

PERTH FESTIVAL

Media kit



Founding Partner



Principal Partner



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MEDIA RELEASE: 6 NOVEMBER 2024

KARLA BIDI IS AN INVITATION TO PERTH FESTIVAL

From the skies to the riverways, this Fire Trail will light the night



Image credit Duncan Wright

Inspired by the Noongar tradition of lighting fires to greet and guide visitors, **Karla Bidi**, meaning Fire Trail, transforms the **Derbarl Yerrigan | Swan River** into a stunning, illuminated pathway, **Fri 7 Feb – Sun 2 Mar**.

For the duration of the Festival, beacons of light stretch along the river from the hills to the sea, welcoming the everyone to join in and be part of something extraordinary. These captivating beacons can be witnessed from afar or, with a journey down to the water's edge, offer an opportunity to become immersed in a unique blend of light sculptures and soundscapes designed specifically for this place.

Created by the next generation of First Nations artists, guided by Elders, each beacon is a campfire, a glowing symbol of welcome, warmth, safety and inclusivity. It is an invitation to Perth Festival. No tickets, no theatre seats – just the sky and the beautiful riverbank.

Karla Bidi is created through close collaboration between multi-disciplinary artists, Ilona McGuire, Jacob Nash, Chloe Ogilvie and Ian Wilkes and guided by Vivienne Hansen, Alta Winmar and the Perth Festival Noongar Advisory Circle.

Perth Festival Artistic Director Anna Reece says:

“At their simplest, at their core, festivals bring people together for a moment in time, creating a sense of ritual, anticipation and celebration. I wanted people in our city to walk their dogs along the river, drive across bridges, look out their windows and know Perth Festival is here and that it is for them, before they get even close to a box office.

“Karla Bidi is a beautiful gentle installation co-created by some of the next generation First Nations artists and our Elders. It celebrates the power of culture, country and community. Connecting us to each other and to where we live. A campfire trail, illuminating our river, signalling the arrival of the festival and telling us we are all welcome.”

Perth Festival Artistic Associate and Karla Bidi Creative Collaborator Chloe Ogilvie says:

“Karla Bidi started from the provocation of being beacons of light along the river signalling the presence of Perth Festival and quickly evolved to become a symbol of welcome, grounded on Noongar Boodjar, and drawing inspiration from the glow of a campfire seen from a distance that draws you in and welcomes you.

“As First Nations artists it’s impossible to separate our identity from the work we do. It is such a privilege to be able to weave our artistic practices and culture together so beautifully in an incredibly supportive and collaborative team, where people are free to input past the confines of their artistic practice and endeavour to push Karla Bidi beyond anything we, and Boorloo has experienced before.”

Details of how to experience Karla Bidi can be found at perthfestival.com.au

WHAT: Karla Bidi

WHEN: Fri 7 Feb – Sun 2 Mar, from after sunset until late

WHERE: Various sites along the Derbarl Yerrigan / Swan River

The full Perth Festival 2025 program is now live at perthfestival.com.au

Images are available at perthfestival.com.au/for-media

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MEDIA RELEASE: 6 NOVEMBER 2024

A PORTRAIT OF PERTH PRESENTED THROUGH ITS PEOPLE

Australian exclusive *12 Last Songs* makes the ordinary extraordinary



12 Last Songs

What is a city but the people? Part live exhibition, part epic performance, ***12 Last Songs*** will debut its unique and intimate theatrical experience to Australian audiences in the **Heath Ledger Theatre** at Perth Festival, for one show only on **Sat 15 Feb**.

With no intermission, real workers from Perth will perform paid shifts in front of a live audience from midday to midnight. This unusual and intriguing experience explores how we work, live and spend our time – inviting audiences to meet people they may not encounter in their everyday life.

As each new worker takes the stage, they discuss what they do and how they see the world. A decorator might paper a wall, a nail technician might apply a fresh set, a barista might serve up a coffee. Others who are unable to perform their shifts live – a sex worker, FIFO worker or shark spotter – might detail their day, framing the rhythms of the city through the people who make it work.

Over the 12 hours audience members can come and go as they please to witness a portrait of Perth created live onstage through its people in this joyful and touching work.

Perth Festival Artistic Director Anna Reece says:

“If you could explore life, the universe and everything in just one show, *12 Last Songs* is it. It's raw, real, gets right to the heart of everyday life, created for and with the people of Perth. It invites us all to stop, to listen to each other and feel the power in the stories and individuals we can so easily overlook. I love that we are throwing open all the doors of our Heath Ledger Theatre for a day and letting our city and its stories flood in.”

An Australian exclusive, *12 Last Songs* is an extraordinary work by Manchester-based ensemble **Quarantine**, known around the world for their forensic interest in daily life. Quarantine has achieved international acclaim for work that is intellectually rigorous, radical in form and unique in character.

Richard Gregory, Director of *12 Last Songs* and co-Artistic Director of Quarantine:

“We’re thrilled to be coming to Perth with *12 Last Songs*, a piece of live mass portraiture. It’s a project we love doing – a privilege to see a city through the people who work there - and Perth Festival is the perfect context to make this kaleidoscopic slice of society. It feels all the more vital at this moment in time to create situations that bring people together who might not usually share a space – and to acknowledge that it’s our differences as much as our connections that enrich our experience.”

WHAT: 12 Last Songs

WHEN: Sat 15 Feb, 12pm – 12am, enter any time (subject to capacity)

WHERE: Heath Ledger Theatre / Yandilup / Northbridge

TICKETS: Pay what you can

The full 2025 Perth Festival program is now live at perthfestival.com.au

Images are available at perthfestival.com.au/for-media

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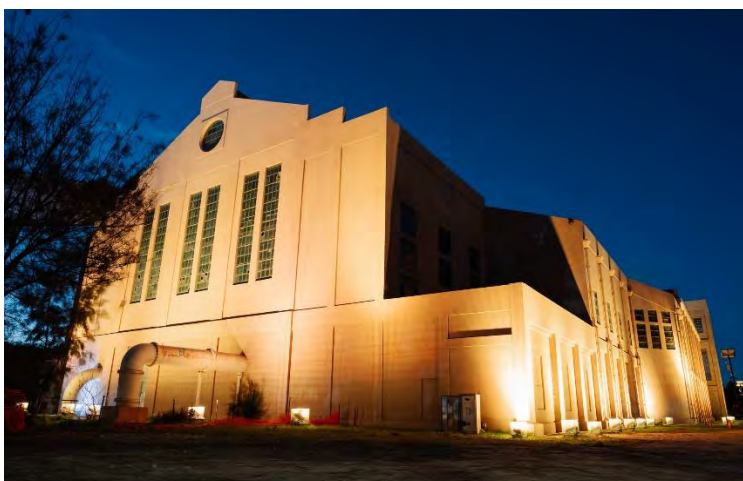
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MEDIA RELEASE: 6 NOVEMBER 2024

EAST PERTH POWER STATION – LET THERE BE POWER. AND ART. AND MUSIC.

The switch is ready to be flicked as the Power Station comes alive again



East Perth Power Station, credit Tristan McKenzie

In a historic move, **East Perth Power Station** will become Perth Festival’s newest precinct, transforming the long-dormant site into the ultimate destination for hot summer nights across the duration of the Festival, **Fri 7 Feb – Sun 2 Mar**.

Set along the river’s edge, the iconic venue will welcome the public for the first time in years, bringing fresh energy to one of Perth’s most significant landmarks as it becomes the beating heart of this year’s Festival celebrations.

Perth Festival Artistic Director Anna Reece says:

“Bringing the East Perth Power Station back to life with music and art is huge for Perth Festival and huge for Perth. This legendary site has been part of our cities story for generations, and now we are filling it with fresh energy, music and incredible art transforming it into a space that for a month every summer will become a cultural heartbeat for our city.”

Every Wednesday to Sunday afternoon, the Power Station comes alive with **Casa Musica**, a vibrant celebration of music, food and culture inspired by the lively piazzas and parks of southern Europe. This free event promises world-class performances from across the Indian Ocean rim and beyond, featuring acts from Réunion Island, South Africa, India and Italy.

Casa Musica invites visitors to unwind by the river, savour local food and drinks, and dance the evening away to a diverse line-up of international and local talent.

When the sun sets, the façade of the Power Station will serve as a spectacular backdrop for an ambitious art commission featuring projected works from three Noongar artists: Allan Yarran, Ilona

McGuire and Daniel Hansen . Each night, the walls come alive as they become a canvas for **Boorloo Contemporary**, an electrifying new celebration of Indigenous artists.

After dark, a hidden corner of the Power Station will transform into a **Main Stage** for experimental, electronic and live music, promising an unforgettable experience in this monumental industrial setting. Inspired by iconic venues like London's Printworks, the space will retain its industrial grit, with steel beams and a cavernous dancefloor.

It all kicks off with a powerful all First Nations opening night line-up headlined by the multi-award-winning electronic duo, **Electric Fields**. The main stage line-up continues German pianist, composer, producer and celebrated performer **Nils Frahm** for two enticingly hypnotic nights; Midnight Oil's legendary frontman **Peter Garrett & The Alter Egos** in a rare solo performance fuelled by power and passion; **Alter Boy** performing their entire catalogue of self-described 'queerlectro pop noir'; one of the most enduring electronic acts of our time, Norwegian duo **Røyksopp** for a very special DJ set from beyond the Arctic Circle; a kaleidoscopic mash-up of African and electronic elements by **Ibibio Sound Machine** fronted by Nigerian singer **Eno Williams**; Egyptian-Australian DJ **Moktar**, renowned for mixing house and techno music with traditional Arabic instrumentation ; and **C.FRIM** who will throw down blends of rap, afrobeat, dancehall and grime with esoteric house, techno and everything in between.

