

PACT

COMPANY REPORT
2016



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ARTISTIC DIRECTOR'S REPORT

2016 was an incredible year for PACT. The company excelled artistically, managerially and financially, as evident in the Annual Report. 2016 cemented the groundwork laid in previous years and as a result PACT can positively face 2017 and any future challenges.

Artistically 2016 was a huge success. We launched a number of new, groundbreaking programs such as our Vacant Room 3 Year Residency and the Masterclass Series. Rapid Response Team continued to challenge and provoke audiences, and we presented the Sydney premiere of 3 incredible works from the Next Wave Festival - 'Desert Body Creep' by Angela Goh, 'Passing' by Amrita Hepi & Jahra Wasasala and '(MIS)CONCEIVE' by Thomas ES Kelly.

I was thrilled to co-direct Collective with Fred Copperwaite – Co-Artistic Director at Moogahlin Performing Arts. Fred and I had a great time working with 11 wonderful artists to create 'iDNA', which premiered at PACT in November.

Financially PACT had a very successful year, as evident in the strong end of year result. Diversifying income streams and increasing fundraising remains a key objective. 2016 built on the successes of the previous year with donor income increasing by 64%. Return donors also increased by 60% and the company saw a small improve in the amount each person donates. Plus earned income (venue hire, bar and ticket income) increased by 45%.

2016 was not however without its challenges. PACT received mixed funding news in 2016. PACT secured state funding and a small increase from Create NSW for 2016 to 2018. PACT successfully secured project funding for the 2016 Program from the City of Sydney, State Government agencies and philanthropic organisations.

Federal funding in 2016 remained static but unfortunately PACT's application to the Australia Council for the Arts for 4 Year Organisational funding (2017-2020) was unsuccessful. While this decision did not affect PACT's 2016 Budget, it will have an enormous impact on the company from 2017 onwards.

In response to the Australia Council's decision, the City of Sydney offered PACT a 5 lease with a 100% Venue Subsidy. This decision secured our iconic and much loved warehouse theatre until 30 Jun 2020 and importantly ensures that PACT is able to continue to offer opportunities for emerging and independent artists in Sydney.

This year would not have been so successful without the ongoing support of Create NSW, the City of Sydney, the Australia Council for the Arts, BBM Youth Support, I.B.M.A., UNSW, Blink Printing and everyone who generously donated throughout the year.

I would like to thank PACT's incredibly dedicated and hard working team – Danielle Taylor, Aurora Scott, Alex Torney, Charles Pashi, Natalie Newton, Jocelyn Payne and Jorge Taco. A big thanks you also to our amazing FOH and Technical crew. Everyone at PACT works above beyond the call of duty and the continued success of the company is testament to the staff's hard work and dedication.

A massive thank you to all the artists who have developed, presented and produced work with us throughout 2016. I think PACT is one of the most artistically exciting companies in the country because of all of you.

Best wishes



Katrina Douglas
Artistic Director / CEO



Katrina Douglas, Danielle Taylor, Alison Richardson and RUCKUS

MISSION

PACT is Australia's original centre for emerging and experimental art. PACT transforms the Arts by championing contemporary performance, artistic rigour and the freedom to explore the unknown.

We achieve this by:

- Placing artists in their first 5 years of professional practice at the centre of everything we do;
- Prioritising diversity, inclusion and an open door approach to programming;
- Facilitating an artist-led program for the next generation of cultural leaders; and
- Operating a unique Sydney venue dedicated to low cost presentation opportunities for independent artists.

Since 1964 PACT has supported Australia's most compelling emerging artists to create daring new contemporary performance. Our artists are thinkers, makers and provocateurs. They create Australia's cultural identity by testing new ideas, pushing their practice and engaging with unique methods of audience engagement.

PACT is built on the land of the Gadigal People of the Eora Nation. We pay our respect to Australia's First People and Elders past, present and Future.



COMPANY GOALS

GOAL 1: Be the platform from which emerging artists launch rigorous and excellent careers in experimental performance.

GOAL 2: Be recognised nationally and internationally as a leading centre for emerging artists engaged in experimental forms.

GOAL 3: Have a culture of loyalty within PACT's constituents and alumni to encourage a reciprocal environment of support, exchange and stability.

GOAL 4: Have a management structure that supports delivery of the organisation's purpose while remaining responsive to change.

GOAL 5: Be financially sustainable by investing in human resources and increasing non-grant income streams.

