

**Media Release 21 July 2020**

## **VITALSTATISTIX TO REOPEN FROM 1 AUGUST**



**Port Adelaide-based, contemporary arts organisation Vitalstatistix will reopen their iconic venue, the state-heritage listed Waterside Workers Hall, from 1<sup>st</sup> August and have announced a rebooted program of events, performances and residencies for the rest of 2020.**

*“We are thrilled to be able to welcome artists and audiences back to Waterside as well as announcing a collaboration with the Adelaide Festival Centre”,* said Emma Webb, Director, Vitalstatistix.

In October, Vitalstatistix will restage ***Cher* by Larissa McGowan (SA)**, a solo tour de force about the rage and reinvention of the universal aging female artist. *Cher* premiered last year for two-nights-only at the 2019 Adelaide Cabaret Festival, and blew audiences away with its genre-busting intelligence, heart and weirdness. This new season is presented with the Adelaide Festival Centre and supported by the Australia Council’s COVID-19 responsive Resilience Fund.

*“Cher was made by a powerhouse South Australian team, and is able to be presented in a COVID-19 safe way, so we are delighted to have an opportunity to bring this amazing show to more audiences. The small-to-medium performance sector and the Adelaide Festival Centre have been working together really well to try to make opportunities from what has been an extremely difficult year for all of us”,* said Webb.

***Cher* by Larissa McGowan, 21 - 25 October, Space Theatre**

Vitalstatistix's acclaimed national experimental arts hothouse, **Adhocracy**, is also taking a major pivot in response to COVID-19, with 28 projects, three times more than usual, selected for support.

However, the usual four-day public lab, which brings together artists, curators and presenters from around Australia, will not be going ahead.

Instead Vitalstatistix will publish seven beautiful bite-sized offerings, made from micro-residencies held across the country, each Friday during the month of September. Vitals will also hold a series of mini-Adhocracy events each Friday evening at Waterside throughout September for South Australian audiences.

The 28 selected projects explore a wide range of contemporary themes ranging across race and racism, health and wellness, humans and the non-human, and personal-political explorations. See the full list here > <https://vitalstatistix.com.au/projects/adhocracy-2020-projects/>

Webb explains, *"Vitals received three times as many applications than usual for Adhocracy this year. While this may appear exciting, for us it was alarming, indicating how much income and job stress that artists are under at the moment. By deciding to deliver the lab in this new way, and pooling Australia Council funding together with other Federal monies we have been eligible for as an organisation affected by COVID-19, we have been able to support many more artists than usual."* Full statement available here > <https://vitalstatistix.com.au/projects/adhocracy-2020/>

## **New Adhocracy website will launch mid-August Adhocracy online and live+local, 4 - 25 of September, Waterside**

In 2020, Vitalstatistix is launching a new, multi-year project that will explore the very broad territory of labour, labour organising, art and working life, and the future of work.

***Bodies of Work*** will include research and development platforms, new commissions and collaborations, symposiums, and a series of presentations across four years.

This year the project kicks off with a week-long artist lab and a public event focused on dialogue about the key ideas, the possibilities and the context of the *Bodies of Work* initiative. Participating artists include Amrita Hepi (VIC), Emma Beech (SA), Natalie Harkin (SA), Paul Gazzola (SA), Rebecca Conroy (NSW) and Sarah Rodigari (NSW) along with Emma Webb and Australian writer and social commentator Ben Eltham (VIC).

*"Precarity, labour rights and the future of work have enormous relevance to arts workers, and side-by-side artists have much to offer in speculative and creative thinking around these critical questions for now and the future. This project will roll out in a similar style to our five-year Climate Century project and it's extremely exciting to get started on this process",* said Webb.

## **Bodies of Work, 4 November, Waterside**

*“Vitalstatistix’s residency program has been substantially impacted on by the necessary public health measures responding to COVID-19, which have limited gatherings and travel; yet all the artists have found new ways to work on their projects”, said Webb.*

Vitalstatistix has rescheduled three residencies for the rest of the year, each with public work-in-progress showings.

In August, artists **Kate Power (SA) and Sarah Rodigari (NSW)** return to continue work on **Bedroom**, both a new work-in-development and a mentorship project. *“We are still hopeful, although at this stage not overly optimistic, that Sarah will be able to join us physically in South Australia; yet either way the process that Kate and Sarah have undertaken this year is fascinating and very COVID-19 responsive, and this will be a focus of their artist talk/showings”,* Webb explained.

Then in November, two artists will undertake Incubator residencies (one of Vitalstatistix’s commissioning programs) side-by-side across the same dates, with **Amrita Hepi (VIC) developing *The Read* and Gabrielle Nankivell (SA) developing *Sightings***. *“While unusual, like everything else this year, it means these two acclaimed Australian dance makers will share this time together and our audiences will have a chance to see a very exciting double bill of residency outcomes and work-in-progress dance.”*

**Bedroom, Kate Power with Sarah Rodigari, 21 and 22 August, Waterside Dance Double Bill, Amrita Hepi + Gabrielle Nankivell, 20 and 21 November, Waterside**

*“We are very aware that things can change quickly, as we have seen in other states in the last few weeks. However, we are thrilled to reopen for now, excited to offer some provocative experiences for our audiences, and most importantly pumped to support a whole range of artists to continue to work.”*

*“We are aware that border restrictions and other important public health measures may continue to affect how we deliver this program – but it feels good to have a plan for the remainder of this very strange and difficult year, and we are really conscious that we are in a much luckier position than many of our arts sector comrades around Australia”,* said Webb

Full details here > <https://vitalstatistix.com.au/program/>  
For further information or comment, contact Isobel Moore > [program@vitalstatistix.com.au](mailto:program@vitalstatistix.com.au)

# VITALSTATISTIX