Deputy Premier and Minister for Tourism Rita Saffioti says:

"The East Perth Power Station is an amazing site with so much history and it will be open to the public as a key part of the Perth Festival 2025. It's going to be incredible and of course, in the future, a great tourism icon."

The complete main stage line-up will be revealed in December, with all main stage performances requiring tickets.

WHAT: East Perth Power Station

WHEN: Casa Musica, Wed – Sun 5pm – 8pm

WHERE: Warndoolier / East Perth

Supported by Boorloo Contemporary Partner



The full Perth Festival 2025 program is now live at perthfestival.com.au

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MEDIA RELEASE: 6 NOVEMBER 2024

CELEBRATING THE INNOVATION AND AMBITION OF ABORIGINAL AND FIRST NATIONS ARTISTS

Major new initiative of genre-defying, cutting edge artworks in Boorloo Contemporary



East Perth Power Station, credit Tristan Mckenzie

A new initiative of Perth Festival, **Boorloo Contemporary** is a commissioning and development stream fostering genre-defying, cutting edge artworks that connect with tradition and anticipate the future. Shaped by a group of First Nations curators and arts leaders, it will present immersive works that explore light, sound, ceremony, storytelling, and relationships between new and old technologies.

Launching Boorloo Contemporary is an illuminated commission for the iconic East Perth Power Station. The Power Station Commission will be an annual presentation by an artist, or artists, of a large-scale work responding to the power station and its surrounds. In 2025, new work by Noongar artists **Allan Yarran**, **Ilona McGuire** and **Daniel Hansen** visually speak to the history of the site in colour, record and poem.

Killa: Pindan to Plate, a provocative ‘nose-to-tail’ west Kimberley feast and ambitious solo exhibitions from **Alice Guinness** and **Mervyn Street** also feature in the inaugural Boorloo Contemporary program at different locations across Perth.

When the sun sets, the façade of the Power Station will serve as a spectacular backdrop for an ambitious art commission featuring projected works from three Yarran, Ilona McGuire and Daniel Hansen. Each night, the walls come alive as they become a canvas for Boorloo Contemporary.

In a unique dining experience, guests will share in the narratives and cultural food practices from the west Kimberley coast in **Killa: Pindan to Plate**. This incredibly powerful commission is a literal visual feast, at The Rechabite Hall.

Co-created with a team of First Nations artists led by **Chad Creighton** and **Emilia Galatis**, *Killa: Pindan to Plate* explores how introduced species have become part of the Kimberley diet. Throughout the evening, while an immersive film work documents the preparation of 'Killa' cattle for consumption, guests will be offered eight very special dishes prepared by head chef of the **Double Rainbow** kitchen, Navarre Top.

This 'nose-to-tail' dining event pulls back the curtain to a lifestyle that is conscious of food sustainability and eating practices that exist alongside living on Country.

See, hear and feel Yindjibarndi Ngurra through vibrations of light and sound that teach the song cycle of birds, animals, plants, hills, water places, the stars and the moon in Alice Guinness' **Burndud Ground** at John Curtin Gallery.

A senior artist, Alice holds a deep connection with the Burndud, an important site and story for the Yindjibarndi people. Each stroke of the Burndud circle in Alice's paintings tells a story and it is through her special connection with Yindjibarndi ceremony that Alice – who lives with disability – shares herself with the world.

Alice's Burndud paintings have become iconic across the Pilbara – her use of bold colour and patterns embody the rhythms and movement of the women dancing and the men singing in Ceremony. Now these works will be celebrated and shared with Festival audiences, brought to life in neon sculpture and immersive media installations.

Kimberley Country, its beauty and the harsh realities of cattle work there, are brought to life in **Stolen Wages**, a vibrant collection by Gooniyandi Elder and artist Mervyn Street at Fremantle Arts Centre.

With his vivid memory and natural talent for capturing movement and colour, Mervyn shares his life, Country and history of his family in paintings, drawings, carvings and animations that reveal love, struggle and triumph. *Stolen Wages* features newly commissioned paintings that continue Mervyn's legacy of telling truth to power, following his historic court victory over the State Government for decades of wages stolen from the cattle workers of the Kimberley. The exhibition will also feature important canvases that played an important role in his court victory.

Perth Festival Artistic Director Anna Reece says:

"Boorloo Contemporary is a major new initiative for Perth Festival. An annual commissioning project, providing transformative, immersive experiences from artists who are facilitating the most important conversations of our time. It will lead with First Nations works from home to connect with like-minded artists in South East Asia/Asia-Pacific, considering what 'First Nations' culture means in our region."

The initiative is supported by Wesfarmers Arts. Manager of Wesfarmers Arts Helen Carroll says:

"Art can challenge, inspire and delight us in imaginative ways that connect us. Wesfarmers Arts and Perth Festival have brought the work of leading artists from across Australia and the world to Perth for 20 years. In 2025 we're proud to take a new step forward together with the launch of Boorloo Contemporary - an exciting First Nations-led program of special commissions and cultural conversations. We are thrilled to support this program, that will place Culture and Country at the heart of Perth Festival."

Boorloo Contemporary's curation is guided by a curatorium made up of Clothilde Bullen, Chad Creighton, Glenn Iseger-Pilkington and Chloe Ogilvie, supported by Creative Producer Yabini Kickett and Producer Gemma Weston.

Supported by Boorloo Contemporary Partner



The full Perth Festival 2025 program is now live at perthfestival.com.au

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MEDIA RELEASE: 6 NOVEMBER 2024

POWER STATION SERVES AS BLANK CANVAS TO INSPIRE, EVOKE & REFLECT

Annual art commission for Perth Festival will profile emerging First Nations artists



East Perth Power Station, credit Tristan Mckenzie

Transforming Perth Festival's latest arts precinct will be the new annual project **East Perth Power Station Commission**, illuminating the dormant site into a kaleidoscope of colour and expression during the Festival **Fri 7 Feb – Sun 2 Mar**.

The Power Station Commission will ask an artist, or artists, to create a large-scale work responding to the power station and its surrounds, presenting immersive works that defy genre, exploring light, sound, ceremony, storytelling, and relationships between new and old technologies. These works will be a beacon for visitors, shaping the visual identity of the Festival experience in East Perth and forming the heart of the **Boorloo Contemporary** program.

In 2025, commissions by Noongar artists **Allan Yarran**, **Ilona McGuire** and **Daniel Hansen** will speak to the history of the site in living colour and poetry.

Allan Yarran is a prolific painter of Noongar vistas, with a palpable love of Country and connection to land. Leaping off the canvas, Allan's brightly coloured depictions and reflections of places akin to WA's Southwest draw on his personal memories. In collaboration with new media artist Sam Price, his work will be brought to life as large psychedelic projections of his paintings onto East Perth Power Station. These high contrast and mesmerising visuals are a window into the history of the Derbal Yerrigan.

Multidisciplinary artist Ilona McGuire is heavily influenced by the social impacts of Australian colonisation, where her art consistently finds new ways of expressing community frustrations, hopes and depth. The Bibbulmun Noongar and Kungarakana artist will utilise archival material, colourful patterning and layers of

intersecting collages to unpack history and create opportunities for forward-thinking in her commission for Boorloo Contemporary.

Daniel Murray Hansen is an early career poet and part of the next generation of Noongar writers. Reflections of place, explorations of kinship and contemplations of Country are thematic throughout his work. Daniel will vocalise the special place poetry and language hold for many Noongar people, transforming the Power Station into a billboard for the hopes, dreams and ambitions of Noongar people. His work will create an inspiring space for reflection that includes the voices of local Elders.

Perth Festival Artistic Director Anna Reece says: “The Boorloo Contemporary program will provide transformative, immersive experiences from artists who are facilitating the most important conversations of our time. It will lead with First Nations works from home to connect with like-minded artists in South East Asia/Asia-Pacific, considering what 'First Nations' culture means in our region.”

Perth Festival Creative Producer Yabini Kickett says: “Each Artist represents a different area of culture and expertise; together they weave connection to place, spirit and beauty for the wider community of Boorloo to experience.”

Its curation is guided by a curatorium made up of Clotilde Bullen, Chad Creighton, Glenn Iseger-Pilkington and Chloe Ogilvie, supported by Creative Producer Yabini Kickett and Producer Gemma Weston.

WHAT: East Perth Power Station

WHEN: Wed – Sun 5pm – 8pm

WHERE: Warndoolier / East Perth

TICKETS: Free

Supported by Boorloo Contemporary Partner



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MEDIA RELEASE: 6 NOVEMBER 2024

BURNDUD NEON SCULPTURE AND IMMERSIVE INSTALLATIONS

Share in the rich Yindjibarndi culture in major new Alice Guinness commission



Alice Guinness: Burndud, acrylic on canvas.

See, hear and feel Yindjibarndi Ngurra through vibrations of light and sound that teach the Burndud song cycle of birds, animals, plants, hills, water places, the stars and the moon. This new commission of work from Elder **Alice Guinness** at John Curtin Gallery for Perth Festival, **Fri 7 Feb – Sun 20 Apr** is part of the Festival's major new initiative, **Boorloo Contemporary**.

A senior artist, Alice holds a deep connection with the Burndud, an important site and story for the Yindjibarndi people. Each stroke of the Burndud circle tells a story and it is through her special connection that Alice – who lives with a disability that limits her speaking – shares herself with the world.

Alice's Burndud paintings have become iconic across the Pilbara – her use of bold colour and patterns embody the rhythms and movement of the women dancing and the men singing in Ceremony. Now these works will be celebrated and shared with Festival audiences, brought to life in neon sculpture and immersive media installations.

Perth Festival Artistic Director Anna Reece says:

"It is an honour to be commissioning Alice Guinness together with John Curtin Gallery as one of four major works within our inaugural Boorloo Contemporary. Alice's new work will bring to life the sites and stories of the Yindjibarndi people in immersive non-traditional mediums."

