

Birdman (or, The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance)

Antonio Sanchez, USA/Mexico



"Sanchez's score functions in the way that the best film music does—which is to say it's impossible to imagine the work without it"
Jazz Times

"Mr. Sánchez emerged as one of the standout jazz drummers on the contemporary scene, a polyrhythmic ace attuned to the subtlest dynamic fluctuations"
The New York Times

Photo: *Birdman (or, The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance)* © Fox Searchlight

In an Australian premiere season, the four-time Grammy award-winning drummer and composer **Antonio Sanchez** performs his fervent score alongside the Oscar-winning movie *Birdman (or, The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance)* at State Theatre, and at Riverside's Lennox Theatre.

The story behind Sanchez's collaboration with director **Alejandro González Iñárritu** is a long journey. Sanchez initially opted for a traditional rhythmic approach before scrapping that entirely for an improvised and organic method performed solely by the Mexican in one take using just drums and cymbals.

The level of detail and connection to the film is unprecedented, making Sanchez's score an integral part of the film. Using not only the surface of the drums, Sanchez makes use of the sides, the rims and the wood to create a wide range of depths using different tools to drum with. At one point the drums sounded too perfect for an old underground scene so Sanchez acquired an out of tune drum kit and fitted it with vintage heads to create an earthier sound.

Birdman (or, The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance) follows the progress of a washed-up actor, played by **Michael Keaton**, trying to re-establish his career and his sanity. The solo drum soundtrack by this luminary in modern jazz is an essential part of its set-to-stun impact. This is a unique opportunity to see Antonio Sanchez in his element, and witness the frenetic, buzzing energy of *Birdman*.

"If you come to one of these performances, you're going to see a completely different thing every single time," the drummer told Time Out New York.

Antonio Sanchez's inaugural film composition was nominated for a Golden Globe, an Oscar and BAFTA award. Whilst being acknowledged as one of the most innovative and original scores of its time, Sanchez was controversially ruled out of the Academy Award nomination since the film also contained excerpts of classical music. Sanchez recently won two of the top awards at the World Soundtrack Discovery Awards in Belgium. He was awarded Best Film Score and also Best New Discovery Artist of the year.

Sanchez's largely improvised performance offers the audience a truly individual experience of the film.

Where State Theatre & Lennox, Riverside Theatres

When 15 January at 8.00pm at Lennox, 16 January at 8.00pm at State Theatre

MEDIA RELEASE

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Duration 120 minutes no interval

Price Premium \$75
A Reserve \$65/\$59
B Reserve \$55/\$50

Bookings Sydney Festival on 1300 856 876
<http://sydneyfestival.org.au/birdman>

Hearing available in selected mezzanine seats.



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