

# SHAUN PARKER & COMPANY

MEDIA RELEASE  
For immediate release  
Wednesday May 3, 2023

Shaun Parker & Company

## KING

European Tour, 2023

Cologne, Germany June 16-17

Luxembourg, June 20-21

Wiesbaden, Germany June 27

Bolzano, Italy July 14



Shaun Parker & Company is thrilled to announce a long-awaited European tour of its acclaimed production, *KING*, created and presented in collaboration with celebrated Bulgarian artist, Ivo Dimchev, whose seductive original score drives the narrative for Parker's richly layered choreography.

Hailed by critics from Sydney to Linz, Ramallah and Beirut, *KING* builds on Shaun Parker & Company's reputation for combining hard-hitting, cutting-edge choreography with theatrical invention and striking musical soundscapes, in a bitingly provocative interrogation of male power, control, and group dynamics, that "keeps you on the edge of your seat to the very end." (*Dance Australia*)

SHAUN PARKER & COMPANY

Joynton Avenue Creative Centre, The Apartment, Level 1, 3a Joynton Ave, Zetland, NSW, 2017, AUSTRALIA

[shaunparkercompany.com/](http://shaunparkercompany.com/)

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Set in a fantastical realm – part cocktail-bar, part jungle, this remarkable dance/ music partnership between one of Australia’s most highly acclaimed contemporary dance companies – led by award-winning Australian director/choreographer Shaun Parker, and “musical genius” (*Queer Guru, USA*), singer/songwriter/ performer Dimchev, is masterfully presented by an ensemble of nine of Australia’s most exciting dancers, with Dimchev adding his on-stage magic, performing live onstage in each performance, in the role of soulful cabaret crooner.

Described as “a tour de force of creation and performance... intriguing, exciting, sexy, funny and confronting – all in equal measure,” (*Artshub, Australia*), *KING* “weaves in and out of the jungle and layers of masculinity, love and control... to beautifully portray anxiety and longing”. (*Backyard Opera, Australia*).

“A tantalising feast of lightning-fast gesture, lyrical storytelling, and flock like synchronicity, tightly held by Dimchev’s seductive musicianship and mesmerising voice.” (*Sydney Arts Guide*), this “transfixing” (*On Dancing, Australia*), 73-minute performance represents “a rare form of inspired collaboration,” (*Writing About Dance, UK*), that “leaves an impact on everyone who has seen it.” (*Al Ayaam, Ramallah, Palestine*).

In the words of Shaun Parker, “*KING* is a tribute to a society that is rebelling against a dysfunctional patriarchal tradition.” International dance magazine *Fjord Review* comments, “In the current environment of changing patriarchal structures, *KING* is a must see.”

*KING* premiered in Sydney in February 2019 and toured to the Middle East and Austria in 2020, before Covid temporarily put paid to further touring plans.

In February 2023 *KING* was relaunched as part of the globally acclaimed Sydney WorldPride Arts Festival.

Shaun Parker & Company are delighted to recommence their international touring program with a season of European performances of this lauded production, in June - July 2023.

Book now to see Shaun Parker & Company’s *KING* at:

## **Schauspiel Köln, Cologne, Germany**

7.30pm Friday June 16 and Saturday June 17

Book [here](#)

## **Grand Théâtre, Les Théâtres de la Ville de Luxembourg, Luxembourg**

8pm Tuesday June 20 and Wednesday June 21

Book [here](#)

## **Hessisches Staatstheater Wiesbaden, Wiesbaden, Germany**

7.30pm Tuesday June 27

Book [here](#)

## **Bolzano Dance Festival, Bolzano Italy**

Time tbc, Friday July 14

+ A free outdoor performance of Shaun Parker & Company’s *Trolleys*, time tbc, Saturday July 15

View the *KING* trailer here, [vimeo.com/759795297/759794538](https://vimeo.com/759795297/759794538).

Note: *KING* contains full frontal nudity and adult themes and is considered suitable for ages 15+. The production also uses some mild smoke effects.

Subscribe at [shaunparkercompany.com/](https://shaunparkercompany.com/), to keep abreast of all the latest Shaun Parker & Company updates. Connect with Shaun Parker & Company on [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

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# SHAUN PARKER & COMPANY

Shaun Parker & Company is assisted and supported by the Australian Government through The Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body and by the NSW Government through Create NSW.

We are also incredibly grateful for the support of our amazing donors - the Denise & Michael Kellen Foundation, The Wales Family Foundation, and Penny & (the late) Richard Hunstead.



Ends/

## Photo credits:

Shaun Parker & Company, *KING*. Photos by Prudence Upton.

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## KING Reviews

*"A tour de force both of creation and performance."*

*"Intriguing, exciting, sexy, funny and confronting – all in equal measure."*

*"An extraordinary, flawless, integrated ensemble."*

– **Artshub, Australia**

*"A tantalising feast of lightning-fast gesture, lyrical storytelling, and flock like synchronicity, beautifully and tightly held by Dimchev's seductive musicianship and mesmerising voice."*

*"A choreographic language as gutsy and heart wrenching as Shakespeare's poetry."*

– **Sydney Arts Guide, Australia**

*"A rare form of inspired collaboration."*

– **Writing About Dance, UK**

*"...picture perfect...transfixing."*

– **On Dancing, Australia**

*"There is magic here... something truly luscious."*

– **The Queer Review, USA**

*"A dense and richly layered work that keeps you on the edge of your seat to the very end."*

– **Dance Australia**

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*"Weaving in and out of the jungle and layers of masculinity, love and control... a performance that beautifully portrayed anxiety and longing."*

– **Backyard Opera, Australia**

*"A remarkable dance/music collaboration."*

– **The Daily Review, Australia**

*"In the current environment of changing patriarchal structures, KING is a must see."*

– **Fjord Review**

*"Put simply, it's a masterclass."*

– **Limelight, Australia**

*"A milestone... leaving an impact on everyone who has seen it."*

– **Al Ayaam, Ramallah, Palestine**

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## ATTENTION MEDIA

Contact Julie Clark, [julie@humankindpr.com](mailto:julie@humankindpr.com), +61 (0)409 517 738 for:

- Interviews with Shaun Parker or Ivo Dimchev
- Exclusive photo opportunities
- Behind the scenes sneak peeks
- Influencer invitations and opportunities
- Reviewer tickets

A selection of high resolutions images is available for download [here](#).