Alice has been painting since the 1990s, joining various art groups around Roebourne. She paints the same subject repeatedly, selecting different colour patterns to express her feelings and connection to her Ngurra (country).

Co-Commissioned by Perth Festival and Juluwarlu Art Group. Presented with John Curtin Gallery

WHAT: Alice Guinness: Burndud Ground

WHEN: Fri 7 Feb – Sun 20 Apr, Mon – Fri 11am – 5pm, Sun 12 – 4pm

WHERE: John Curtin Gallery, Djarlgarro-Ngat / Bentley

TICKETS: Free

Supported by Boorloo Contemporary Partner



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MEDIA RELEASE: 6 NOVEMBER 2024

OPULENT LONG TABLE EXPERIENCE ABOUT MORE THAN JUST FOOD

Flesh out the cultural narratives of Country shared in *Killa: Pindan to Plate*



In a unique dining experience, guests will share in the narratives and cultural food practices from the west Kimberley coast. This incredibly powerful commission is a literal visual feast, at **The Rechabite Hall** for Perth Festival, **Fri 14 – Sun 23 Feb**.

Killa: Pindan to Plate leads diners on the journey of the ‘killa’, Kimberley cattle taken straight from the bush and shared amongst families. Complimented by an opulent long table set with custom designs by regional WA artists, this immersive dining experience comes to life through video installations and projections.

Co-created with a team of First Nations artists led by **Chad Creighton** and **Emilia Galatis**, *Killa: Pindan to Plate* explores how introduced species have become part of the Kimberley diet. Throughout the evening, guests will be offered eight very special dishes prepared by head chef of the **Double Rainbow** kitchen, Navarre Top.

Perth Festival Artistic Director Anna Reece says:

“*Killa: Pindan to Plate* is a modern statement about contemporary Australia, global issues and parallel histories. You are invited to journey through a West Kimberly way of life where culture, food preparation and Country are celebrated despite the difficult history of the pastoral frontier.

“This is not a story being told; it is a reality being shared. We are very proud to have commissioned this extraordinary work as part of our inaugural Boorloo Contemporary this year.”

This 'nose-to-tail' dining event pulls back the curtain to a lifestyle that is conscious of food sustainability and eating practices that exist alongside living on Country.

Perth audiences should prepare to flesh out the social, economic and cultural context of food and life while savouring select saltwater treats and honey-driven desserts alongside smokey pindan-inspired beef.

Audiences who do not wish to sit for dinner but would like to experience the work itself can do so as part of an artist talk. Details to come. Entry is free.

WHAT: Killa: Pindan to Plate

WHEN: Fri 14 Feb – Sun 23 Feb, 6.30pm

WHERE: The Rechabite Hall / Yandilup / Northbridge

TICKETS: \$230 or \$330 with paired drinks

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MEDIA RELEASE: 6 NOVEMBER 2024

KIMBERLEY COUNTRY CAPTURED IN CARVINGS, ANIMATION AND DRAWINGS

**Mervyn Street's paintings reveal more about the history of Gooniyandi's
Stolen Wages history as part of BOORLOO CONTEMPORARY**



Atelier acrylic paint on canvas, Mervyn Street

Kimberley Country, its beauty and the harsh realities of cattle work there, are brought to life in a vibrant collection by Gooniyandi Elder and artist **Mervyn Street** in a Perth Festival commission at Walyalup | Fremantle Arts Centre, **Fri 7 Feb – Sun 20 Apr** as part of **Boorloo Contemporary**, a major new commissioning initiative at Perth Festival.

With his vivid memory and natural talent for capturing movement and colour, Mervyn shares his life, Country and history of his family in paintings, drawings, carvings and animations that reveal love, struggle and triumph. *Stolen Wages* features newly commissioned paintings that continue Mervyn's legacy of telling truth to power, following his historic court victory over the State Government for decades of wages stolen from the cattle workers of the Kimberley.

Mervyn is a Gooniyandi man, from one of the two river groups from the country around Fitzroy Crossing. He is an accomplished illustrator, carver and painter, and author of *Know Your Granny* about his country and his language. He also co-produced the book *At The River*.

Perth Festival Artistic Director Anna Reece:

“While very well known for his relentless advocacy on behalf of his people, Mervyn Street is one of Western Australia's most important artists. We are so thrilled to be commissioning a new series of paintings from Mervyn, shown alongside important works from his history as an artist and activist, documenting a long career of telling truth to power.

“His exhibition will be his first institutional solo exhibition, sits as a major part of our inaugural Boorloo Contemporary initiative and will be a celebration of his vision, his voice and his stories, bringing his powerful artistry into the spotlight.”

WHAT: Mervyn Street: Stolen Wages

WHEN: Fri 7 Feb – Sun 20 Apr, 10am – 5pm

WHERE: Walyalup | Fremantle Arts Centre

Presented with Mangkaja Arts Resource Agency and Fremantle Arts Centre

Supported by Boorloo Contemporary Partner



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MEDIA RELEASE: 6 NOVEMBER 2024

EAST MEETS WEST MEETS PERTH – A MODERN RETELLING OF AN ANCIENT EPIC

Once-in-a-generation theatrical experience *Mahabharata* to enthrall Perth in Australian exclusive



Mahabharata at Barbican Theatre (credit David Cooper)

Blending classic tropes of royal rivalries, feuding families and bloody vengeance, ***Mahabharata*** is a visually stunning two-part theatrical experience making its Australian debut at **His Majesty's Theatre** for Perth Festival, **Sat 8 – Sun 16 Feb.**

A story told for more than 4,000 years, shared in Indian households around the world, *Mahabharata* takes an ancient Sanskrit poem about dynasties vying for control of a kingdom and turns it into an unforgettable and epic event.

Meet the Pandavas and the Kauravas – two royal families fighting for control of the kingdom their grandfather once ruled. It's a tale as old as Homer's *Odyssey* or as recent as TV's *Succession*.

This large-scale contemporary retelling from Canada's **Why Not Theatre** stars a cast entirely from the South Asian diaspora, brought to life by a hypnotic live soundtrack of classical Indian music and dance, and woven together by the ultimate storyteller.

The production is split into two parts; **Karma – The Life We Inherit**, which begins *Mahabharata*'s epic journey that asks, "When everyone believes they are right and their opponents wrong, how can one end a spiral of revenge?", and **Dharma – The Life We Choose** which explores the question "In times of division, how do we find wholeness? Are we destined to repeat the mistakes of our ancestors? Can we build a new world?"

Throughout the experience the production undergoes an evolution in storytelling – from the most ancient - a storyteller around a fire - to a contemporary and technologically-integrated spectacle of projections, dynamic digital soundscapes and poetic stage design.

Mahabharata is a story that one learns over a lifetime; it needs to be absorbed and digested. Perth audiences who wish to be carried further by the storytelling are invited to experience the **Khana & Kahani: Community Meal and Storytelling Session**. Hosted by two charming storytellers, the audience experiences a tale from the Mahabharata as many people have, around the dinner table and over a delicious Indian meal.

See the performance as two separate shows during the week, as one complete event on a weekend, or together with the community meal as an extra feast for the senses.

Perth Festival Artistic Director Anna Reece says:

“To experience the *Mahabharata* live onstage is often described as a once in a generation theatrical experience. I am very proud to present this extraordinary production made by the next generation of artists from the Indian diaspora for a new generation of audiences. This is a tale of two families, going to global war over love, life, ethics and power. A story that is as raw and relevant to our world today as it was thousands of years ago, challenging us to think about who we are and what we stand for.

“*Mahabharata* will be unforgettable and wonderful. It has an extraordinary plot, drama, dance, music, technology and even feasting, but above anything else this is storytelling at its most wonderful and fantastical. An epic tale and experience which belongs in our festival. We are so lucky to have it.”

The production is created and written by Ravi Jain and Miriam Fernandes, using poetry from Carole Satyamurti’s *Mahabharata: A Modern Retelling*. This contemporary adaptation took over 9 years to complete.

WHAT: Mahabharata

WHEN: Sun 8 – Sun 16 Feb

WHERE: His Majesty’s Theatre / Karboordup / Perth CBD

TICKETS: \$49 - \$99, community meal \$39

KARMA PART 1

Sat & Sun 2.30pm

Tue & Thu 7.30pm

DHARMA PART 2

Sat & Sun 8pm

Wed & Fri 7.30pm

KHANA & KAHANI: COMMUNITY MEAL AND STORYTELLING SESSION

Sat & Sun 5.30pm

The full Perth Festival 2025 program is now live at perthfestival.com.au

Images are available at perthfestival.com.au/for-media

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MEDIA RELEASE: 6 NOVEMBER 2024

REALITY WINNER – YOGA TEACHER, CAT LOVER, NATIONAL SECURITY THREAT

Broadway thriller *Is This A Room* is taken from real-life FBI interrogations



Is This A Room, credit Paula Court

The thrilling Broadway play taken word for word from official FBI transcripts, ***Is This A Room*** has an exclusive Australian season for Perth Festival at **Studio Underground, Fri 14 – Mon 17 Feb.**

Critically acclaimed writer and director **Tina Satter** has transformed the gripping true story of 25-year-old Air Force linguist Reality Winner, charged with leaking proof of Russian interference in the 2016 US election, into a palm-sweating interrogation thriller.

As FBI agents investigate the leak, a verbal dance between the knife-sharp Reality and the agents unfolds in Reality's home, and her autonomy shrinks before her eyes. Questions of honour, patriotism, language and power are woven together in an astonishingly emotional exploration of the personal and political.

Staging every word in order of the FBI transcript, *Is This A Room* creates a simmering piece of theatre filled with drama that will leave the audiences hearts racing.

