

gaia

A dance film by Erin Fowler and Nick Graalman



3-Line Synopsis

Gaia (Mother Earth) is struggling for survival in an increasingly degraded and urbanised planet. Through the language of dance, Gaia tells a story relevant to everyone that inhabits the earth.

Medium Synopsis

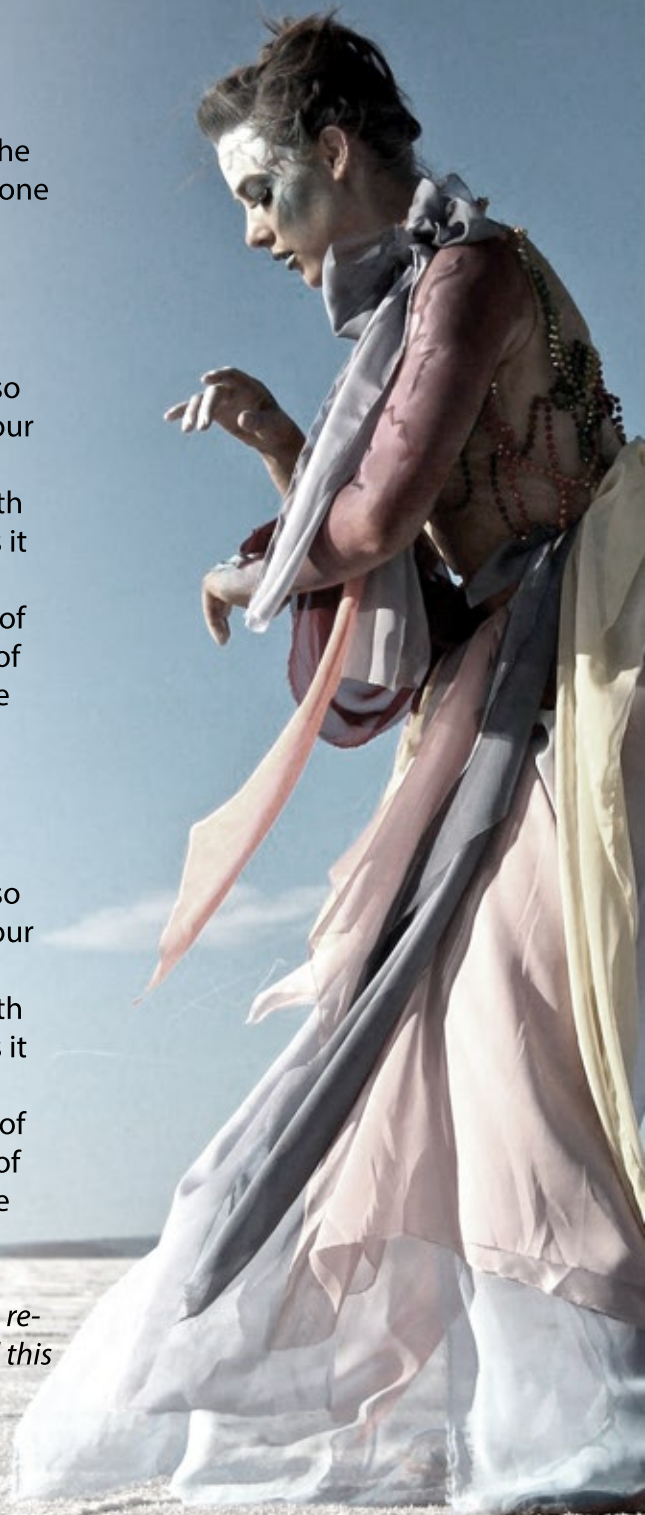
Gaia (Mother Earth) is struggling for survival in an increasingly degraded and urbanised planet. Nature is so vast that our minds are sometimes overwhelmed by our role and responsibility in the delicate web of life. Our urban landscape continues to dominate the globe with little thought for the consequences and the resources it requires. Gaia uses the evocative blend of movement, music and film to highlight this reality and remind us of our kinship with planet earth. Through the language of dance, Gaia tells a universal story relevant to everyone that inhabits the earth.

Long Synopsis

Gaia (Mother Earth) is struggling for survival in an increasingly degraded and urbanised planet. Nature is so vast that our minds are sometimes overwhelmed by our role and responsibility in the delicate web of life. Our urban landscape continues to dominate the globe with little thought for the consequences and the resources it requires. Gaia uses the evocative blend of movement, music and film to highlight this reality and remind us of our kinship with planet earth. Through the language of dance, Gaia tells a universal story relevant to everyone that inhabits the earth.