Additional images, video links and remixed recordings of tracks from the original *KING* score are available for exclusives, and upon request.

Note:

- Shaun Parker is based in Sydney, Australia, and is available for Zoom/ telephone interviews ahead of his arrival in Europe June 13, 2023.
- Ivo Dimchev lives between LA and Sofia and is available for Zoom/ telephone interviews when not available in person.
- The nine dancers in the cast hail from around Australia, a mix of cultural backgrounds [including Maori, Indonesian, Filipino, Ecuadorian] and diverse dance/ stage backgrounds, and will be available for on the ground interviews and photo opportunities from June 13 to July 15.

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## Shaun Parker & Company, *KING*

European tour

June 16 to July 15, 2023

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## Hessisches Staatstheater Wiesbaden, Wiesbaden, Germany

7.30pm Tuesday June 27

Book [here](#)

## Bolzano Dance Festival, Bolzano Italy

Time tbc, Friday July 14

+ A free outdoor performance of Shaun Parker & Company's *Trolleys*, time tbc, Saturday July 15

### Credits:

Shaun Parker, *Director, Choreographer & Co-Designer*

Ivo Dimchev, *Composer, Songwriter & Vocalist*

Joel Fenton, Romain Hassanin, Libby Montilla, Robert Tinning, Samuel Beazley, Harrison Hall, Imanuel

Dado, Alex Warren, Max Burgess, *Dancers / Collaborators*

Duane Morrison, *Orchestration*

Veronica Neave, Felicity Nicol, *Dramaturgs*

Benjamin Brockman, *Lighting Designer*

Ryan McDonald, *Lighting Realiser*

Penny Hunstead, *Horticultural Consultant & Jungle Design*

Nils Hob, *Cello*

Alon Ilisar, *Drums*

Mick Stuart, *Guitar*

Ilia Bezroukov, *Sound Engineer*

Mark Haslam, *Production Manager*

*Agent: Meinrad Huber, ecotopia*

### Running time:

73 mins (no interval)

### Notes:

This production contains some nudity and adult themes.

Suitable for MA15+

This production contains some smoke effects.

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## ABOUT SHAUN PARKER & COMPANY

Shaun Parker & Company is an exhilarating and bold Australian dance company that has exploded onto the international dance scene. The company creates critically acclaimed dance productions, which are renowned for their integration of stimulating choreographic forms, arresting musical scores and theatrical invention. Led by award winning Artistic Director and Choreographer Shaun Parker, his work is described as '*so cutting edge it wanders off the edge of any single-word definition...*' Based in Sydney, the company has toured across 21 countries globally including the USA, Germany, France, Luxembourg, Sweden, Serbia, Austria, Malaysia, Singapore, the Middle East, and the UK, including a sell-out season at London's prestigious dance house Sadler's Wells. Shaun Parker & Company has won two Australian Dance Awards, a Banksy Award, and the Argus Angel Award in the UK. [shaunparkercompany.com/](http://shaunparkercompany.com/)

## ABOUT SHAUN PARKER (he/him)

A graduate of the VCA, Shaun Parker is an award-winning choreographer whose work has toured nationally and internationally to 21 countries across Europe, Asia, Middle East, and the USA. His work includes *KING*, *Am I*, *Happy as Larry*, *This Show is About People*, *In The Zone*, *Divine Harmonies*, *My Little Garden*, *Blue Love*, *Love Instalment*, and *Tenebrae III*. He has also worked continually with gifted, and sometimes untrained and under-privileged performing arts students across Western Sydney, resulting in the production

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*The Yard*. Parker has created several outdoor community works including *The Box*, *HOVER*, *Spill*, *Trolleys*, and *TUT*. As a dancer, he performed with Sasha Waltz & Guests, Meryl Tankard, Australian Dance Theatre, and Meredith Monk, and has danced in the feature films: Baz Luhrmann's *Moulin Rouge*, and Bruce Beresford's *Mao's Last Dancer*. He has also choreographed for the world touring production of *Dirty Dancing*, *Australia Fashion Week*, and commercial campaigns for *BONDS* featuring Sarah Murdoch.

## **ABOUT IVO DIMCHEV (he/him)**

Ivo Dimchev is a choreographer, visual artist, singer-songwriter from Bulgaria. His work is an extreme and colourful mixture of performance art, dance, theatre, music, drawings, and photography. Dimchev is the creator of more than 30 performances, has received numerous international awards for dance and theatre, and has presented his work all over Europe, South and North America. From 2013 - 2017 Ivo Dimchev was an Artist in Residence in Kaaitheter / Brussels and in 2014 Ivo opened his new performance space MOZEL in Sofia Bulgaria, an independent space focused on contemporary art and music. Ivo Dimchev is globally revered for his stunning voice which spans the genres of opera, cabaret, rock, and pop! [ivodimchev.com/](http://ivodimchev.com/)

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