

CHAMBER MADE WISHES TO THANK

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Of huge importance to the development and creation of works like Diaspora and our sustainability in general are the generous donations we receive via our Navigators program. We are always keen to start new conversations in this area so please get in touch via our website if you'd like to know more: chambermade.org

3 – 6 October

DIASPORA

A Chamber Made work by Robin Fox and collaborators

Presented by The SUBSTATION and Chamber Made with the Melbourne International Arts Festival.

DIASPORA an ascension in three movements

Prologue	The sea of zeros
MOVEMENT 1	Conceptory
MOVEMENT 2	I/O (Input - output)
MOVEMENT 3	Cleaving the Asteroid
Postlogue	Ascension to software



CREATIVE AND PRODUCTION TEAM

Concept, creation, composition, electronics & lasers	Robin Fox
Co-composer & violin	Erkki Veltheim
Dramaturg & co-direction	Tamara Saulwick
Ondes musicales & Moog synth	Madeleine Flynn
Vocals & theremin	Georgina Darvidis
Video art & system design	Nick Roux
Lighting design	Amelia Lever-Davidson
Costume design	Shio Otani
Production Manager	Leo Gester
VCA intern	Caitlin Overton
Crew	Matthew Gingold
	Lauren Squire
	Matthew Wilson
	Nick Moloney
	James Beyerle
Promotion images	Pier Carthew

CHAMBER MADE STAFF

Executive Producer	Kylie McRae
Communications Manager	Emilie Collyer
Operations & Finance Coordinator	Dan Sheehan

A project like this takes many hands and many dedicated partners and supporters. I would like to thank everyone at Chamber Made for providing the space and resources for these ideas to grow and for believing in the work. I would like to thank each of the brilliant creative collaborators who bring so much to a project like this and are a source of endless inspiration. A huge thanks to our production manager, Leo Gester, whose ingenuity, acumen and dedication to this project went beyond. Thanks also to The SUBSTATION. Brad and the team are doing amazing work supporting local creation. Finally, thanks to everyone who provided bits of gear and assistance along the way, you are too numerous to list but you know who you are.

ROBIN FOX

ARTISTS' NOTES

Set in the distant future Greg Egan's *Diaspora* examines what it might be like to exist as humans in the software domain. What struck me most about the novel was the first chapter which outlines the birth of a digital consciousness. Written from the perspective of a computer programmer (the author is a coder) and intertwining broader ideas from mathematics, biology and genetics, the description of this 'birth' read as the most plausible version of a non-body human future that I had ever encountered. From the 'sea of zeros' - or the digital womb - Egan adds layer upon layer of interaction and complexity until the consciousness can hear itself think. Once sentient, the new citizen of the software 'polis' gathers with other members of the community to observe the cleaving of an asteroid that is eventually going to collide with Earth. By shearing this asteroid the collision will be avoided. This new work imagines the conceptory (digital womb), the increasingly complex web of associations that develop there, the coming on line of the consciousness and the cleaving of the asteroid in sound and light. The piece, equal parts sound and vision, is an abstraction that moves sequentially through the chapter. It takes shape in 3 movements.

ROBIN FOX

More and more I find myself with the feeling that creating art - whatever the form - is an act of optimism. Perhaps even more so artworks born from collaboration; artists leaping together into the unknown with no guarantee of where they will ultimately arrive. From dialogue, listening, experimentation, limitations and negotiation something entirely new emerges (we hope). Robin has always said that he was drawn to Greg Egan's *Diaspora* because of its utopian rather than dystopian vision of a possible future. Perhaps now more than ever we need optimistic speculations on what the future may bring. For my part, I hope that the experience of gathering together with other warm bodies in a dark space to witness acts of speculation and imagination will remain part of that future. But even more so, I hope that through dialogue, listening, experimentation and action a desirable future for the coming generations will be shaped. It has been such a great privilege to work with this stellar group of humans. Thanks to Robin and each of the collaborators for their wonderful creative contributions.

TAMARA SAULWICK