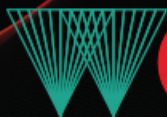


PRESENTED BY



NUS
CENTRE
FOR THE
ARTS



NUS Arts Festival 2016
11 - 26 March

JOSEPH SIMONS
FIRST
THINGS
FIRST
There's a first time for everything



Fri & Sat 18 & 19 Mar | 8pm | UCC Theatre, NUS
Sat 19 Mar | 3pm Matinee



ABOUT NUS CENTRE FOR THE ARTS

Established in 1993, NUS Centre For the Arts (CFA) is a vibrant space for the appreciation of the arts and nurturing of the creative and inquiring spirit. It supports student engagement with the arts and the integration of the arts into the life of the University.

NUS CFA encompasses the NUS Museum, NUS Baba House and a Talent and Development arm that oversees 22 student arts excellence groups. Through its myriad of programmes, practices, exhibitions, workshops and outreach, such as NUS Arts Festival and the ExxonMobil Campus Concerts, the Centre enhances and augments the university experience and contributes to the building of knowledge and transformation of students.

CFA also manages facilities such as the University Cultural Centre, with its 1600-seat Hall and 450-seat Theatre, and rehearsal spaces in Runme Shaw CFA Studios and University Town.

For more information, visit www.cfa.nus.edu.sg.

ABOUT NUS ARTS FESTIVAL

As the flagship arts platform of NUS, NUS Arts Festival brings together students and alumni in collaboration with international and local professional artists, inspiring fresh insights and compelling artistic works with unique Asian influences.

This 2016, the Festival theme of WONDER encourages us to consider how our capacity for wonder and imagination is affected as our interactions increasingly take place via mobile screens and computers. We ask "Can fresh discoveries of the world through emerging sciences like quantum physics reawaken our delight in the world and re-ignite wonder?"

 nusartsfestival.com  [nusartsfestival](https://www.facebook.com/nusartsfestival)  [#naf16](https://www.instagram.com/naf16)

A NOTE FROM THE CHOREOGRAPHER

I had to walk from my hotel to the dance studio. I had stepped off a 26-hour flight from Sydney to Berlin the night before. With only an address and a map (that was not in English), I set out. I was told the walk was about 20 minutes. But it's amazing how long that 20 minutes feels. I keep checking the map, I feel like I had gone too far, everything was new, my senses are heightened, my muscles are tense, I'm looking around, taking everything in. With only a few mistakes, eventually I find the studio.

Now jump to the following morning. Walking from the hotel to the dance studio on day two. I'm calm, relaxed, casual. I know exactly where to go, where to turn. I pass the big blue building, then turn right after the park. I've done this all before.

There's a first time for everything: job interviews, catching public transport, changing a nappy.

First Things First is about the transition between the unknown to the routine. Or, the art of getting used to something.

Because the content for this show is about first experiences, it is crucial that this performance is actually as fresh and current as it can possibly be. There are moments in tonight's show that I've never done before. And there are scenes in this work where the only instruction is to 'do something that is only appropriate for today.' With an ever-evolving show, every single performance of *First Things First* is, well, a first. The audience, the space, the way I'm feeling today, all affect the structure of the show.

Thank you for coming. I hope you enjoy your first experience.

Joseph Simmons





ABOUT JOSEPH SIMONS

JOSEPH SIMONS was born in Dubbo, NSW. He trained at Dubbo Ballet Studio, and since graduating from the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA), has become one of Australia's busiest performers and original young creators.

Simons has worked as a dancer for Chunky Move (*Connected, I Like This*) Anything Is Valid Dance Theatre (*All the Mall's a Stage, Save Our Soloist*) and Lucy Guerin Inc. (*Structure and Sadness, Untrained*) touring extensively throughout Australia, UK, Asia and the United States. In 2012 he performed the title role in West Australian Ballet's production of *Pinocchio*.

Joseph has also been involved in creative developments with Australian Dance Theatre, Force Majeure, Lingua Franca and DV8 Physical Theatre, London.

Joseph won the Emerging Artist of the Year at the 2009 West Australian Dance awards, and after a sell-out season of his solo work *Not On My Watch*, he was nominated for Best Young Artist at the 2012 Perth Fringe World Festival.

He won the 2013 Tanja Liedtke Fellowship (awarded to one Australian choreographer bi-annually) and was offered a residency at Ufer Studios, Berlin to create a new work. *First Things First* was born, and premiered in New York in 2014.

**FIRST THINGS FIRST WOULD NOT
BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE SUPPORT OF**

The Tanja Liedtke Foundation

Regional Arts Victoria

Auspicious Arts Projects

The Liedtke Family

The Simons Family

Gabi Bier

Andrew and Del McGuinness

Callan Fleming

Keep an eye out for Joseph's next show,

Minimal Effort,

an entirely improvised performance!

*Find out more at www.josephsimons.com.au or
reach out to him via social media.*



Joseph Simons



@josephsimons.com.au



@jsimonsdance

Taken a great photo tonight?
Don't forget to upload it and tag Joseph Simons
#FirstThingsFirst



ON SIMONS AND HIS WORKS

**"Incredibly funny, intelligent, charming and amazing...
Simons instinctively understands timing, surprise,
And humour - he is a kind of magician!"**

Anna Volkland, ada-studio.de

**"Audience members were literally weeping with laughter...
Excruciatingly accurate and hysterically funny"**

australianstage.com.au on *Not On My Watch*

**"[Joseph's] choreography snaps you back to attention...
clever and comical"**

Drum Media Magazine on *Mix And Match*

**"The delivery was flawless, and proved to be
a crowd favourite."**

The West Australian on *Self Destruct*

CREDITS

Creative and Production Team

Choreographer	Joseph Simons
Production Manager	Nicholas Clark
Stage Manager	Justin Marshman

FESTIVAL PATRON:

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