This planet is not terra firma. It's isolated, and there is no resupply. And we are mistreating it...this is our home, and this is all we've got.

— Scott Carpenter, Mercury 7 astronaut.





Directors' Statement

We are both concerned for the environment and humanity's place in it. Talks of creating a short film using our respective disciplines - film and dance - led to the creation of Gaia.



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Nick Graalman (Co-director/Filmmaker)

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Early in the project we journeyed to the stunning Lake Gairdner in South Australia. Over an intense 2-day shoot we filmed on rough salt in the blazing heat. We chased every last minute of light, from sunrise to sunset. Lake Gairdner provided the perfect backdrop for many scenes in the film – a blank canvas that conveyed the vastness of the planet or Gaia herself.

The natural world engenders us with a sense of curiosity, awe, and gratitude. However, we have increasingly felt a growing concern, fear and sense of hopelessness in the challenges humanity and the earth now face. The seeming inaction and denial at a political level is of particular concern to us. Humanity is divided. Environmental concerns are intensely debated in the political and scientific spheres, which can be both alienating and confusing.

The making of this film is a way to express our concerns for the environment and the earth. Gaia has become a way for us to process and counteract the feelings of inadequacy, and possibly even have a direct impact on this issue.

We have been fortunate to work with some tremendous collaborators and supporters who have helped us bring our short film to life. Namely composer Christopher Larkin and colourist Chris Herzfeld.

We hope you enjoy watching Gaia. We also hope you relate to Gaia's (or the earth's) struggle and her pain. We hope that you find Gaia to be a unique approach on an already familiar and topical issue. May it continue the conversation around environmental concerns.



Director's Biography

Erin Fowler



Co-Director/Choreographer's Biography

Erin Fowler is an Australian independent dancer, choreographer, musician and physical theatre performer who works collaboratively across artistic mediums.

Her choreographic work includes the dance film, *Gaia*, created with filmmaker and time-lapse specialist Nick Graalman and composer Christopher Larkin, released in 2014. *Gaia* was awarded the inaugural Ausdance Digital Residency Award in June 2013.

Erin's first choreographic work *Keeping Up With the Joneses* (2011) was nominated in the Adelaide Fringe Awards for Best Dance and the Festival Centre In:Space Development Award. The 2nd development of this work *MYTH: A study of the female species*, premiered to Adelaide audiences in August 2011 at Nexus Multicultural Arts.

Erin is the Co-Artistic Director of *The Mill*, a creative hub for Adelaide's local artists from all disciplines. *The Mill* provides artist's space and a curated program that is focused on the creation and continuous evolution of Adelaide based arts and artistic culture.

Erin is also a musician in the band *Sitara*, performing vocals and guitar. They recently performed at the 2014 Womadelaide Festival as well as in the 2014 Edinburgh Fringe and will release their debut album in early 2015.

In 2012 and 2013 Erin travelled to the Wudang Mountains in China where she studied KungFu, Tai Chi and QiGong practices. This has a strong influence on her creative practice and led her to co-develop the *Movement is my Medicine Festival*, which promotes movement culture and practices.

Nick Graalman



Co-Director/Filmmaker's Biography

Nick is a filmmaker, cinematographer and director of photography. Nick began making and shooting short films in high school. He continued his interest in film making in 1999 when he studied at MAPS (Media Arts Production Skills) in Adelaide, South Australia.

Upon his graduation from MAPS, Nick began his professional career as a freelance cinematographer and camera operator. In 2004, he collaborated with Tom Bettany & Chris Edser to create the video production business *Quench Studios*. In early 2009, Nick shot "*Girt By Beards*", possibly the first documentary captured on a 5D MkII.

In 2012-2014, Nick took on his most challenging project to date, a 2 year collaboration with dancer and choreographer Erin Fowler on the short film *Gaia*. With a tonne of projects in the pipeline, Nick intends to continue developing his passion for filmmaking and cinematography with great enthusiasm and promise.

Cast & Crew List

Erin Fowler: Co-director, Co-producer, Choreographer and Lead Actress/Dancer

Nick Graalman: Co-director, Co-producer, Cinematographer, Editor, Visual Effects and Sound Design

Christopher Larkin: Music, Composition and Sound Design

Olivia Freear: Makeup and Costume

Andrew Haycroft: Actor/Dancer

Chris Herzfeld: Colourist

Jamie Carter: Grip, Photography, Behind The Scenes Video/Photography

Joc Schmiechen: Grip, Logistics and Fixer

Tess Fowler: Soundtrack Vocals

David Moran: Soundtrack Cello

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