Perth Festival Artistic Director Anna Reece says:

“Bringing *Is This A Room* to Perth Festival is about exploring the drive, the very core of truth telling. This is theatre at its rawest and most electrifying. In a world hungry for transparency and accountability, Reality's story - this production could not be more relevant or more powerful for today's audience.”

A stunning example of verbatim theatre, *Is This A Room* premiered in New York City in 2019. It was conceived and directed by Tina Satter from **Half Straddle**, an award-winning New York-based ensemble of performers and designers.

“It is so exciting for our company to finally be sharing *Is This A Room*-- and this fascinating part of Reality's story--with Australian audiences. We're thrilled to be at Perth Festival!” – Tina Satter

WHAT: Is This A Room

WHEN: Friday 14 – Monday 17 February, various times

WHERE: Studio Underground Yandilup / Northbridge

TICKETS: \$69

The full Perth Festival 2025 program is now live at perthfestival.com.au

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MEDIA RELEASE: 6 NOVEMBER 2024

A STORY OF LIFE, DEATH AND OTHER DIMENSIONS

World premiere of *Night Night* from iconic Australian theatre makers The Last Great Hunt



Night Night by The Last Great Hunt

Playfully cinematic and a visually transcendent adventure, ***Night Night*** will surprise and delight audiences at **Studio Underground** as a film is created live on stage each night, **Wed 26 Feb – Sun 2 Mar**.

From award-winning Western Australian company **The Last Great Hunt** – the team behind *Lé Nør (The Rain)*, *Alvin Sputnik: Deep Sea Explorer* and *New Owner* – comes the world premiere of this heartwarming story of life, death and other dimensions. Pip, a downtrodden Antarctic scientist on a quest to discover the origin of life, is haunted by visions of an albino penguin, and stumbles upon a hidden plane of existence that challenges everything she thought she knew.

A live film experience in the iconic style of The Last Great Hunt, *Night Night* invites audiences to witness both the onscreen story and behind-the-scenes artistry simultaneously. A unique blend of puppets, animation and DIY digital magic, this show goes beyond the limits of traditional theatre performance.

Perth Festival Artistic Director Anna Reece says:

“The Last Great Hunt are the little company that could. Tiny, bold, creatively adventurous and forever punching above their weight. Co-created by an exceptional artistic team - Arielle Gray, Luke Kerridge and Tim Watts, *Night Night* is a truly precious and unique show that without a doubt will leave Perth and tour the world. The show will captivate all who experience it, and absolutely everyone should. If you want to believe in the magic of theatre, this is for you.”

The Last Great Hunt is an internationally renowned collective of five theatre makers: Gita Bezard, Adriane Daff, Arielle Gray, Jeffrey Jay Fowler and Tim Watts. Their productions feature an eclectic variety of forms, styles and experiences, striving to give audiences engaging, challenging and transformative theatre.

The Last Great Hunt's Arielle Gray and Tim Watts have teamed up with award-winning theatre maker Luke Kerridge to co-create *Night Night*.

"We love Boorloo / Perth. We live here, we make here. Perth Festival is an important and fundamental part of Perth's Cultural identity, and it has inspired and shaped us into the theatre makers we are today. We have been touring our theatre all around the world for the last 15 years, but it is only here at Perth Festival, where we are both on a world stage, and at home." - Arielle Gray and Tim Watts.

WHAT: Night Night

WHEN: Wed 26 Feb – Sun 2 Mar, various times

WHERE: Studio Underground / Yandilup / Northbridge

TICKETS: \$49

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MEDIA RELEASE: 6 NOVEMBER 2024

EXPLOSIVE CULTURE-CLASH COMEDY EXPLORES THE AFTERLIFE

World premiere of genre-bending tale in *LEGENDS (of the Golden Arches)*



Joe Paradise Lui and Merlynn Tong in LEGENDS (of the Golden Arches), credit Matsu Photography

Perth Festival audiences can delight in the explosive world premiere of ***LEGENDS (of the Golden Arches)*** at **Studio Underground**, as an unexpected and often hilarious journey unravels the bonds of friendship, culture and redemption, **Fri 21 – Mon 24 Feb.**

This rip-roaring ride finds besties Joe and Merlynn up all night holding vigil for their dead grandfathers. Merlynn is trying to remember the rituals and wants Joe to join her in performing the rites. Joe, frustrated with tradition, thinks it's just a load of superstition. The lords of the Underworld have their own thoughts on all of this, and they're going to drag our heroes into the depths of the Chinese afterlife to resolve their differences.

Co-created by **Joe Paradise Lui** and **Merlynn Tong**, with a strong team of creatives representing the Asian diaspora, *LEGENDS* is a powerful and deeply personal examination of an Asian cultural experience and the enduring power of friendship.

Perth Festival Artistic Director Anna Reece says:

“We love to support new and independent Australian theatre at Perth Festival and are so delighted to co-commission and premiere Joe Paradise Lui and Merlyn Tong's *LEGENDS* here in February. This is storytelling at its best – sharp and satirical, fearless, touching yet wildly entertaining.”

LEGENDS (of the Golden Arches) is produced by Performing Lines WA. This project has been commissioned by Perth Festival, RISING, and Brisbane Festival.

WHAT: LEGENDS (of the Golden Arches)

WHEN: Fri 21 – Mon 24 Feb, various times

WHERE: Studio Underground / Yandilup / Northbridge

TICKETS: \$49

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MEDIA RELEASE: 6 NOVEMBER 2024

YOU CAN'T CHOOSE YOUR RELATIVES

Black Swan State Theatre Company and Belvoir St Theatre, in association with Perth Festival, present Pulitzer and Tony Award-winning *August: Osage County*



August: Osage County, Image supplied by Perth Festival

Australian stage and screen legends **Pamela Rabe** and **Bert LaBonté** will join an ensemble cast for the Perth Festival season of **August: Osage County** at Heath Ledger Theatre, **Thu 27 Feb - Sun16 Mar**.

Charismatic poet-patriarch Beverly Weston has gone. Where? Nobody knows. His wife Violet spirals into opiate addiction and their three daughters dutifully return to the childhood home – spouses, children and unfinished business trailing behind. For the first time in years, the family is together... almost.

As the temperature soars in the scorching Oklahoma summer, so do family tensions, boiling over in vicious point-scoring and score-settling to sensationally entertaining effect.

Under the direction of **Eamon Flack**, **Tracy Letts'** Broadway smash is a caustic, darkly funny study of a family in meltdown. It takes an honest look at addiction, personal failure and the complex relationships we have with those closest to us. Packed with unforgettable characters *August: Osage County* unflinchingly – and uproariously – exposes the dark side of the Midwestern American family.

The Perth season will mark both Pamela and Bert's debut performance at Heath Ledger Theatre. Probably most recognisable from her unforgettable performance as Joan "The Freak" Ferguson in TV's *Wentworth*, **Pamela Rabe AM** is one of Australia's most highly regarded and awarded actors. She has appeared in numerous productions for Melbourne Theatre Company and Sydney Theatre

Company and has starred in countless iconic theatre classics including *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *My Fair Lady*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *Hamlet* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. In *August: Osage County*, Pamela plays the formidable matriarch Violet Weston.

Bert LaBonté is one of Australia's leading men, who recently captivated audiences as Toulouse-Lautrec in *Moulin Rouge! The Musical*. Perth audiences will remember Bert LaBonté as Sam Pickles in the epic Tim Winton classic *Cloudstreet*. Other musical theatre credits include: *The Book of Mormon* (Watchtower Productions), Helpmann Award Winner *An Officer and a Gentleman* (Gordon Frost Organisation), and *Chess* (The Production Company). Bert will be playing Violet's son-in-law Bill Fordham in *August: Osage County*.

Pamela and Bert join an exceptional cast of seven local Perth actors **Caroline Brazier** (*Things I Know To Be True*, *Mary Stuart*); **Geoff Kelso** (*The Seed*, *The Pool*); **Amy Mathews** (*Summer of the Seventeenth Doll*, *Toast*); **Hayley McElhinney** (*Dirty Birds*, *Oil*); **Ben Mortley** (*York*, *Laughter on the 23rd Floor*); **Will O'Mahony** (*Things I Know To Be True*, *Assassins*); **Rohan Nichol** (*Plainsong*, *Red Dog*); Rounding out the thirteen-strong ensemble cast is **Bee Cruse**, **Anna Samson**, **Greg Stone** and **Esther Williams**.

Perth Festival Artistic Director Anna Reece says:

"The Black Swan State Theatre Company & Belvoir St Theatre offering for the 2025 Perth Festival program is modern day classic theatre at its absolute best. *August Osage County* promises to be phenomenal, unmissable production featuring an exceptional Western Australian and national cast.

Black Swan Artistic Director Kate Champion says:

"Since I first saw *August: Osage County*, it's been one of my top five plays, so working with Belvoir St Theatre to bring this exceptional piece of drama to Perth is incredibly exciting. Having over half the cast made up of WA actors truly showcases the depth and breadth of talent that comes from our state. This theatrical coup for Perth audiences is definitely a 'don't miss' opportunity."

August: Osage County is a co-production between Black Swan State Theatre Company and Belvoir St Theatre and is presented in association with Perth Festival.

WHAT: August: Osage County

WHEN: Thu 27 Feb – Sun 16 Mar

WHERE: Heath Ledger Theatre / Yandilup / Northbridge

TICKETS: \$35 – \$119

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MEDIA RELEASE: 6 NOVEMBER 2024

ICONIC ABORIGINAL STORY SHREDS ON STAGE

**Crank up the amps and plug into the journey of the Warumpi Band in
*Big Name, No Blankets***



Travel from the heart of the central desert to the bright lights of the big smoke, as rock ‘n’ roll theatre show ***Big Name, No Blankets*** shreds its way onto the Perth Festival stage at the **Regal Theatre, Thu 27 Feb – Sat 1 Mar.**

Big Name, No Blankets celebrates the phenomenal journey and impact of **Sammy Tjapanangka Butcher**, one of the founding members of **Warumpi Band**. This iconic Australian band – the first to sing in Aboriginal languages – amplified black voices while unifying listeners through the power of rock ‘n’ roll.

