

Profile: in Helvetica

Creative Development Period: Jan 2017



Burrinja was thrilled to support In Helvetica, a performance ensemble that grew out of early performance experiments at hillsceneLIVE arts festival.

Over two periods in September 2016 and January 2017, Burrinja provided in kind rehearsal space, project support and mentorship to the performance ensemble.

Feedback from In Helvetica on their time spent in the Burrinja Black Box and Theatre:

In Helvetica are two physical performers and a musician, and we used our time to create material for a new contemporary dance work for young audiences. The black box was a great space to get up and move, we created the new material through improvisation and play between the three of us. We also worked in earlier ideas and images, and brought all the developments together into one cohesive space. We had the room to get messy, the space to get loud, and the time to go deep. This creative development provided the right opportunity to explore the macro and the micro of our new baby.

In Helvetica work in an improvised manner, with no director or choreographer leading the way. This way of working is extremely rewarding, but takes much longer than your regular creative process. Generally, the company meets one day a week, but thanks to this creative development we were able to intensify our time together, giving us the chance to make big decisions with clearer understanding of the piece, thus locking in the dramaturgical weave and solidifying the final product. Excluding some finer details, we now have a complete 40 minute work that, with rehearsal, will be ready for presentation in April 2017.

We look forward to presenting the work in the upcoming school holidays at Burrinja. It is our intention to make this performance free by exploring funding avenues such as Yarra Ranges small grants. From there, we intend to continue to develop the work, with the ambition to have a work that can tour into schools, kindergartens and libraries. Our aim is to tour regionally, to reach the children that have less opportunity to see contemporary performance.