CORE VALUES

Experimentation – PACT values original exploration and experimentation across methodology, production, audience relationships and critical discourse.

Collaboration – PACT values community and vision encouraging collaboration and partnerships within and without its walls

Diversity – PACT values cultural diversity, ability and identity combined with unique modes of expression and audience engagement

Excellence – PACT values excellence and rigour via skill development pathways and within all modes of creative practice, mentorship and production

Sustainability – PACT values creative sustainability striving for cultural, environmental and economic well being.

ARTISTIC PROGRAM



PACT's programs provide pathways toward sustainable careers and are recognised as leading, signature opportunities within the wider Arts sector. In 2016 PACT offered a groundbreaking, provocative program that:

- provided opportunities for 82 emerging artists;
- employed 24 professional artists as mentors and facilitators;
- premiered 9 new works;
- presented the Sydney premiere of 3 interstate works;
- premiered a contemporary adaption of 1 classic text;
- supported the development of 8 new works;
- engaged with 2679 audience members; and
- offered low cost venue hire to 18 independent companies.

PACT also offered 7 masterclasses, 7 residencies, an international travel scholarship and 2 public forums. 2016 highlights included:

- launching a new 3 Year Residency and a Masterclass Series;
- presenting the Sydney premiere of three works from the 2016 Next Wave Festival in partnership with Critical Path and Next Wave;
- establishing an ongoing partnership with Moogahlin Performing Arts to increase opportunities for emerging First Nation artists;
- supporting RUCKUS Ensemble and the world premiere of their new work at PACT;
- successfully re-launching PACT's Membership program;
- developing 3 new works through the Vacant Room Shared Residency program; and
- significantly increasing non-government income by 45%.

PRESENTATIONS

TROPICAL HYPEISMS

World Premiere

'Tropical Hypeisms' by Caroline Garcia was a culturally promiscuous performance, confronting the hegemonic tropicalisation of women of colour through a hybridised aesthetic of cross-cultural dance, ritual practice and new media. In this new solo work, Caroline adopted the role of shape shifter, sliding into the gaps between cultures, experiences of tropical otherness and timeless clichés of exotic femininity. In 'Tropical Hypeisms', Caroline took an intersectional approach to contemporary dance, cultural politics and ideas of identity by presenting alternate ways of viewing images of the past that eschew classical myths.

'Tropical Hypeisms' was developed during Caroline Garcia's year-long 2015 residency at PACT.

Created & Performed by Caroline Garcia

Sound Composer: Mei Saraswati

Lighting Design: Amber Silk

Costume: Matthew Stegh

Outside Eyes: Latai Taumoepeau & Linda Luke

Headdress: Manobo Tribe, Philippines

Indigenous Threads: Mindanao, Philippines

Season: 13-16 January

Venue: PACT



AFTERGLOW 2016

Sydney Premiere

Co-presented by PACT, Critical Path and Next Wave

AFTERGLOW showcases courageous, unique and ambitious performance artists ready to take audiences by storm. AFTERGLOW 2016 was a highly successful four-day festival featuring three exceptional dance works from Next Wave Festival 2016.

PASSING

Emerging First Nation performing artists Amrita Hepi (AUS) and Jahra Wasasala (NZ) explored the societal pressures that come from being of mixed cultural background in 'Passing'.

DESERT BODY CREEP

Created and performed by Angela Goh, 'Desert Body Creep' explored the transition from dead to undead, proposing a strategy towards new forms of life.

(MIS)CONCEIVE

Thomas E.S. Kelly's full-length choreographic debut explored and exploded misconceptions of Indigeneity. Taree Sansbury, Natalie Pelarek and Thomas E.S. Kelly performed this outstanding work.

All three shows were presented each night to almost sold out audiences. Critical Path and PACT co-convened a public forum with the artists at 4pm on Saturday 25 June.

Season: 22-25 June

Venue: PACT

iDNA

World Premiere

Co-produced by PACT and Moogahlin Performing Arts.

Created by Collective 2016, 'iDNA' was a thoughtful and engaging show that explored identity, history and the science of the family tree. 'iDNA' truly reflected our diverse community with 5 different languages spoken on stage, 8 nationalities represented and one artist with disability featured.

Artists: Bonnie Cowan, Emily Dash, Alison Eaton, Alex Ford, Cheryn Frost, Jorjia Gillis, Cath McNamara, Keila Terencio, Anna Thomsen, Sam Wang and Natalie Wilson.

