

**David Lakein** (Chicago/Berlin)

## **IMAGE-MAKING LABORATORY**

advanced interdisciplinary workshop  
in composition, improvisation &  
performance skills

1-7 May | Melbourne, Australia



*The Lab is for all artists who wish to gain insights into their current working methods and develop new approaches to their creation process within a group context. Practitioners from all disciplines are welcome: cabaret, dance, mime, music, performance art, puppetry, photography, set-design, theatre, video, visual art, etc.*

Working individually and in small groups, we make several images each day, either quickly with reckless abandon or slowly with careful consideration. The frame of our making process varies greatly, as we engage with several questions: What is an image? How many distinct components does an image have? Which are central and which act in a more supportive manner? What are the boundaries of an image; where and when does it begin, end? What are the differences between an image and a larger scenic entity? In experimenting with elements such as movement, action, voice and object, we gain a more nuanced understanding of how they affect one another, and how they each contribute to an image's general setting, overall atmosphere and visceral impact.

We explore which compositional tools are available to us as we develop and refine our images. Addressing and further clarifying such issues as timing, location in space, and audience position, enables us to make our imagery more intelligible and resonant. Our aim is to deepen our awareness of the options at our disposal and choices which confront us during the different stages of the making process, and, in so doing, gain a greater degree of freedom with our images and trust in ourselves.

The body and its position within an image is investigated closely. Through experimenting with varying approaches to locating a physical attitude and placing a specific intention in the body and voice, we come to understand the way in which we, as performers, embody the categories of form/medium and figure/character. An important part of this research is exploring the diverse textures and distinctive aspects of presence, such as the differences between being and presenting, and how to draw, deflect or redirect the audience's attention.

An essential aspect of the image-making process is developing an intuitive sense and thoughtful knowledge of when and how to ask relevant questions of ourselves and others. We practice how to ask for, receive-process, and give feedback, and how to organically integrate this into the making process. Writing also forms an important part of our experience—as a feedback form, and as a source for material and an aid in the compositional process.

In addition to working in the studio, we will take our research into diverse settings around the city—park, café, pedestrian zone, trams, etc—exploring how site-specific environments reinvigorate existing work and provide stimulating containers for original creations.

From beginning to end, the Lab is an intense experience, infused with the spirit of collaboration and sharing in the (un) learning process. Be prepared for mental and physical exhaustion, perception-bending and assumption-altering encounters, and for a serious amount of playful fun.



**David Lakein** (Berlin/Chicago) is an interdisciplinary artist, performer, writer and teacher. His work swirls around the borders between dance, theatre, performance art, installation and video. Known for his inquisitive nature, he is a well-respected teacher dedicated to his students and a rigorous (un) learning process. Whether facilitating workshops and performance projects or bringing artists together in laboratories or festivals, Lakein is committed to research as a creative act and dialogue as a transformational encounter. He is the founder of Paradox Bay, an international artistic platform that supports exchanges about how artists approach their work, nurture collaborations, interact with audiences, and connect with social activism efforts. Lakein studied philosophy, and acting and directing in the United States, trained as a dancer and performer in Berlin and at the School of New Dance Development in Amsterdam, and received his Masters of Fine Arts at The School of Art Institute of Chicago. | More info: see website

1-7 May, 2011

Sun 10-18 & dinner, Mon 10-17, Tue 10-13 & 20-2\*, Wed 11-17, Thurs 10-18, Fri 10-15 + evening event & party, Sat 10-14, including site-specific performance

\*Open to drop-in participants

Locations: Dance House, Cecil Street Studio & other interior & exterior places.

Cost: Early bird \$350/300 (before Apr 22); Late duck \$390/340 (on/after Apr 22)

Drop-in Tue \$45

A few work/exchange positions available for Melbourne residents.

David is also teaching other workshops in Melbourne & Sydney. | See website.

There will be an info meeting with Celeste - Sat, 9 Apr, 11am. Other arrangements can be made too, if you're unable to come.

[www.lakeinworkshops.wordpress.com/australia](http://www.lakeinworkshops.wordpress.com/australia)

Info & Registration: Celeste Abell, 0432 100 545, [melbourne.image.lab@gmail.com](mailto:melbourne.image.lab@gmail.com)