Sammy – played by award-winning actor **Baykali Ganambarr** – and his two younger brothers navigate the divide between bush and city, white and black, fame and family as they move from jamming on a flour drum in Papunya to wild nights conquering pub rock and touring the world.

Packed with epic performances, iconic songs and plenty of humour, *Big Name, No Blankets* is a big-hearted story that shows music can make change.

Perth Festival Artistic Director Anna Reece says:

“This is a story about one of Australia’s greatest rock bands, told through rock and roll theatre and starring some insane new First Nations talent. It’s a must-see that shares an iconic chapter in Australian music history. You will grin, clap your hands, stomp your boots and jump to your feet. This show connects us all.”

Co-Directed by **Anyupa Butcher** and WAAPA graduate **Rachael Maza**, the show weaves in culture from Central Australia and North East Arnhem Land as well as two ancestral languages – Luritja and Gumatj (Yolngu Matha). This project has been commissioned by Perth Festival, RISING, Sydney Festival, Darwin Festival, Brisbane Festival and Adelaide Festival.

WHAT: Big Name, No Blankets

WHEN: Thu 27 Feb – Sat 1 Mar 7.30pm

WHERE: Regal Theatre / Wandaraguttagurru / Subiaco

TICKETS: \$69 – \$89

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MEDIA RELEASE: 6 NOVEMBER 2024

MYSTICAL INDONESIAN BLOCKBUSTER GRACES PERTH FESTIVAL STAGE

Live electronica, black and white film and traditional Indonesian music collide for
Samsara: A Cine-Concert



Samsara: A Cine-Concert

A mesmerising cinematic experience, combining film with live traditional Balinese and electronic dance music on stage at **His Majesty's Theatre**, ***Samsara: A Cine-Concert*** is set to captivate audiences at Perth Festival for one night only on **Fri 21 Feb**.

Written and directed by acclaimed Indonesian director **Garin Nugroho**, the performance speaks to what price is paid to fulfill the heart's desire. When a man from a poor family is rejected by the wealthy parents of the woman he loves, he strikes a bargain with the Monkey King, performing a dark ritual to gain wealth. But in the process, he curses his wife and child into suffering.

Set in 1930s Bali in a world steeped in magic and myth, *Samsara: A Cine-Concert* projects a black and white silent film, soundtracked by live gamelan ensemble **Gamelan Yuganada** and world-renowned electronic duo **Gabber Modus Operandi**.

Featuring traditional dance, masks and wayang kulit (Indonesian shadow puppetry) what unfolds on stage is a bold and memorable cinematic experience – seamlessly interweaving the art forms, nuances and traditions of Indonesia's past and present.

Perth Festival Artistic Director Anna Reece says:

"I am so excited to welcome Indonesia's most celebrated director Garin Nugroho and his mind blowing cinematic experience to Perth Festival. *Samsara* is a visual and sonic sensation, telling a story from an extraordinary pocket of the world, yet one so close to us here in Western Australia.

With stunning cinematography and this wild, soaring gamelan – electro soundtrack that reaches into your core, *Samsara* will sweep you up and take you somewhere unforgettable.”

The cast includes Asia-Pacific luminaries, Indonesian film actor **Ario Bayu** and Indonesian Australian dancer **Juliet Widyasari Burnett**, who feature both in the film and live performance to tell this tale of love, trickery and mysticism.

Samsara – A Cine-Concert was first commissioned by Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay, Singapore for Pesta Raya – Malay Festival of Arts 2024.

WHAT: Samsara: A Cine-Concert

WHEN: Fri 21 Feb

WHERE: His Majesty’s Theatre / Karboordup / Perth DBC

TICKETS: \$39 – 89

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MEDIA RELEASE: 6 NOVEMBER 2024

STEP INTO THE WILD: AN IMMERSIVE VR JOURNEY TO TANZANIA

Ultimate Safari: Journey into Africa's spectacular beauty and the complexities of Western tourism.



Ultimate Safari, credit Lea Dietrich

Ultimate Safari is the groundbreaking virtual reality experience transporting audiences into the heart of Tanzania's majestic landscapes – while also exposing the darker side of tourism and its impact on local communities and wildlife – at the **State Theatre Centre of WA** for Perth Festival 2025, **Wed 19 – Sun 23 Feb.**

This immersive VR journey invites participants to walk alongside elephants, encounter zebras, and explore diverse ecosystems – all while gaining an eye-opening perspective on the challenges faced by these landscapes due to unchecked tourism and exploitation.

Created by an award-winning team of VR filmmakers and conservationists, *Ultimate Safari* combines breathtaking visuals with powerful storytelling, delivering an experience that's both awe-inspiring and thought-provoking. As viewers traverse the Tanzanian landscape, they witness firsthand the delicate balance of nature and the toll that human interference can take.

Through encounters with local guides, audiences learn about the struggles of Tanzanian communities and the exploitation of wildlife for tourism, raising questions about sustainability and ethical practices in some of the world's most vulnerable environments.

Perth Festival Artistic Director Anna Reece says:

"Ultimate Safari is an immersive eye-opening experience far beyond the typical safari. A playful, powerful piece of truth telling that gives you moments of genuine euphoria as you are transported to Tanzania. There are moments of deep reflection as you hear (and see) first-hand the true cost of tourism on these extraordinary landscapes and communities."

Audiences are offered a close-up view of Serengeti's incredible wildlife, as well as an invitation to consider the often-hidden realities of the safari industry. By combining thrilling VR encounters with a poignant social message, *Ultimate Safari* bridges the gap between adventure and awareness.

WHAT: Ultimate Safari

WHEN: Wed 19 Feb – Sun 23 Feb

WHERE: Rehearsal Room 1, State Theatre Centre of WA Yandilup / Northbridge

TICKETS: \$49

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MEDIA RELEASE: 6 NOVEMBER 2024

CINEMA FROM ACROSS THE GLOBE, BROUGHT TO THE FARTHEST CORNER OF AUSTRALIA

Lotterywest Films returns to Perth's favourite outdoor cinema



UWA Somerville (credit Jess Wyld)

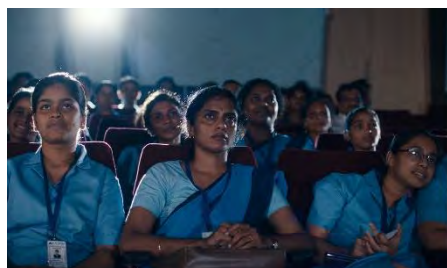
From the edge of the Gobi Desert and the sun-drenched vistas of Los Angeles to the bustling streets of Mumbai, Perth's festival of international cinema is back. Showcasing an incredible line-up of award winners and crowd pleasers from across the world Lotterywest **Films** runs **Mon 25 Nov 2024 – Sun 6 Apr 2025**.

Nestled amongst the pine trees at UWA Somerville, audiences can immerse themselves in stories that challenge, inspire and provoke from China, Bhutan, India, Iran, Europe, USA, Australia and beyond. This world-class outdoor cinema will feature some of the most talked about films from the festival circuits at **Cannes**, **Sundance** and **Toronto International Film Festival**.

Perth Festival Film Curator Madeline Bates says:

"Going to the cinema is a chance to become immersed in other people's stories, to wonder and be curious about the world. The 2025 Lotterywest Films revel in the festival vision of truth telling and mischief making, through some of the very best cinema from across the globe. I hope the program sparks debate and imagination."

The season opens with ***Didi* (弟弟)** a nostalgic coming-of-age drama and the debut feature from Oscar nominee **Sean Wang**. Set in the early 2000s, the film follows 13 -year-old Chris as he nervously navigates the tricky waters of adolescence in sun-bleached California. Featuring **Joan Chen** (*The Last Emperor*) and **Izaak Wang** (*Clifford the Big Red Dog*), *Didi* captures the ups and downs, the joys and confusion of growing up through the lens of a migrant family.



Celebrating incredible homegrown Australian filmmaking, this year's line-up spans comedy to crime on the big screen. Audiences will laugh watching **Audrey**, a brutally hilarious black comedy by multi-award-winning screenwriter **Lou Sanz**. Australian director **Gabrielle Brady** presents **The Wolves Always Come at Night**, a unique documentary exploring the effects of climate change. Hearts will race with **Inside**, a gripping crime thriller about Australia's most despised criminal, starring **Guy Pearce** and **Cosmo Jarvis**.

Love is in the air for the romantics amongst us when we travel to Iran and uncover a story of loneliness, love and spontaneity with **Golden Berlin Bear** nominated film **My Favourite Cake**. Themes of passion continue with the adored 2024 **Cannes Palme d'Or** winner **All We Imagine as Light** – exploring the lives and loves of three Mumbai nurses. Plus, Cannes award-winning director **Miguel Gomes'** **Grand Tour** tells a tale of the escapades of a runaway groom in the early 20th century.

Experience a journey of emotions with a loaded list of political and comedy dramas spread across the program. **Pawo Choyning Dorji** takes us high into the Bhutanese mountains with his multi-award-winning comedy drama **The Monk and the Gun**. Meanwhile, the highly acclaimed political dramas **The Seed of the Sacred Fig** and **Green Border** will leave viewers on the edge of their seat.

In true Perth Festival spirit, we praise the power of art and community with **Sing Sing**, the SXSW Festival Favorite award winner starring Oscar nominee **Colman Domingo**, which tells the incredible true story of a wrongly convicted man who discovers the transformative power of art. In **Tinā** we meet a Samoan teacher who forms a choir group as she comes to terms with the death of her daughter after the Christchurch earthquakes.