Co-Directors: Fred Copperwaite and Katrina Douglas

Sound Design: Thomas ES Kelly

Video: Carla Zimbler

Lighting Design: Alex Torney

Stage Manager: Jamie Livingstone

Season: 16-25 November

Venue: PACT

SPECIAL PROJECTS

RAPID RESPONSE TEAM

Rapid Response Team (RRT) is an intervention into the arena of world news. Each month PACT's team of six artists had less than 32 hours to research, develop and present a performance in response to a topical local or international news story. RRT is performance making with a social conscience.

RRT Artists: musician Tom Hogan, performance artist Clare Powell, choreographer Lewis Major, live artists and curator Maria White, writer Joel Perlgut and visual artist Christie Woodhouse.

These six exceptional artists took on the challenge of creating six RRT Bulletins – one every second Saturday of the month from March to August:

- Bulletin 1: Saturday 12 March, 7pm at PACT
- Bulletin 2: Saturday 9 April, 7pm at Erskineville Town Hall
- Bulletin 3: Saturday 14 May, 7pm 107 Projects, Redfern
- Bulletin 4: Saturday 11 June, 7pm at PACT
- Bulletin 5: Saturday 9 July, 7pm at Belvoir St Theatre
- Bulletin 6: Saturday 13 August, 7pm at Marrickville Bowling Club

COLLECTIVE 2016

Co-produced by PACT and Moogahlin Performing Arts.

COLLECTIVE is an ensemble program providing training and performance opportunities for early career artists. COLLECTIVE 2016 offered skills training, an intensive residency, mentorship and performance opportunities for 11 extremely talented and articulate early career artists. PACT partnered with Moogahlin to increase opportunities for First Nation artists.

COLLECTIVE kicked off with a creative development intensive at PACT to develop ideas and establish a working methodology. The artists then met weekly to extend their skills, develop their ideas and create a new group devised performance 'iDNA'.

Co-Facilitators: Fred Copperwaite and Katrina Douglas

COLLECTIVE artists: Bonnie Cowan, Emily Dash, Alison Eaton, Alex Ford, Cheryn Frost, Jorjia Gillis, Cath McNamara, Keila Terencio, Anna Thomsen, Sam Wang and Natalie Wilson.

Intensive: 29 August to 2 September at PACT
Weekly Rehearsals: 7 September to 15 November



VACANT ROOM RESIDENCIES

Vacant Room is a multi-art form residency program for emerging, experimental artists. Vacant Room is about the creative process and the exploration of an artist's practice. Vacant Room offers space to let an idea germinate and opens up new avenues of creative practice through experimentation and critical feedback.

Vacant Room is an artist led project and is responsive to the initial ideas and needs of the individual residents. It champions diversity, inclusivity and an open door policy to artist engagement. In 2016 PACT offered two Vacant Room residency programs.

SHARED SPACE RESIDENCY

Shared Space Residency offers three emerging experimental artists or collectives a shared space three-week residency at PACT. Residents are matched with professional mentors who provide guidance, advice and industry contacts. The 2016 Shared Space Residents were:

- RedMoon Theatre, a collective of three exciting early career artists - Elizabeth Esguerra, Madelaine Nunn and Ashton Sly. RedMoon Theatre's mentor was Karen Therese. RedMoon Theatre developed 'Seconds' a new verbatim performance.
- Amrita Hepi, a renowned choreographer and dancer. Amrita worked with mentor Victoria Hunt on the very early stages of a new work exploring boxing and dance.
- Choreographer and dancer Angela Goh. Angela worked with mentor Sarah Rodigari on the final stages of her award winning solo work 'Desert Body Creep'.

Residency: 14 March to 2 April
Venue: PACT

PACT also offered a week long, space only residency to Isabella Phillips. Isabella used this time to begin research and development on a new verbatim performance.

Residency: 11 to 16 April
Venue: PACT



3 YEAR RESIDENCY

PACT's 3 Year Residency offers an artist access to space, a weekly salary while in situ and a professional mentor for 3 years. The first two years focus on creative development and the third year features the world premiere of a new work. After a very competitive EOI process, James Nguyen was appointed PACT's 2016-2018 Resident Artist.

James Nguyen is a Sydney-based artist working with an interdisciplinary practice. His output ranges from drawing, installation, video and performance. For his residency, James is working with his uncle Cong Ai Nguyen to create a series of non-fiction plays and performances around Cong observations as an itinerant fruit picker in country Victoria. During year 1 of his 3 Year Residency, James explored his ideas and developed his dramaturgical skills with assistance from Katrina Douglas. James presented a showing to an audience of industry peers at the end of his first year.

