

MEDIA RELEASE

Level 5, 10 Hickson Road The Rocks
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sydneyfestival.org.au



Cut The Sky

Marrugeku, Australia



Photo: *Cut The Sky* © Jon Green

“Rachael Swain’s direction gave poignancy to its global reaching questions”

The Australian

“It leads to an astonishing finale that evokes both catastrophe and plenty”

ABC Arts

“Seventy minutes of mind blowing intercultural and interdisciplinary performances”

Artshub

A meditation on humanity’s frailty in the face of our own actions, *Cut The Sky* begins in the new future and invites audiences to collectively dream about tomorrow.

From Broome’s internationally acclaimed dance-theatre company **Marrugeku**, comes this major new work about our relationship with Country — our past, present and future through an Aboriginal lens, that’s as compelling, beautiful and fragile as the land itself.

Under the direction of **Rachael Swain** and esteemed Yawuru man **Patrick Dodson** as cultural adviser, *Cut The Sky* draws on Indigenous knowledge systems to contemplate climate change, land rights and an uncertain future. Made up of five acts, the heartfelt poems of artist and storyteller **Edwin Lee Mulligan** are woven throughout the work with his language creating a uniting and persuasive voice.

A dynamic fusion of dance, song, poetry and breathtaking visuals, *Cut The Sky* features the music of **Eric Avery, Buffalo Springfield, Nick Cave** and Sydney-based soul singer **Ngaiire**.

Marrugeku’s Co-artistic Director **Dalisa Pigram** has choreographed the work together with **Serge Aimé Coulibaly** and features as one of four dancers in the production. The cast are propelled back and forward in time – the dancers’ movements expressing the effects of human and environmental damage.

Rachael Swain, says that climate change is essentially about balance, or more accurately, an environmental imbalance. *“A big part of Indigenous knowledge systems is around the balance of the seasons, and weather patterns changing.”* says Swain.

Dalisa Pigram says *“You’re born with this responsibility to manage the balance of country. If we don’t keep that balance, there will be consequences”*.

Creative collaborators from Australia, West Africa, Belgium, Papua New Guinea and India draw on the international language of dance and theatre to convey ideas about a very complex, global problem. The result is an ambitious multi-dimensional work that showcases Marrugeku’s unique contemporary choreography - restless, taut and unwavering.

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Drawing from the lives of people and communities living in northwest Australia, Marrugeku share the memories and traditions of Indigenous cultures and experience through contemporary dance-theatre. Past productions include *Mimi* (1996); *Crying Baby* (2001), performed at Sydney Festival in 2003; the dance, film and karaoke work *Burning Daylight* (2006); the youth production *Buru* (2010); and most recently the multi-lingual dance and video solo *Gudirr Gudirr* (2013), also at Sydney Festival in 2014. These productions have toured throughout remote and urban Australia, throughout Europe and across South and North America, Asia and The Pacific.

Director	Rachael Swain
Concept	Dalisa Pigram and Rachael Swain
Choreography	Dalisa Pigram and Serge Aimé Coulibaly
Poems by	Edwin Lee Mulligan
Musical Director	Matthew Fargher
Media and visual concept designers	Sonal Jain, Mriganka Madhukailya (Desire Machine Collective)
Dramaturg	Hildegard de Vuyst
Set & Costume Design	Stephen Curtis
Cast & co-creators	Eric Avery, Josh Mu, Dalisa Pigram, Miranda Wheen, Edwin Lee Mulligan and Ngaire Pigram

Co-presented with Sydney Opera House.

Where Drama Theatre, Sydney Opera House

When 14-17 January at 7.30pm
16 January also at 2pm

Duration 75 minutes (no interval)

Price Premium \$55
A Reserve \$45/\$41

Bookings Sydney Festival on 1300 856 876
Sydney Opera House on 02 9250 7777
sydneyfestival.org.au/cut

Captioned performance on 16 January at 7.30pm. **Bookings essential.**



Cut The Sky has been commissioned by Theater im Pfalzbau (DE), Carriageworks (AU), Koninklijke Vlaamse Schouwburg (BE), Les Théâtres de la Ville de Luxembourg (LU), Centre Culturel Tjibaou (NC).

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