Family themed dramas that will tug at the heartstrings include **Crossing**, a moving and tender tale about a Georgian teacher's quest to find her long-lost niece from the director of *And Then We Danced* **Levan Akin**. German writer and director **Matthias Glasner's** dark comedy **Dying** explores, death, dysfunction and fatherhood, while **Cannes Youth Prize** winner, French comedy drama **Holy Cow**, tackles childhood, the importance of family and cheese.

A run of thrilling dramas will take audiences through adrenaline pumping trials and tribulations. In the cinematic collaboration between an Israeli and Iranian director, **Tatami** follows an Iranian Judoka and her coach as they face life-changing decisions during the World Championships. Chinese director **Guan Hu** presents his Cannes **Un Certain Regard** winner, **Black Dog** – the story of Lang (Eddie Peng), an ex-convict tasked with clearing the streets of stray dogs before the 2008 Olympics.

Audience enthusiasm for hard hitting true-to-life stories continues this year at Somerville with a selection of acclaimed documentaries. **Dahomey** is the voice of a new generation's demands and the return of 26 plundered royal treasures. A Palestinian-Israeli collective shows the destruction of

the occupied West Bank in **No Other Land** – a timely and widely acclaimed documentary. Plus, jazz and decolonisation are entwined in the historical rollercoaster **Soundtrack to a Coup d’Etat**.

Lotterywest CEO Colin Smith said record-breaking support of \$9.5 million to Perth Festival highlights the value that artistry offers the WA community.

“Every year Perth Festival entertains the WA community with unique, ambitious and large-scale events. Under the stars and tress of UWA Somerville accompanied with WA’s beautiful summer nights is the perfect backdrop to stage world class local and international films.”

*This year, the program extends past the usual weekly run of films, indulging in special screenings of WA exclusives, local Aussie stories, and encore screenings of fan favourites – Lotterywest Films will run from **Monday 25 November**.*

WHAT: Lotterywest Films

WHEN: 25 Nov 2024 – 6 Apr 2025, gates open 6pm

WHERE: UWA Somerville / Godroo / Crawley

TICKETS: \$22, 6-ticket film pack \$120, 12-ticket film pack \$210, 2 for 1 Tuesdays \$22 for 2 tickets

Tickets available online now. Full program available at www.perthfestival.com.au

EPKS and images will be made available at www.perthfestival.com.au/for-media

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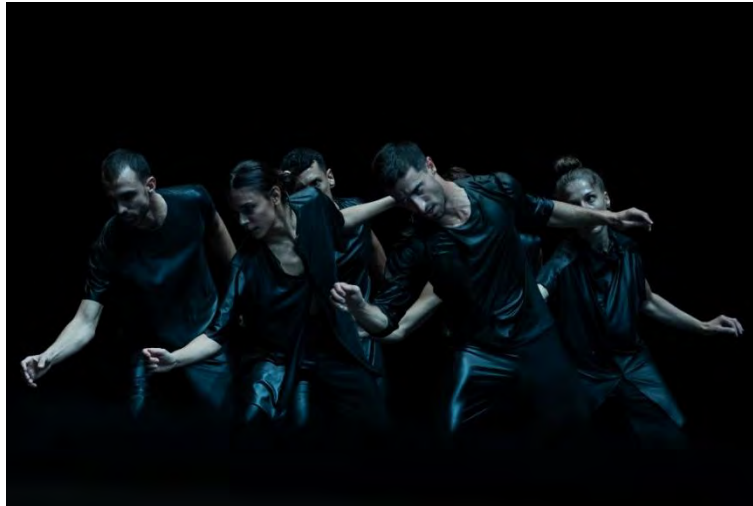
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MEDIA RELEASE: 6 NOVEMBER 2024

A WORK OF ART IN MOVEMENT, SPEAKING TO THE FIERCENESS OF LIFE

Acclaimed Greek choreographer recreates Antarctic ice shelf in *Larsen C*



Larsen C, credit Pinelopi Gerasimou

Highly acclaimed Greek choreographer **Christos Papadopoulos**’ breathtaking ode to a 10,000-year-old Antarctic ice shelf in *Larsen C* has an Australian exclusive season at the **Heath Ledger Theatre, Thu 20 Feb – Sat 22 Feb.**

A glacier twice the size of Wales and moving so slowly it’s almost impossible to notice, *Larsen C* is seemingly absorbed by space and time. Christos uses the constant movement of human bodies on stage to represent an iceberg melting within itself.

Audiences will be mesmerised as they watch the dancers vibrate together with the lighting, set and music in a dreamlike sequence – progressively appearing as eerie as the polar landscape.

Deceptively simple, *Larsen C* is a breathtaking display of art in movement that speaks to the fierceness of life and fluidity of form.

Perth Festival Artistic Director Anna Reece says:

“This is a mesmerising and intoxicating work that explores the unknown territories of space and the body. The choreography is exquisite, hypnotic to watch and I am deeply thrilled to be welcoming Christos Papadopoulos to Australia for the first time.”

Born in a small village in the Peloponnese region of Greece, Christos studied dance and choreography at the School for New Dance Development (SNDO) in Amsterdam. His distinctive choreographic style stands out for its highly developed visual-art dimension; the close relationship between bodies and spaces, and movements and music.

WHAT: Larsen C

WHEN: Thu 20 Feb – Sat 22 Feb, various times

WHERE: Heath Ledger Theatre Yandilup / Northbridge

TICKETS: \$59 – \$79

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MEDIA RELEASE: 6 NOVEMBER 2024

RHYTHM, ENERGY AND REBELLION TAKE CENTRE STAGE

C A R C A Ç A's diverse cast explore cultural identity through joyous dance



C A R C A Ç A, credit José Caldeira

Rhythm, energy and rebellion will explode in a cacophony of urban dance and folklore for an Australian exclusive season of **C A R C A Ç A** at **Heath Ledger Theatre, Fri 7 – Sun 9 Feb.**

Directing a crew of ten diverse performers, Portuguese choreographer **Marco da Silva Ferreira's** **C A R C A Ç A** explores identity through an intuitive and unpretentious flow of the body. Each new step is complex but made with simple sneakers and complimented live on stage by drums (**João Pais Filipe**) and electronic music (**Luis Pestana**).

These elements constitute an accelerated soundtrack that interconnects references from traditional music, postmodern music and club music. Beginning with steps familiar from street dance, clubbing and hip-hop battles, the dancing intensifies, accelerating into wild, euphoric movement that connects with the legacy and memory of dances from the past.

Perth Festival Artistic Director Anna Reece says:

"A vibrant and rebellious exploration of identity and equality, **C A R C A Ç A** is bright, bold and mind-blowing."

Marco da Silva Ferreira is recognised as one of Portugal's leading choreographers, and has worked with André Mesquita, Hofesh Shechter and Sylvia Rijmer. His distinctive dance style is often enhanced by movement practices borrowed from club culture, street and ballroom, and he creates complex and pluralistic works.

WHAT: C A R C A Ç A

WHEN: Friday 7 Feb – Sunday 9 Feb

WHERE: Heath Ledger Theatre / Yandilup / Northbridge

PERTH FESTIVAL

1242

7 Feb – 2 Mar

Founding Partner



Principal Partner



TICKETS: \$59 – \$79

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MEDIA RELEASE: 6 NOVEMBER 2024

PERTH PREPARES TO BUST A MOVE

Movement, music, connection and community in the heart of the city



Perth Moves, credit Edify Media

Perth Moves, the free summer dance hub from STRUT Dance, returns to Perth Festival for six nights in a new location in the heart of the city centre, **Forrester Place**.

From **Sat 15 – Thu 20 Feb** festival goers of all ages can participate or spectate this free eclectic mix of dance classes – from an all-styles dance battle, to an **LGBTIQ+ Elders Dance Club** by **All The Queens Men**.

This year also features the world premiere of **Manifest**, a powerful new work by celebrated Moroccan-Belgian choreographer **Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui**. *Manifest* will see 12 local dancers supported by a ‘silent choir’ of 150 community volunteers from Tue 18 – Thu 20 Feb, 8pm. Inspired by Mahatma Gandhi’s principles of nonviolent resistance against injustice and discrimination, this all-new performance will transform the familiar.

Perth Festival Artistic Director Anna Reece says:

“STRUT Dance continues to ensure Australia looks West when independent dance is on the agenda. James O’Hara and Sofie Burgoyne have curated a generous and ambitious program for Perth Moves 2025 - of globally celebrated artists who will bring the world of dance and its community into the heart of our city.

“I love that we are presenting Perth Moves for the first time in Forrester Place, a place symbolic of freedom of expression and public gathering. To have Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui creating a new work in Perth is a truly remarkable thing for our sector.”

There’s something for everyone to get down to at Perth Moves – whether it’s as an experienced dancer, a wannabe dancer or a keen observer, everyone is welcome.

WHAT: Perth Moves

WHEN: Sat 15 Feb – Thu 20 Feb, 8pm

WHERE: Forrest Place Karboodup / Perth CBD

TICKETS: Free

The full Perth Festival 2025 program is now live at perthfestival.com.au

Images are available at perthfestival.com.au/for-media

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MEDIA RELEASE: 6 NOVEMBER 2024

**BACK IN TIME, FORWARD IN THINKING: AN INTOXICATING MASH UP OF
NOSTALGIA, MUSIC AND IDEAS
AT THE EMBASSY**

**Perth Town Hall transforms into a Festival hub of intimate music, club nights and
big ideas**



Tami Neilson, credit Sophia Bayley

Channelling the forgotten dance hall of the '70s and '80s, The Embassy Ballroom, Perth Festival is taking over **Perth Town Hall** and reimagining it as a space for creative exploration and old-school sophistication.

