

Matter Era Tim Spooner



Photo by Peter Mathew

Touring information

Produced by Nicky Childs for Artsadmin

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Artsadmin

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1. About Matter Era

A collaboration between Terrapin Theatre and Tim Spooner

Part-installation and part-duration performance, Matter Era is a radical ode to the physical in which a world that is alive but without people is created.

A mesmerising animation of objects and materials merge with experimental puppetry to evolve speculative post-human life. Multiple new sculptural formations can be seen to evolve and re-configure over the duration of the presentation. These playful life-forms perpetually interact and separate before eventually combining into one alien mass that fills the space.

Accompanied by a live mixed soundtrack, three unseen operators bring the installation to life over a six-hour period on the first day of presentation and for shorter timed moments on subsequent days. The remnants of the performance can be viewed as an installation for the remaining hours and days of the public display.

Opening up new perceptions into what sculpture is and how it can be viewed audiences can come and go as they wish, circulating around the central platform to view the performance -installation from different perspectives.

Matter Era is suitable for presentation at festivals, in galleries, open indoor spaces, and on theatre stages for all ages.

2. Documentation



Photo by Peter Mathews

Photography

You can view documentation and sketches by Tim Spooner [here](#).

Video

Watch a work in progress video [here](#).

3. Technical specification



View of staging, photo by Peter Mathews

Matter Era is presented on a 5m x 5m platform constructed of hireable rigging and universal staging elements. The 3 performers operate the performance from under the platform.

Timing:

There will be a durational performance lasting 4-6hrs on the first day followed by shorter performance times on the following days. Exact timings and schedule adaptable to different contexts and dependent on conversations with presenters.

Audiences come and go throughout the opening hours of the installation or visit during the 'performance' times.

Staging and freight:

The aim is to create a design that can would incorporate staging and rigging that can be hired locally to reduce transport costs. Freight will only include the animated elements/objects which will travel by excess baggage. The set up time is 1 day.

Touring team:

6-8 people: x 3 performer-operators/composer-sound operator/production manager & x 1/2 lead artists + producer. Two alternative teams will be configured depending on whether the presentation is in Australia or the UK/Europe.

4. Credits

Created by UK-based artist Tim Spooner and Sam Routledge of Tasmania's renowned Terrapin Theatre, Matter Era combines their unique approaches to the exploration of mechanics and animatronics as they play with liveness and unpredictability.

Matter Era was developed through an Australian Cultural Diplomacy Grant which funded a two-stage creative development period: at Artsadmin's Toynbee Studios in London in August 2022 and in Hobart, Tasmania in January 2023.

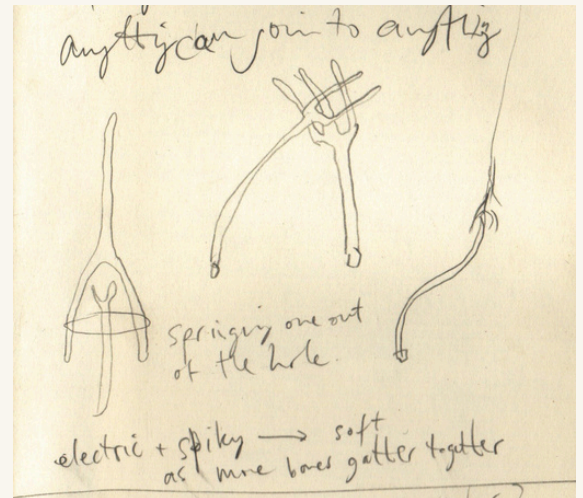
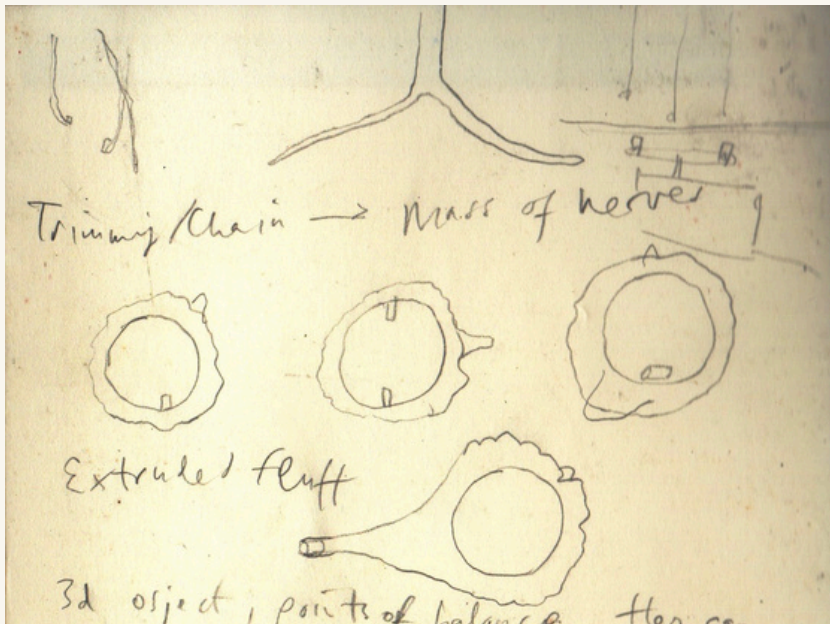
Matter Era will premier in the UK in May 2025 before returning to Australia. We are currently looking for additional commissioning and presentation partners.

