

Echo Mapping A sound~body duet

Jack Prest & Azzam Mohamed

produced by Intimate Spectacle

**Intimate
SPECTACLE**

Documentation

Excerpt from upcoming full work (23 minutes) at 107 Redfern, April 2024 (2 min showreel & 23 min full):

www.intimatespectacle.com.au/production/echo-mapping/



Creative Team

Co-creator, choreographer, dancer	Azzam Mohamed
Co-creator, composer, musician	Jack Prest
Designer	Anna Tregloan
Lighting, production	Neil Simpson
Producer	Intimate Spectacle (Harley Stumm)

Project Concept (marketing copy can be drawn from this outline)

Echo Mapping is a multi-art duet by electronic musician/composer Jack Prest and street dancer/choreographer Azzam Mohamed. Raw creativity and unpretentious process are the backbone of *Echo Mapping*, stripped back to the simplest elements, no sets, no costumes and minimal production; the sole focus is on the sound and movement.

Jack performs the music, moving from transcendent textures to thundering beats to ethereal trumpet. Azzam performs both voice and body, singing traditional Sudanese melodies while maintaining a commanding stillness. He builds with sporadic vocalisations and fluid yet intense choreography. His vocalisations are recorded, looped and manipulated by Jack, becoming a part of the sonic atmosphere.

Echo Mapping is about knowing when to listen, when to respond, when to lead, when to follow, when to claim space, when to yield it and most importantly when to share it. This process draws inspiration from club culture, in which the music serves as catalyst for the dancers. In turn, the DJ adapts the music, responding to the energy on the dancefloor.

Echo Mapping goes deeper with these dynamic exchanges, substituting the DJ for composer and party dance for choreography. Vicki Van Hout said of WIP showing “Mohamed’s relationship with Prest was more symbiotic, occurring as an interdisciplinary duet rather than a series of to-and-fro communiqués.” (Form Dance Newsletter 09/23)

Development plan

Echo Mapping has been developed in several stages: firstly as an open studio style performance over 4 hours, during *MONUMENTAL (working title)*, a major performance program Intimate Spectacle co-produced with Art Gallery of NSW (2022, 2023); a *Dirty Feet Out of the Studio* residency & WIP showing (2023); and most recently, a short version/excerpt in Intimate Spectacle’s triple bill with 3 night public season at 107 Redfern (April 2024), **sound~body**.

We have secured funding from Create NSW to complete it as a full length work, commissioned by Art Gallery of NSW, to premiere there in November 2024.

Staging and technical requirements

Staging: Ideally presented in the round/non frontal, can be adapted to end-on if necessary. Minimum space approx 10x10m.

Audio: Modern high end PA system providing powerful full-range stereo system with stereo monitor foldback for both performers, eg Meyer Leopard x 8 (2x4 Line Array); Meyer 900LFC Sub x 2; Meyer UPM-1p x 4 (Monitor Fill); Meyer System Processor. Allen and Heath SQ5 mixer or similar, Shure SM58 mic & stand (or similar wired dynamic vocal mic), 20m XLR cable.

Lighting: basic package to create even focused lighting throughout the performance space. At 107 Redfern we used gallery fixtures with warm white globes. Lighting will be further refined during the final development.

Audience/s

- Contemporary dance community/audiences, Dancehouse regulars
- Street dance community/audiences
- Experimental & electronic music community/audiences

Lead artist biographies

[Azzam Mohamed](#) is a dancer, performer, and educator. He has been dancing for more than 13 years, and has trained in an array of different dance styles, from Afro-House and Kuduro to HipHop, Popping and House. In 2019 he was champion of Destructive Steps, Australia's premiere street dance competition. He performed in Nick Power's contemporary and street dance crossover production produced by Intimate Spectacle, commissioned by Sydney and Adelaide Festivals in 2020, **Two Crews**. He was a key collaborator in Jack Prest's **The Risk of Hyperbole**, (2021) his first full-length work as solo performer and choreographer, and continues to collaborate with Jack, including in Intimate Spectacle's co-production with Art Gallery of NSW & Sydney Festival, **MONUMENTAL (working title)**, in 2022 and returning in 2023 for Sydney Festival. He curated and directed **Sculptured Riddims** for Sydney Festival 2024, three club nights of street dancers responding to Michael Shaw's inflatable sculpture **Hi-Vis** in the Thirsty Mile festival club space, celebrating diverse communities, cultures, and music genres with various dance styles—from street to club to Afro dance. Azzam is also creating a full length work **Katma**, produced by PYT Fairfield, currently in development and to premiere in 2025. He is a member of the Board of Critical Path.

[Jack Prest](#) is a mid-career arts professional working as composer, mix/master/recording engineer and interdisciplinary artist. His practice incorporates electronic, avant-garde and ambient music, sound art, new media, video and performance. He is a senior engineer at Studios 301, Australia's most prestigious recording facility, with engineering credits including: Sony, Future Classic, Bruce Springsteen, The Preatures, Sampa the Great, Kool Keith, Flume, Urthboy, David Campbell, Delta Goodrum, Jonti, Santpoort, Anatole, Donatchi and Godtset. **The Risk of Hyperbole** was his debut full-length performance work as lead artist and director, having created scores for numerous dance and theatre works previously. These include Branch Nebula's 2013 Helpmann Award winning **Whelping Box** and Nick Power's Australian Dance Award nominated **Between Tiny Cities**, and MFI commission **Two Crews**. Works for which he has composed have featured at: Sydney, Darwin, Bleach, Adelaide, Brisbane & Junction Festivals, Sydney Opera House, Dance Massive, APAM, Carriageworks, Next Wave, Festival, Queenstown Arts Festival, La Place & Compagnie par Terre (France), Freespace (Hong Kong), and over 20 venues in 10 countries visited by **Between Tiny Cities**.

[Intimate Spectacle](#) is an independent producing company founded by Harley Stumm in 2012. It works across genres, from contemporary theatre, dance & dance theatre, to live art and music, collaborating with some of Australia's most exciting performance makers, including Latai Taumoepeau, Brian Fuata, Jack Prest, re:group performance collective, Rakini Devi, Jade Dewi Tyas Tunggal, Nick Power, Branch Nebula, post, Vicki Van Hout, Sam Routledge, Cambodian Space Project, Erth, Team MESS and Lenine Bourke. It has produced over 20 new works, as many special events & mixed programs, and over 130 seasons, in every Australian state and territory, as well as Hong Kong, Malaysia, Cambodia, UK, Germany, Spain, Netherlands, Hungary, Austria, Finland, and Chile. Previously Harley was Senior Producer at Performing Lines 2005-11 managing the Mobile States touring network; and Executive Producer at Urban Theatre Projects 1995-2003.

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