The Embassy will play host to an exquisite array of musical delights – from classical ensembles to rockabilly blues and operatic monologues, **Fri 14 Feb – Sun 2 Mar**.

Perth Festival Artistic Director Anna Reece says:

“The Embassy is a place where everyone is welcome. The program packed with mischief makers and truth tellers from right here and across the globe, delivering us truly unforgettable moments.

“Think summer nights packed with dancing, big bands, deep conversations and a line-up of extraordinary musicians, all within the exquisite and intimate setting of Perth Town Hall, transformed. And every weekend, it's the Embassy Up Late - an artist club for all, serving up surprise and delight well into the wee hours.”

Jazz musician extraordinaire **Ali Bodycoat** will lead an all-star posse of music maestros on a trip down memory lane for The Embassy's opening night. Reminiscent of the decadent jazz houses of a gone by era, Ali Bodycoat and **The Embassy Big Band** with special guests will command this all-new city hub with brassy horns and dancefloor classics across two Friday nights.

Canadian-New Zealand country-soul star **Tami Neilson** will also take the stage across The Embassy's opening weekend, delighting audiences with her powerful album *Kingmaker*. The critically acclaimed artist will be accompanied by her band and local quartet **Flamingo Strings** as she shares a manifesto of joy, love and societal change, painted with a full sonic palette.

Embrace the power of soulful listening with an intimate line-up at The Embassy. An ode to nature, audiences can catch nationally celebrated violinist **Véronique Serret** and immerse in her latest project *Migrating Bird*, featuring guest artist **William Barton**. Get lost in an adventurous performance by **Sunny Kim's Ensemble Ochaye**. The ensemble's new project *Water Song* blends Korean, Chinese, Iranian and western instruments to create something powerfully personal.

Swing the doors open to a spoken-word art saloon, celebrating words, stories and human experiences. Presented by the team behind *Women of Letters*, host **Marieke Hardy** and curator **Emilie Zoey Baker** offer an evening of intimate artistry in **Better Off Said**.

Embrace eccentricities and transformative storytelling, as performances from **Camille O'Sullivan** and **Joseph Keckler** travel through the stairwells of Perth Town Hall. Celebrate with chameleon performer O'Sullivan as she performs *Loveletter* celebrating dear friends Shane McGowan and Sinéad O'Connor plus the work of Cohen, Bowie and Radiohead. Meanwhile, from the depths his booming bass to the careless whispers of his soprano, get ready for Keckler's unforgettable operatic monologues in an experience like no other.

Feel the groove and watch the flow of Ethio-jazz legend **Hailu Mergia's** fingers along his vintage Rhodes electric piano. At 78, maestro Mergia is a powerhouse performer, and together with his band will have audiences swooning over this sweepingly beautiful set.

Journey through the minds of this year's truth tellers and mischief makers, uncover how they challenge norms and ignite change at **Summit**. Unlike a typical afternoon of panel discussions, *Summit* is a critical gathering for those eager to see how art can provoke and inspire and will take a deeper look at the power of artistic rebellion.

Additionally, every Friday, Saturday and Sunday evening, the venue will host **Embassy Up Late** – the Festival artist club is free for all, offering local performances to surprise and delight as well as DJ sets until the wee hours.

In honour of the legendary Coolbaroo Club started by Aboriginal activists in the 1940s and its dances, The Embassy will open its doors on the Festival's final night. A nod to the infamous ball of the same name (thrown back in 1955), **A Night Out West** will feature an all First Nations line-up of incredible guest performers, including award winning R&B neo-soul artist **Bumpy**, and the **Wilarra Band** from **Lucky Oceans and David Milroy**.

THE EMBASSY | Perth Town Hall / Koorari / Perth CBD

WHAT: Ali Bodycoat & The Embassy Big Band

WHEN: Fri 14 & Fri 21 Feb, doors 7pm

WHAT: Tami Neilson

WHEN: Sat 15 & Sun 16 Feb, doors 7pm

WHAT: Véronique Serret - Migrating Bird

WHEN: Wed 19 Feb, doors 7pm

WHAT: Better Off Said

WHEN: Thu 20 Feb, doors 7pm

WHAT: Summit

WHEN: Sat 22 Feb, 1 – 10pm various session times

WHAT: Hailu Mergia

WHEN: Sun 23 Feb, doors 7pm

WHAT: Sunny Kim's Ensemble Ochaye - Water Song

WHEN: Wed 26 & Thu 27 Feb, doors 7pm

WHAT: Camille O'Sullivan

WHEN: Fri 28 Feb & Sat 1 Mar, doors 6pm

WHAT: Joseph Keckler

WHEN: Fri 28 Feb & Sat 1 Mar, doors 9pm

WHAT: A Night Out West

WHEN: Sun 2 Mar, doors 6pm

WHAT: Artist Hub

WHEN: Fri, Sat & Sun, 10pm, free entry

Sample the cocktails, hit the dancefloor and strike up a chat with creative sparks from all walks of life. It's the artist club, with a little bit of surprise and delight, where punters and performers can rub shoulders into the early hours.

The full Perth Festival 2025 program is now live at perthfestival.com.au

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MEDIA RELEASE: 6 November 2024

QUEEN OF COOL TO CAPTIVATE PERTH

PJ Harvey kicks off Australia tour as part of Perth Festival 2025 line-up



PJ Harvey, credit Steve Gullick

UK's undisputed queen of cool, **PJ Harvey** will kick off her Australian national tour in Perth, performing for one night only at Kings Park & Botanic Garden on **Tue 4 Mar**.

Fresh from a string of headline performances at 2024 European summer festivals and a major tour of the US, PJ Harvey brings her five-star reviewed show to Perth Festival.

Prepare to be spellbound, as the UK's reigning alternative queen rarely tours – but when she does, it's an unmissable experience.

More than a typical music gig, PJ Harvey's show offers a theatrical performance filled with meticulously crafted, gorgeously intricate and jaw-droppingly intimate alt-rock songs.

Audiences can expect to hear tracks from PJ's Grammy-nominated tenth studio album, *I Inside the Old Year Dying*, alongside hits from her extensive back catalogue. An evening with the iconic PJ Harvey promises to be personal and euphoric – a true showcase of musical experimentation and artistic authenticity.

Perth Festival Artistic Director Anna Reece says:

“We know PJ rarely tours so to have her stop off first in Perth is a dream come true. An undeniable rockstar, poet and performer, her artistry transcends music. A night out and under the stars with PJ Harvey within the stunning setting of Kings Park is core to what this Festival is about – bold, transformative and euphoric experiences that could only happen here.”

WHAT: PJ Harvey

WHEN: Tue 4 Mar, 5pm gates open

WHERE: Kings Park & Botanic Garden / Kaata Koomba / Perth CBD

TICKETS: \$132 - \$244

The full Perth Festival 2025 program is now live at perthfestival.com.au

Images are available at perthfestival.com.au/media

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MEDIA RELEASE: 6 NOVEMBER 2024

IRISH SENSATIONS SET SIGHTS ON THE WEST COAST

Band of the moment Fontaines D.C. to kickstart Australian tour at Perth Festival



Fontaines D.C., credit Theo Cottle

Chart-topping band and current kings of the universe **Fontaines D.C.** are bringing their legendary live show to the iconic vistas of **Red Hill Auditorium** as the first stop on their Australian tour, **Thu 27 Feb.**

Following a hugely successful year, and hot off the heels of a triumphant Glastonbury appearance, the Mercury Prize and Grammy nominated Irish five-piece will harness emotion and ferocity as they showcase their new album **Romance**.

Fontaines D.C.'s most ambitious and expansive record yet, it is a stunning follow up to 2022's critically acclaimed album **Skinty Fia**.

The sonic evolution of the band, who bared their teeth in early records with antagonistic punk sensibilities, is an ascent into grungier breaks, dystopian electronica, hip hop percussion and dreamy Slowdiveesque textures. It's a sound that is sometimes wistful, sometimes brutal and their most successful subversion of expectations yet.

Led by front man and scintillating lyricist Grian Chatten, a Fontaines D.C. live show packs a serious punch.

Perth Festival Artistic Director Anna Reece says:

"Without a doubt Fontaines D.C. are the best band in the world at this moment. I am a mad fan. Grian Chatten is the most raw, talented and electric frontman I have seen play for decades. It is amazing to announce that their first gig in Australia will be on the west coast in Feb as part of Perth Festival 2025."

WHAT: Fontaines D.C.

WHEN: Thu 27 Feb

WHERE: Red Hill Auditorium Whadjuk Boodjar / Red Hill

TICKETS: \$109

The full Perth Festival 2025 program is now live at perthfestival.com.au

Images are available at perthfestival.com.au/for-media

Media Contact:

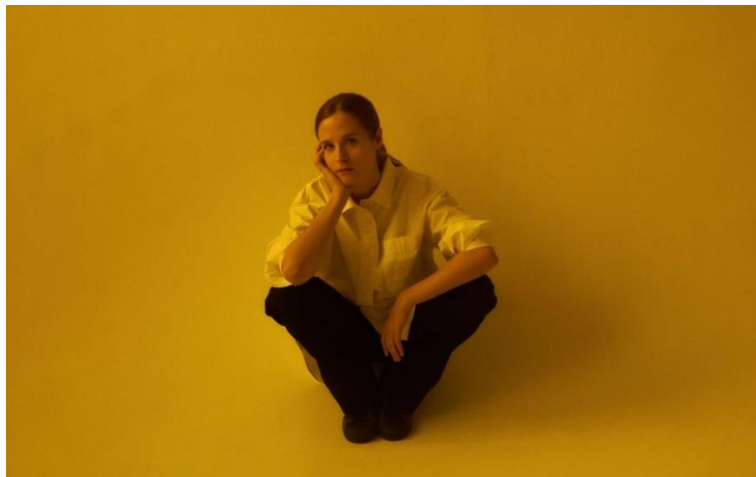
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MEDIA RELEASE: 6 NOVEMBER 2024

CONSERVATORY TRAINED, TRANSFORMER OF TRADITION

Acclaimed Polish pianist to mesmerise Perth Festival



Hania Rani, credit Martyna Galla

Polish pianist and composer, **Hania Rani** is set to bring her atmospheric compositions to **Walyalup | Fremantle Arts Centre** on **Sun 23 Feb**.