For further information contact:

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5. About Tim Spooner



Sketches courtesy of Tim Spooner

Tim Spooner works in a mix of performance, painting, sculpture and installation, aiming for new strong flavours which are strange and alluring.

Fundamentally interested in unpredictability, his work is an exercise in balancing control with a lack of it in the handling of the materials and processes he is working with.

His work has been presented extensively in theatres and galleries in the UK, Europe and Asia. He has recently had a major solo exhibition of new and old work at Southwark Park Galleries in London 2023.

timsponer.com

6. About Terrapin Theatre

Based in Tasmania, Terrapin Theatre creates contemporary puppetry for intergenerational audiences in theatres, galleries, public spaces, schools and aged care settings. Making works of narrative and installations, the company has been presented by the Royal Shakespeare Company, the Edinburgh International Children's Festival, the Vancouver International Children's Festival, DeBetovering (the Netherlands), Aichi Prefectural Art Theater (Japan), the Taipei Children's Art Festival, the Lincoln Center and major multi-artform festivals around Australia. In 2019, their participatory installation Infinite Monster opened the REACH at the John F. Kennedy Centre for the Performing Arts in Washington D.C.

terrapiin.org.au

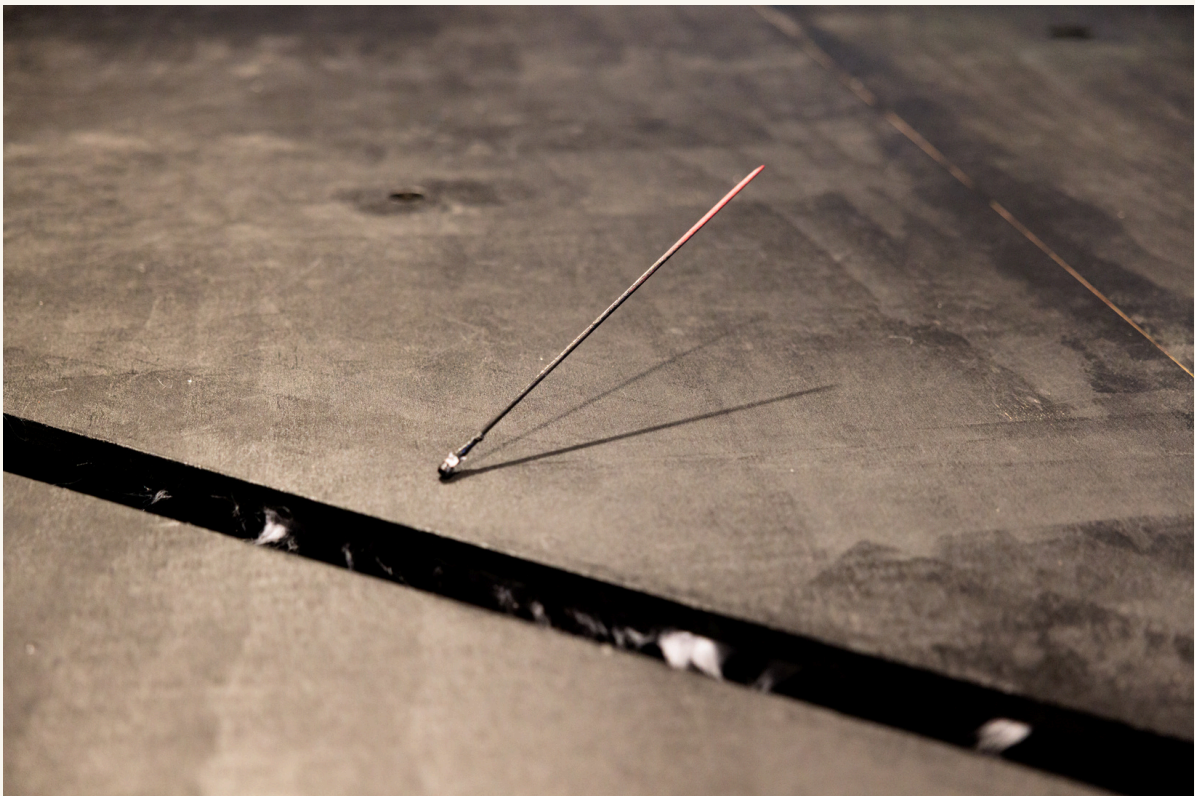


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