



“Part performance art, part public service, part therapy.” – Calgary Herald (Canada)

STONNINGTON SALON
SAT 15 & SUN 16 OCTOBER

CBD SALON
SAT 22 & SUN 23 OCTOBER

12-4PM
FREE

For locations and bookings visit
www.festival.melbourne
#melbfest

Canada // Free

HAIRCUTS BY CHILDREN

Mammalian Diving Reflex

If you've ever looked at modern art and thought “my kid could do that,” it's time to put yourself to the test. Take a seat in the barber's chair and let a child give you a cut and colour.

Haircuts by Children is what it says on the tub. Kids aged between 8-12 years old are given the tools they require to become working hairdressers, and all that's needed is their clientele. Simple in concept, but the implications run deep: there's talk about empowering our youth, but how much power will we actually allow them? We urge them to shape their destinies, but will you let them shape your hair?

Haircuts asks the audience to set their vanity aside, relinquish control, and trust that a 10-year-old has the creative ability, dexterity and responsibility to command a sharp pair of scissors. Ultimately it is also a performance about the intimate and rare moments shared between two very unlikely strangers – a child and an adult.

A whimsical performance that playfully engages with the enfranchisement of children, *Haircuts by Children* puts our trust in the younger generation against the thrills and chills of vanity. Named after the self-preservation technique triggered in extreme situations, Canadian company Mammalian Diving Reflex creates experiences of alternative encounters between individuals that are entertaining, political and provocative.

Founded in Toronto in 1993, the Company is dedicated to investigating the social sphere, always on the lookout for contradictions to whip into aesthetically scintillating experiences. They create site and social-specific performance events, theatre productions, participatory gallery installations, videos, film, art objects and theoretical texts.

In all its forms, the Company's work dismantles barriers between individuals of all ages, cultural, economic and social backgrounds; they collaborate with non-artists, and offer both participatory opportunities for the audience as well as the traditional option of simply watching the proceedings as they unfold.

Haircuts by Children gleefully deconstructs theatre while maintaining its most vital purposes: to ascertain what it means to be alive, here, today, with each other.

MEDIA CONTACT

TATIA SLOLEY M 0403 305 395
tattia@tspublicity.com.au

EMMA COSTELLO M 0421 201 344
emma@tspublicity.com.au



Presented with



In association with



With support from



Melbourne Festival's free
program proudly supported
by the City of Melbourne