Residency: 4 to 16 July
Venue: PACT



STEPHEN CUMMINS BEQUEST

Partnership with Performance Space

The Stephen Cummins Bequest: Queer Performance Residency provides the opportunity for emerging artists to develop work in a critically rigorous context and expand the conceptual underpinnings of their practice. The residency also provides an opportunity for more established artists to move their work in a substantially new direction and draw it into a contemporary performance framework. The development process is overseen and facilitated by experienced mentors, which bring the works into dialogue with queer culture and performance practices.

The 2016 Stephen Cummins Bequest residents were:

- Chad McLachlan – mentor Dr Julie-Anne Long
- Phil Soliman – mentor Victoria Spence
- Embittered Swish (Mick Klepner Roe, Cinnamon Templeton, Kai Bradley) – mentor Chris Ryan

Residency: 9 to 14 May and 30 May to 10 June
Venue: PACT



RESIDENT PHOTOGRAPHER

Launched in 2016, PACT'S Resident Photographer was a new opportunity for artists interested in developing skills in documenting live performance. Carla Zimbler was selected as the 2016 Resident Photographer after a competitive EOI process.

Heidrun Löhr, one of Australia's most renowned and in demand photographers, mentored Carla. Carla worked with and learnt from Heidrun throughout 2016. Carla was responsible for documenting most of the 2016 Artistic Program. The success of this opportunity is evident in the photos in this report.

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

MASTERCLASS SERIES

PACT Masterclass is a two-day skills development program lead by the best in the business. In 2016 PACT Masterclass offered four skills based workshops and a panel discussion covering Arts law, business management, communications and fundraising. The 2016 two-day program was:

Writing for Performance lead by Lachlan Philpott
 Bodyweather lead by Victoria Spence
 Immersive Design lead by Clare Britton
 Accessibility & Performance lead by Alison Richardson and RUCKUS

Panel speakers were Nathan Bennett, Dee Jefferson, DA Carter and Vincent Sheehan.

Workshop Dates: 15 to 16 February
 Venue: PACT

SPECIAL EVENTS

SAVE PACT

Save PACT was a fundraising campaign launched after the announcement that PACT was not successful in securing 4 Year Funding from the Australia Council for the Arts. This campaign successfully galvanised our community and increased public awareness of PACT, our programs and the company's precarious funding situation. The campaign culminated with a fundraising BBQ that featured speeches from Zoe Coombs Marr, Grahame Bond, Board member Nick Atkins and Artistic Director Katrina Douglas. The NSW Member for Newtown and PACT alumni Jenny Leong sent a personal letter highlighting the importance of the company.

Date: Saturday 25 June
 Venue: PACT

BBM TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIP

Partnership with BBM Youth Support

PACT continued it's long partnership with BBM Youth Support on the BBM/PACT Travelling Scholarship. This scholarship offered an emerging artist aged under 24 the opportunity to travel to Britain to work with and learn from a leading industry professional or company of your choice.

PACT received 10 high standard applications for 2016 Award. Gabrielle Paananen was awarded the scholarship. Gabrielle is a Puppeteer and Maker working with Erth Visual and Physical. Gabrielle travelled to Britain to work with and learn from the Significant Object Puppet Company, the Bristol Puppet Festival, the National Theatre and Punchdrunk.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

AFTERGLOW FORUM

Co-convened with Critical Path

PACT and Critical Path co-convened a public forum during AFTERGLOW to discuss the challenges and highlights of creating a new contemporary dance work with support from three companies. This successful forum was chaired and organised by Claire Hicks and featured Amrita Hepi, Thomas ES Kelly, Angela Goh and Jahra Wasasala.

Date: Saturday 25 June

Venue: PACT

SUPPORTED PROGRAMS

SPEED OF LIFE BY RUCKUS

World Premiere

In 2016 PACT continued to support RUCKUS, an inclusive contemporary performance ensemble of artists with disability. PACT provided RUCKUS space, mentorship and financial guidance throughout the year. PACT also supported the world premiere of their successful new work 'Speed of Life'.

RUCKUS: Chris Bunton, Audrey O'Connor, Gerard O'Dwyer, James Penny, Rachel Sugrim & Digby Webster
Co-Directors: Alison Richardson & Dean Walsh

Speed of Life Season Dates: 25 to 28 May

Venue: PACT

NINEFOLD

PACT supported the world premiere of NINEFOLD's production 'The Tragedy of Antigone'.

