



THE COOPERS MALHOUSE  
MERLYN THEATRE  
TUE 18-SUN 30 OCTOBER

Tue 6.30pm  
Wed-Sat 7.30pm  
Sun 5pm

1 hr 45 mins, no interval  
Adult \$65  
Concession \$50  
Senior \$60  
Student and Under 30s \$35

[www.festival.melbourne](http://www.festival.melbourne)  
The Coopers Malthouse  
03 9685 5111  
#melbfest

ARTIST TALK  
TUE 25 OCT, post-show

*War and Peace* is a production by Gob Squad and Munchner Kammerspiele. In coproduction with Volksbuhne am Rosa-Luxembourg-Platz Berlin, Schauspiel Leipzig, Konfrontacje Teatralne Festival Lublin, Lancaster Arts at Lancaster University, Malthouse Theatre and Melbourne Festival, Gessnerallee Zurich, Nottingham Playhouse and Teatro Stabile di Torino-National Theatre.

Germany / UK // Theatre

Australian Premiere

## WAR AND PEACE Gob Squad

“Hold this book. Heavy isn’t it? Actually that’s only half of it.

It’s one of the longest in the world. It has 1256 pages (depending on the edition and language you are reading in), originally written in four volumes, there’s more than 135 characters. Have you actually read it?...I’m only half way through.”

The hottest outfit in Berlin's performance scene takes on one of literature's most famously unread novels, but this book club might come with a body count. Notorious theatre renegades, **Gob Squad** return to Melbourne Festival with the Australian premiere of *War and Peace*.

Gob Squad make live video performances that unsettle the lines between the prepared and the improvised, performer and bystander, fiction and life. Here they set their sights on Tolstoy's gargantuan opus only to discover that neither war nor peace are coming without a fight.

A never ending parade of characters dance, dine and duel while performers prepare for scenes as if going into battle, all in order to reframe Tolstoy’s central inquiry: can we live a moral life in an imperfect world? Are our peaceful lives themselves a kind of warfare?

Playful and improvised, Gob Squad’s *War and Peace* searches the performers’ own backdrops of conflict, notions of freedom, privilege and safety. Duty and the individual versus community are discussed through the ordinariness of day-to-day life.

Founded in 1994, Gob Squad are a group of UK and German artists. They make performances and videos which search for beauty in the everyday, and look for words of wisdom from a passing stranger. An artists collective with seven core members, they work collaboratively on the concept, direction and performance of their work. They explore the point where theatre meets art, media and real life, constantly searching for new ways to combine media and performance, producing stage shows,

### MEDIA CONTACT

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video installations, radio plays, interactive live films and urban interventions.

Last seen in Australia as part of the 2012 Melbourne Festival with *Before Your Very Eyes*, *War and Peace* is another rare opportunity to witness a truly boundary-crossing company lead the path of innovation in theatre.

“Between humour and poignancy, between exuberance and despondence.” - The Age on *Before Your Very Eyes*

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