As one of the world's most transcendent modern pianists, Hania is best known for her contemporary classical compositions, sound installations and award-winning film scores. Conservatory trained, she brings a unique blend of classical elegance and modern influences that continue to radically transform tradition.

Regularly performing in concert halls across Europe, Hania's mesmerising live performances have gained her recognition world-wide, including her highly streamed 2022 performance at Les Invalides in Paris (garnering over six million views) and January's compelling performance on NPR's Tiny Desk Concert.

Perth Festival Artistic Director Anna Reece says:

"As a pianist she blurs the lines between ambient, classic and house music, with dramatic waves of sounds that will leave you captivated."

Hania Rani says:

"I am delighted to be performing in Australia again. It is a thrill to go back to this beautiful continent and I can't wait to share the music from my album *Ghosts* with you at last! Expect a wonderful light and visuals show, and some new tracks."

WHAT: Hania Rani

WHEN: Sun 23 Feb, 6pm gates open, 8pm performance

WHERE: Walyalup | Fremantle Arts Centre

TICKETS: \$79 – \$119

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MEDIA RELEASE: 6 NOVEMBER 2024

WORLD RENOWNED FADO ICON BRINGS PORTUGUESE SOUL TO PERTH

A night of passion and saudade: Mariza set to captivate Perth



Mariza, credit Pedro Sacadura

Mariza, the world-renowned voice of Portuguese fado takes centre stage at **His Majesty's Theatre** on **Fri 28 Feb** for **Perth Festival 2025**, promising an unforgettable night filled with the rich sounds of longing, love, and saudade – the unique, untranslatable Portuguese sense of bittersweet yearning.

With her hauntingly beautiful voice and magnetic stage presence, Mariza has captivated audiences worldwide for more than 20 years, breathing new life into the traditional Portuguese music genre of fado. Known for her ability to channel deep emotion with every note, Mariza brings both authenticity and a modern twist to fado, ensuring its relevance and appeal to contemporary audiences.

Perth Festival Artistic Director Anna Reece says:

“Mariza brings the soul of Portuguese fado to Perth Festival. Her voice is truly exquisite, her music transcends language, and sweeps us up into a world of passion, longing and emotion. Her gift to us is to feel the intense and soulful heart of fado. This is a must-see event for anyone looking to experience a truly unique and moving musical journey.”

With more than 30 platinum albums, Mariza's internationalisation has opened new musical horizons, transforming her into one of the most complete and respected artists in the world. Collaborators include the likes of Sting, Gilberto Gil and Lenny Kravitz, as well as Jaques Morelenbaum, Ivan Lins, Cesária Évora and Tito Paris.

WHAT: Mariza

WHEN: Fri 28 Feb

WHERE: His Majesty's Theatre Karboordup / Perth CBD

TICKETS: \$79 – \$129

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MEDIA RELEASE: 6 NOVEMBER 2024

CREATIVITY AND CULTURE COLLIDE FOR FESTIVAL EXHIBITIONS

Dive into the diverse mix of art on offer for Perth Festival 2025



Laure Prouvost-Oui Move In You 2024, ACCA. Credit Casey Horsfield

Cultural connections, family ties and the bonds that shape our identity are conversations and concepts that run through the **Exhibitions Program** for Perth Festival 2025.

Hosted in galleries across Perth and Fremantle, this year's artists offer a mix of mediums and performance art to engage with – from VR and audio-visual installations, to painted vistas and photography, as well as rich clay sculptures and pottery.

DADAA will host prolific young Martu artist **Judith Anya Samson** and her latest work *Anya's Puntawarri World*, which takes this world beyond the canvas and into an immersive multi-media experience.

Walyalup | Fremantle Arts Centre welcomes new work from celebrated Australian artists **Kate Mitchell** and **Dianne Jones**. Kate Mitchell's *Idea Induction* is an immersive series of works that ask the question: where do ideas come from? While acclaimed Ballardong Noongar artist Dianne Jones brings the witty and humorous style of her photographic works *Sunbaker* and *Beach Scene* to a new suite of images.

Venture on a journey into the heart of family, culture and tradition at Fremantle's **PS Art Space**, with Australian Zambian ceramicist Shupiwe Chongwe's *Bedforms*. This deeply personal reflection on the connections that bind us is rich in emotion and includes a blend of sculpture and photography.

The visions of eight Western Australian artists will be coming together at West Perth's **Holmes à Court Gallery** to express their response to the WA landscape. **Drylands** portrays canola fields in full bloom, dry, lone trees and empty scarred landscapes – highlighting our land in peril.

Another group exhibition **de-centre re-centre** focuses on the strength and diversity of contemporary photography in Australia. Held at the **Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery**, more than 10 artists will navigate the politics of visibility using a range of diverse photography practices to explore place, community and identity.

Artist, academic and storyteller **Mai Nguyễn-Long** will share her latest series of clay forms in the *Doba Nation* exhibition along-side her iconic large-scale ‘Vomit Girl’ sculptures at **John Curtin Gallery**. The Vietnamese Australian artist uses brushwork that borrows from the southern Vietnamese folk religious motifs merged with personalised symbols, ultimately inviting us to interrogate the history of our own identity.

Embrace a rich and interlinked program at **Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts** where artists have created works celebrating the inspiration of women. A labyrinth of immersive audio-visual installations has taken over PICA’s ground floor courtesy of French artist **Laure Prouvost**, whose piece *Oui Move In You* features a trilogy of works that lead you through the roles and legacies of grandmothers. Matriarchal themes continue for **In Her Footsteps** – collaborative work by seven artists that pays homage to the women who have shaped their lives.

Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts and Perth Festival will also welcome the Australian premiere of *Biraddali Dancing on the Horizon*. The latest moving image work from Australian-Filipina artist **Bhenji Ra**, in collaboration with her Tausug mentor, the piece takes you on a dream-like journey into ancestral and intergenerational learning.

Presented by **FORM, Happy Meals and Scooter Skids: art from the outer suburbs** has been developed by Rockingham-based artist and educator **Andy Quilty**, in collaboration with students from three of Perth’s outer suburban high schools. A dynamic and celebratory exploration of outer-suburban life, the exhibition aims to amplify under-represented stories, improve arts access for outer-suburban communities, and develop awareness among participating young people of the possibility of pursuing the arts into the future.

At **Subiaco Art Centre**, an exhibition drawing from the archive of one of Western Australia’s most important creative and cultural practitioners – Noongar Elder Richard Walley – offers a window into the history of the Middar Dance Group. Presented in partnership with Yirra Yarkin Theatre Company, and curated by Alton and Rickeeta Walley, **Middar Koora ba ye (Middar long ago and today)** includes photographs, objects and stories about a group that have welcomed some of the world’s biggest stars (including Kiss, Harry Styles and Stevie Wonder), to Noongar Boodjar. The exhibition opens as part of the annual Yirra Yarkin Family Picnic and includes weekly dance performances.

Perth Festival Producer Gemma Weston says:

“Perth Festival has a longstanding commitment to presenting thought provoking Visual Arts exhibitions in partnership with Perth’s leading galleries. The 2025 exhibition program continues this legacy, presenting a range of artistic perspectives from the international to the intimately local.”

WHAT: The Great Kimberley Wilderness

WHEN: Sat 23 Nov 2024 – Mon 28 Apr 2025

WHERE: WA Museum Boola Bardip

TICKETS: \$20

WHAT: Judith Anya Samson – Anya’s Puntawarri World

WHEN: Fri 7 Feb – Sat 1 Mar

WHERE: DADAA

TICKETS: Free

WHAT: Laure Prouvost – Oui Move In You

WHEN: Fri 7 Feb – Sun 30 Mar

WHERE: Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts

TICKETS: Free

WHAT: In Her Footsteps – A Tribute to Matrilineal Legacy

WHEN: Fri 7 Feb – Sun 30 Mar

WHERE: Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts

TICKETS: Free

WHAT: Bhenji Ra – Biraddali Dancing on the Horizon

WHEN: Fri 7 Feb – Sun 30 Mar

WHERE: Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts

TICKETS: Free

WHAT: Kate Mitchell & Dianne Jones

WHEN: Fri 7 Feb – Sun 20 Apr

WHERE: Walyalup | Fremantle Arts Centre

TICKETS: Free

WHAT: Mai Nguyễn-Long - Doba Nation

WHEN: Fri 7 Feb – Thu 17 Apr

WHERE: Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts

TICKETS: Free

WHAT: de-centre re-centre

WHEN: Sat 15 Feb – Sat 3 May

WHERE: Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery

TICKETS: Free

WHAT: Shupiwe Chongwe

WHEN: Fri 7 Feb – Fri 21 May

WHERE: PS Art Space

TICKETS: Free

WHAT: Drylands

WHEN: Sat 8 Feb – Sat 26 Apr

WHERE: Holmes à Court Gallery @ no.10

TICKETS: Free

WHAT: Happy Meals and Scooter Skids: art from the outer suburbs

WHEN: Fri 21 Feb – Sat 24 May

WHERE: Form Gallery

TICKETS: Free

WHAT: Middar koora ba ye

WHEN: Sat 15 Feb – Sat 1 Mar

WHERE: Subiaco Art Centre

TICKETS: Free

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