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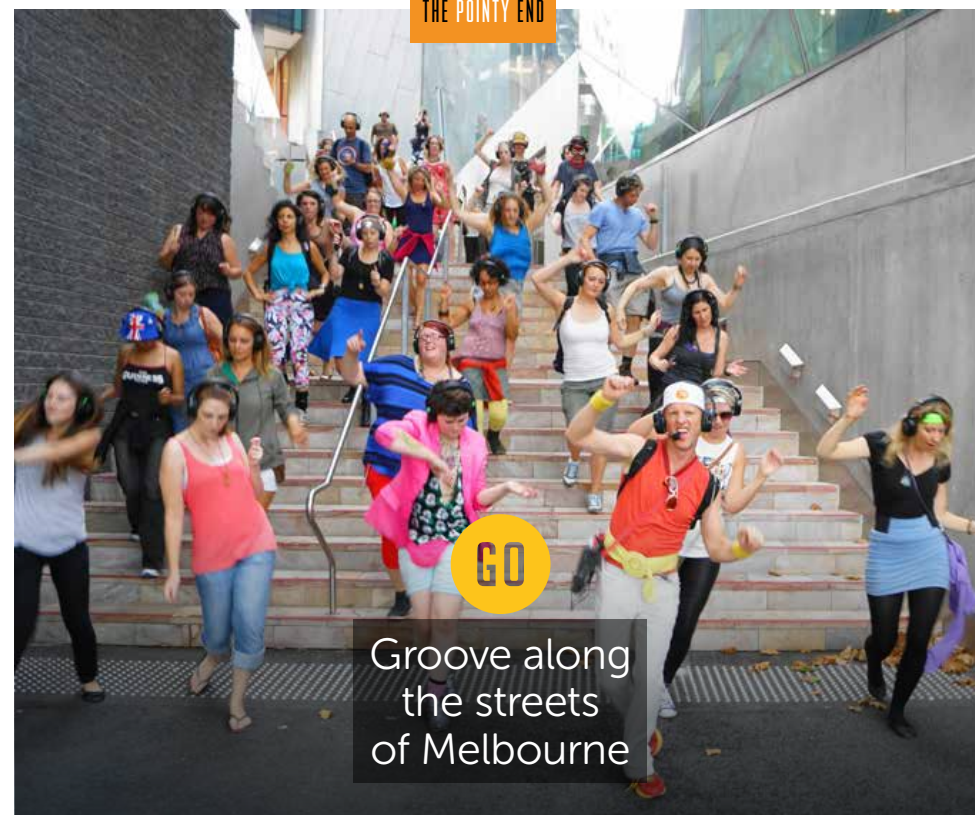
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THE POINTY END



Groove along
the streets
of Melbourne

Don't be deceived. Melbourne's Seafarers Bridge to Docklands isn't a bridge: it's a catwalk. Well, it is for me – along with my 30 fellow divas partaking in a silent disco walking tour of Melbourne.

'Walking tour' is a slight misnomer given there's little walking taking place – it's more of a 'grooving tour' when you have Right Said Fred egging you on with 'I'm Too Sexy' playing through noise-cancelling headphones.

On top of that, there's a man clad in orange lycra and large diamante-studded sunglasses leading the charge, offering enthusiastic encouragement to his disco disciples who are tuned into a retro playlist: 'Woo, yeah! Show us whatcha got! Lovin' that spin people!'

As we take turns demonstrating our best strut before conga-lining down the Yarra River, the voice of this man – whose rockstar name is Guru Dudu – booms through a transmitter like a game-show host priming an audience. Except, when I momentarily take off my headphones, I realise he's almost whispering into his mouthpiece, and the only other auditory stimulus is the dull drone of a chopper flying overhead. Thus everyone looks utterly ridiculous lip-syncing to Michael Jackson's 'Don't Stop 'Til You Get Enough' while bouncing down the promenade.

But right now we don't care that we're having a private party in a public place, even if there are iPhone cameras tracking our moves. We can deal with the live-streamed YouTube videos later.

WORDS EMILY MCARDLE



THE POINTY END

GURU DUDU AND HIS DISCO DISCIPLES

The Guru, whose real name is David Naylor, says his tours encourage people to let go and have a bit of fun

"It's about getting adults to play," says Guru Dudu – known for official purposes as David Naylor – of his novel walking tours. "I think people want to break out more than they realise but they need permission, so this gives them an excuse to let loose."

And I think he's bang on. After spending an hour 'playing' in Australia's second-largest city, I can confirm there are countless people dying to bust a move, including random pedestrians that get roped into our 'tour' from time to time. Apparently, all people require to get their groove on with a bunch of strangers is a free dance pass and a beat. "There's just something about the daignness of the disco that brings people together," Naylor says. "To demonstrate the power of disco-induced unity, Naylor instructs us to gather on the steps of the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre for what will unfold as the most off-key – yet highly animated – rendition of Queen's 'Bohemian Rhapsody' since Wayne's World. A crowd gathers, the crowd cheers, and for six short minutes we're convinced we're making a valuable contribution to Australia's talent pool.



Feeling energised, we dance towards our starting point at South Wharf, sourcing inspiration from the public along the way with moves such as 'the rower', 'the pram pusher' and 'the photographer'.

Upon reaching the lawn for a closing celebration of civic dance-party freedom, we draw on the wise words of one of the 90s' greatest musical philosophers, Ricky Martin: we truly are living *La Vida Loca* (the crazy life). Guru Dudu runs silent disco walking tours most Friday nights in Melbourne, with private and corporate events also available. gurdudu.org

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