

The Crossing

By Kayah Guenther & Gavin Webber
Produced by



ABOUT THE SHOW

The Crossing explores the desire for self expression from two different artists and the meeting point between them.

Kayah, a young man with Down Syndrome, uses dance to express the way he sees the world and the way the world sees him. With the support of his mentor, choreographer Gavin Webber, Kayah wants to say he is strong, he is masculine, and he is sexual. He also wants people to know he is vulnerable and “not always happy”.

The Crossing examines the unique bond that exists between these two men and the way it has been forged through the language of dance and improvisation. It has been created by Kayah and Gavin to reflect their common interests and their differences. Together they have created a space where they can dance, laugh, wrestle, die and be reborn, become monsters, connect and collide and ultimately negotiate their mutual desire to communicate with each other and everyone else.

IMAGES

Additional imagery is available, [click here>>](#)

CREDITS

Created and Performed by Kayah Guenther
and Gavin Webber
Music by Ben Ely

Father & Son Solo choreographed by Kayah &
Maitreya Guenther
Produced by Julia Bridger for The Farm

TOURING HISTORY

2016 *Puerto De Ideas Festival*

Valpariso, Chile

BIOGRAPHIES

Kayah Guenther began his dance career in 2011 as part of the 'Heartbeat' workshop program in Murwillumbah, which was led by Philip Channells. This project launched the company, Studio Aperio, which Kayah is a founding member of.

In 2015 he joined the No Difference project in a new partnership between The Arts Centre Gold Coast and Dance Integrated Australia. He also established a mentorship with Gavin Webber (The Farm) and collaborated with filmmakers Sophie Hexter & Poppi Walker (HW Collective) on a three minute short film, *The Battle*, which was one of 3 selected for the Northern Rivers Screenworks 'Createability' program. *The Battle* was screened as part of the Flickerfest 2016 program and has been chosen to screen at the International Short Film Festival Oberhausen, Germany in May 2016 and Tres Court Film Festival in Paris June 2016. Kayah received funding through the NSW Consumer Development Fund program, 'My Choice Matters' to be mentored by Gavin Webber throughout 2015. This Mentorship funding ended with a showing at The Gold Coast Arts Centre December 2015.

He was one of 14 emerging artists selected for the 'Catalyst Residency Program' 2015 and performed at Carriageworks in *As Of Now* directed by Kay Armstrong. His mentor for this 2-year project is Philip Channells (Creative Director, Dance Integrated Australia). Kayah attended Back to Back Theatre's 'Come and Make Performance' (CAMP) program in Geelong, Victoria and the Back to Back Theatre Workshop at the Undercover Artist Festival, Brisbane. He also attended the Dance Integrated Australia Residency project led by Philip Channells. Between 2014 – 2016 Kayah attended The Corner Dance Lab in Federal, NSW where he worked again with Co-facilitators Philip Channells & Gavin Webber. He took classes and performed in The Main Event with Laure Bachelot, Phil Blackman, Craig Bary, Kristina Chan, Hsin-Ju Chiu (Raw), Victoria Chiu, Roland Cox, Kate Harman, Lee-Anne Litton, Grayson Millwood, Timothy Ohi, Kimberley McIntyre, Alison Toft, Joshua Thomson and Laurie Young. In 2012 & 2013 Kayah participated in the Catalyst Dance Masterclasses Series and performed at Carriageworks in *Second Skin* directed by Philip Channells (2012). In 2013 he performed at Bangarra Theatre in short works by Philip Channells, Sue Healey, and Dean Walsh.

With his sister and dance partner Maitreyah Guenther, he performed for the Murwillumbah Arts Week 2011 – 2013 and the opening performance for the 2012 launch of *Creating Connections Accessible Arts North Coast*. He also worked with Gavin Webber and Kate Harman and performed with Studio Aperio for the Tweed Access Inclusion Awards (2014). In 2012 Kayah attended the Australian Youth Dance Festival in Gosford and performed in *Shades of Us* by Artistic Director, Rowan Marchingo and worked with Philip Channells on the site-specific piece, *Lythophytes & Epiphytes*. He also took classes with Sue Healey, Anton, Kay Armstrong, Matt Cornell, Lee Pemberton, Adelina Larsson, Vicki van Hout and Peta Strachan.

Kayah also worked with choreographers Phil Blackman, Philip Channells and Sue Whiteman for the Dance Integrated Australia, Sprung Integrated Dance Theatre and R.E.D. Inc. collaboration, *Dwell – A Triple Bill*.

Ben Ely has established a 20-year career in music primarily working with the group Regurgitator. He has branched out into film scores, TV theme music, Remixes, Live scores, Music Production and various other endeavours.

Regurgitator received at least 8 ARIA Awards for their album releases over the years and sold close to a million albums in Australia alone. Regurgitator composed a new reinvented score for the 180min long Japanese anime film *AKIRA*, which was performed to a sold out crowd at the Sydney Opera House for the very first Graphic Comic Festival held in Australia.

We also invented the live performance-band recording project, *Band in a Bubble* in Federation Square, Melbourne where we lived in a purpose built glass house for three weeks without leaving once to record the *MISH MASH* album.

Ely has worked in other groups such as Decoder Ring, composing and producing the soundtrack and score for the Australian film title, *Somersault*, which won an AFI Award for Best Picture. For this same production, Ely received an AFI Award and an Australian Screen Film Award.

Ben has worked in countless other bands and smaller projects including collaborating on the Dancenorth & Tasedance's production, *Threefold* with contemporary dance works by choreographers Gavin Webber (AUS), Raewyn Hill (NZ) and Huang Yi (TWN). He also performed in and composed for Gavin Webber's *Rockshow* (2009) in Brisbane and has been a member of The Farm since 2013, co-creating TIDE and The Last Blast.

Gavin Webber is co-Artistic Director of THE FARM, a company based on the Gold Coast, Queensland. Throughout his career Gavin has worked between Australia and Europe and directed theatre, dance, circus, film and installation. He spent the majority of his early performance career with Meryl Tankard ADT and Belgian company Ultima Vez. As Artistic Director of Dancenorth he took the company from regional Australia to national and international touring and his work has received many awards including six Greenroom awards in a single year. He was co-founder of Collaborative ensemble Splintergroup and Animal Farm Collective, early incarnations of THE FARM, whose work has been seen across four continents. He has been a regular guest choreographer with CO:3 in Perth since the company's launch in 2015. THE FARM currently have two shows ready to tour; Cockfight and Frank Einstein, and two in the making, The Last Blast & Quarantine. In 2017 he was awarded the Sydney Meyer Individual Performing Arts Award.

BASIC TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

- a decent video projector (4K or similar)
- projection screen (mounted at the rear of the stage- at least 3 metres wide - bigger better)
- sprung floor (or wooden floor)
- tarkett dance floor (if available)
- 2 chairs (Desk chairs)
- existing lighting (depends on venue)
- basic theatre lighting state (we can work with whatever is available)
- sound system (to run from a laptop)