

Hanna Cormick.

Welcome everyone. My name is Hanna Cormick.

For audio description, I am a white cis-woman woman with dark hair. I am wearing oxygen tubing on my face, a cream silk camisole which is reflected in the colour of my eyes and steel splints on my fingers.

I'm speaking to you today from my bed which rests on Ngunnawal country which was never ceded. We'd like to pay our respects to the Ngunnawal elders, past, present and emerging and the Indigenous leaders who are joining us now.

And I would like to invite everyone to take a moment to feel your body settle, supported by the country that your body finds its presence on today.

Welcome to this digital space where we are all meeting. I'd like to ask everyone to make yourself comfortable, lie down if you need to, close your eyes if you need to, and log into whichever access stream suits your needs.

We have multiple video streams for each of our works. One is with Auslan and captions. The other with audio description, and then one without Auslan, captions or audio description for those who require a low sensory stream.

I would like to pass over now to my co-curator, Matt, to introduce himself.

Matt Shilcock

Hi everyone, I'm Matt Shilcock.

I have short, dark-brown hair. I'm wearing black rimmed glasses and I'm wearing a black shirt with a charcoal checkered pattern. I have pale skin and today I'm coming to you from Gaurna land in South Australia, on the Adelaide Plains.

And I would like to introduce Liz Lea, who is also co-hosting with us today.

Liz Lea

Thank you, Matt. Thank you, Hanna and thank you to Brett Olzen who is kindly interpreting for us today.

My name is Liz Lea and I'm coming to you from the land of the Ngunnawal people. I am a white-skinned woman, with long dark hair, silver hoop earrings, and an electric blue top sitting against a black background.

And we are thrilled that you are joining us for the first I Dance Festival which was an idea that I had inspired by my fabulous co-curators and many other extraordinary artists that I have had the privilege of connecting and working with over many years now.

And we have changed up the format of this event to make it as accessible, something that people that hopefully can come and go from without needing to sit through a really long session.

Hanna

So, this festival was originally envisaged as a mini film festival for iDay; International Day of People with a Disability, which is December 3rd.

But as a curating team, who live with disability and with chronic illness, things don't always go as we planned, and I myself amongst others are dealing with a lot illness in that week.

So, we are working in an industry that historically body exploitative and proactively centred and the disability and arts community has really tried to make a radical movement towards arts practices that are interdependent and sustainable.

And we could think of nothing more Crip positive and disability celebratory for iDay than to postpone the festival.

So, here we are. The day, and we hope you join us to celebrate this wonderful work of a group of exceptional disabled dance artists.

And now, please, we would like to invite you to take part in this beautiful smorgasboard of films we have with multiple access variations.

Tara Cheyne

G'day everyone, and Yaama in Ngunnawal language.

My name is Tara Cheyne and I'm the new Minister for the Arts.

It's a real pleasure to join you virtually to mark the International Day of People with a Disability.

And a huge congratulations to Liz and the team at the Australian Talented Youth Project in presenting I Dance Film Festival to you.

Dance is such an important medium to interpret and express. It helps us makes us understand, to make sense and to feel, and especially to connect. And ensuring that so many people, and as many people as possible have access to that, is just absolutely critical, and I think should always be at the forefront of our thinking.

So, I'm really pleased that this festival achieves that, both showcasing films created and curated by artists with a disability from across the ACT, Australia and the world, but also in making them accessible to so many.

Congratulations again and enjoy the festival.