NINEFOLD is Sydney's only contemporary theatre ensemble that works exclusively with the Suzuki Method of Actor Training to create performances. It was founded as a way to investigate highly rigorous and disciplined ensemble performance-making.

NINEFOLD's production 'The Tragedy of Antigone' was a unique interpretation of an ancient story that examines conflict of moral absolutes. Using text from Eamon Flack's adaptation of Sophocles' *Antigone*, the production had a successful two-week season at PACT. 'The Tragedy of Antigone' was performed and created by a team of 12 early career artists, most of whom are PACT Alumni.

Cast: Aslam Abdus-samad, Bodelle de Ronde, Dave Buckley, Erica J Brennan, Gideon Payten-Griffiths, Kiki Skountzos, Pollyanna Nowicki, Scott Parker and Victoria Greiner.

Director: Shy Magsalin

Production Design & Dramaturgy: Victor Kalka

Lighting Design: Liam O'Keefe

Season Dates: 20 to 30 April

Venue: PACT



COMPANY MANAGEMENT

2016 saw PACT take important steps toward securing the company's future. The company continued to build organisational strength and grow earned income and the strong end of year financial result is testament to our success.

PACT received mixed funding news in 2016. PACT's application for multi-year program funding from Arts NSW was successful. This secured State Government funding from 2016 to 2018. PACT also received a small increase from Arts NSW in 2016. Federal funding in 2016 remained static however PACT's application to the Australia Council for the Arts for 4 Year Organisational funding (2017-2020) was unsuccessful. While this decision did not affect PACT's 2016 Budget, it will have an enormous impact on the company from 2017 onwards. In response to this decision the City of Sydney offered PACT a 5 lease with a 100% Venue Subsidy.

Diversifying income streams and increasing fundraising remains a key objective. PACT's 2016 donor and fundraising campaign built on the successes of the previous year with donor income increasing by 64%. Return donors also increased by 60% and the company saw a small improvement in the amount each person donated. Earned income including venue hire, bar and ticket income, increased by 45% in 2016. This is a remarkable result and reflects the importance of PACT and our venue.

PACT successfully re-launched its Membership program in November 2016. Member benefits include priority access to venue hire, discounted rehearsal space, FOH discounts and exclusive offers. This program proved to be very successful and 52 people signed up before the end of 2016.

STAFF AND BOARD

Alex Torney joined PACT's permanent staff as the Venue Manager in February 2016 after the resignation of Amber Silk. Alex has a long history with PACT having worked as crew on a number of PACT projects. Jocelyn Payne was appointed PACT's Financial Controller after the resignation of Charles Pashi in March. PACT welcomed Dee Jefferson onto the Board after the resignation of Claire Hargreaves in 2015. Dee is the National Arts and Cultural Editor for Time Out Sydney. The Board has a number of empty positions and the company is currently recruiting new people with suitable skills. PACT continued to employ artists, technicians, FOH and box office staff on a casual basis. Paid employment in the industry for young artists and technicians is difficult to secure and rare. PACT is proud of its achievements in addressing this problem by growing our casual employment opportunities in 2016.

