lay:  
<https://vimeo.com/73837836>



The Faders (2012) The Substation - Snippet  
<https://vimeo.com/237683466>



## *Rochelle Carmichael MA*

Rochelle Carmichael MA is Liquid Skin's founder and Artistic Director (1994 – 2015)

Carmichael trained as a classical dancer at the Victorian College of the Arts and the Arts and The Educational School in England. She completed her Post Graduate and Masters degrees in choreography at the Victorian College of the Arts.

Carmichael's choreographic inspiration and influences stem from when she was a professional performer with the Meryl Tankard Dance Theatre. With a slightly European flavour mixed in with her strong Australian roots Carmichael's performances stimulate, engage and rouse audiences.

Carmichael's works have been highly recognised by media and peers, with many industry awards, nominations across industry disciplines, and strong media coverage.

*"Rochelle Carmichael's work is Fringe in budget only. If she had one-tenth of the time and money that Philippe Genty has to create a work, she'd be bigger than (Lion King director) Julie Taymor."*

Chris Boyd Herald Sun, Friday, October 1, 2010.

Carmichael's works have been described as innovative and seductive, with parallels being drawn to high profile companies and choreographers throughout Australia.

Choreographic Commissions and Liquid Skin produced works include performance works for professional institutions, venues and festivals, such as Dancehouse, The Victorian College of the Arts, Ausdance Victoria, Melbourne Botanic Gardens, Melbourne Gang Show, *Platform Youth Theatre*, Greenmill choreographic festival, Newtown theatre NSW, Theatre Works, Gasworks Theatre, Malthouse theatre, Midsumma festival and Melbourne Fringe Festival to name a few. Carmichael was Artistic Director of the Melbourne Fringe Fashion Show (2001 & 2002) and worked with Regional Arts Victoria on a multi-faceted arts project with a strong mentorship program.

*'This years Fringe Fashion certainly lived up to it's Decadent and Delicious theme... the show was one of the freshest, and most enjoyable in years.'*  
(Emily Booth –Metro Review – Melbourne)

Carmichael created nine new commissioned works recently for the Victorian College of the Arts Tertiary, first second, and third year students performance seasons. Her works *Out of No Thing* and *CROWD* won consecutively *The Australian Choreographic Competition* 2013, 2014; *Plucked* was short listed in the *Australian Dance Awards* and *Enter Question* premiered in the AICD finals of *Dance Creation* 2014.

Rochelle recently returned from Indonesia and Malaysia where she developed and presented her new work 'In the Presence of Absence' collaborating with Dimar Dance Theatre. Her latest sell out season, double bill of *Scream Bloody Murder & Around About* premiered in Melbourne, August 2019. She has also been invited to tour her new work 'Anomaly' to Indonesia for the *Goyang Karawang International Dance Festival*.





## CONTACT DETAILS

For further information or video material please contact ...

Rochelle Carmichael

[liquidskinau@yahoo.com](mailto:liquidskinau@yahoo.com)

[www.liquidskin.com.au](http://www.liquidskin.com.au)

Liquid Skin

Mob: +61 3 0419 966 225

Liquidskinstudio and Liquid Skin on facebook

Skype (rochelle.carmichael)

Artistic Director – Rochelle Carmichael

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