2016 Staff

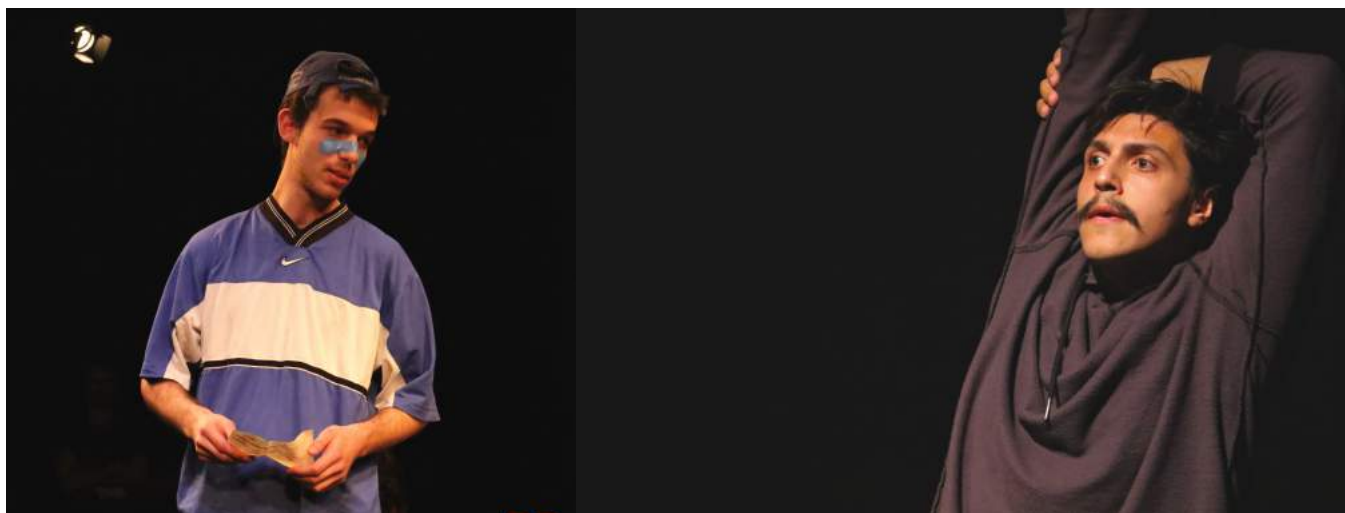
Katrina Douglas: Artistic Director / CEO
Danielle Taylor: General Manager
Aurora Scott: Communications Manager
Alex Torney: Venue Manager
Jocelyn Payne: Financial Controller
Natalie Newton: Bookkeeper

2016 Board

Andrew Symes (Chair)
Brer Adams (Treasurer)
Stephanie Walker (Public Officer)
Katrina Douglas (CEO)
Nick Atkins
Nathan Bennett
Dee Jefferson

Outgoing Staff

Charles Pashi: Financial Controller (resigned March)
Amber Silk: Venue Supervisor (resigned January)



THANK YOU

PACT is enormously grateful for the ongoing support of the NSW government through Create NSW, the City of Sydney and the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts, its arts funding and advisory body.



**Trade &
Investment
Arts NSW**



Australian Government

**Australia
Council
for the Arts** 

PACT acknowledges and thanks our 2016 partners Critical Path, Next Wave, Moogahlin Performing Arts, BBM Ltd; the Ian Bowie Memorial Association; UNSW and Blink Printing for their support of our programs and artists.



**NEXT
WAVE**



Ian Bowie Memorial Association



**UNSW
AUSTRALIA**



IMAGE CREDITS



Front Cover Cheryn Frost
iDNA COLLECTIVE produced by PACT & Moogahlin
Photography by Carla Zimbler

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Desert Body Creep AFTERGLOW
Photography by Carla Zimbler

Page 3 Katrina Douglas, Danielle Taylor & Alison Richardson with Ruckus
Photography by Dean Walsh

Page 4 Maria White, Joel Perlgut, Christie Woodhouse and Clare Powell
RAPID RESPONSE TEAM: Bulletin 4
Photography by Carla Zimbler

Page 6 Emily Dash
iDNA COLLECTIVE produced by PACT & Moogahlin
Photography by Carla Zimbler

Page 7 Caroline Garcia
Tropical Hypeisms
Photography by Dexter Cornelius

Page 8 Maria White, Tom Hogan, Lewis Major, Christie Woodhouse, Joel Perlgut & Clare Powell
RAPID RESPONSE TEAM: Bulletin 2
Photography by Carla Zimbler

Page 9 Ashton Sly, Elizabeth Esguerra, Madelaine Nunn
Seconds showing, Vacant Room Residency
Photography by Katrina Douglas

Page 9 James Nguyen
Showing, Vacant Room 3 Year Resident
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Page 10 Taree Sansbury, Natalie Pelarek & Thomas ES Kelly
(MIS)CONCEIVE AFTERGLOW
Photography by Carla Zimbler

Page 11 Keila Terencio & Sam Wang
iDNA COLLECTIVE produced by PACT & Moogahlin
Photography by Carla Zimbler

Page 12 Joel Perlgut
RAPID RESPONSE TEAM: Bulletin 5
Photography by Carla Zimbler

Page 12 Thomas ES Kelly
(MIS)CONCEIVE AFTERGLOW
Photography by Carla Zimbler

Page 14 Amrita Hepi & Jahra Wasasala
Passing AFTERGLOW
Photography by Carla Zimbler

Back Page Caroline Garcia
Tropical Hypeisms
Photography by Dexter Cornelius

