

## Sydney Festival Parramatta



Photo: *Arquitectura de Feria*

**Sydney Festival** returns to Parramatta with a fantastic line-up of artists and events from Australia and around the world. In 2016, Australia's favourite summer Festival celebrates its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a dynamic program of circus, theatre, music and an exciting new Festival precinct in Prince Alfred Square, ensuring western city will be the place to be this January.

Coming to Parramatta exclusively for Sydney Festival, **Arquitectura de Feria** (Fairground of Architecture) is a fairground like no other. Created by Antigua I Barbuda – a European family of artisans, recycled objects gain new life in surprising and spectacular ways in this captivating (and free!) wonderland of fun. Adults and children play together, twirling handles and spinning pedals to operate the whimsical fairground machines – including a hand-cranked Ferris wheel fitted out with toilet seats. After a day propelling the kids on the rides, the children are then encouraged to operate a mechanical fan whilst the grown-ups take in some story-telling and relax on a sunbed lounger.

In an Australian premiere season, Compagnia Finzi Pasca bring their mix of astonishing acts and fantastic visuals to Riverside Theatre in **La Verità**, ushering in spirit and spectacle inspired by Spanish surrealist **Salvador Dalí**, with one of his recently rediscovered paintings as the backdrop. The internationally renowned writer and director **Daniele Finzi Pasca** has pulled off everything from an Olympic ceremony and a production with the English National Opera to Crique du Soleil. Circus, clowning, acrobatics, dance and music will combine as the Swiss circus company let their imagination run wild in a thrilling experience of sheer beauty.

Looking for more free fun? Parramatta's **Summer Nights** will be a fun-packed all new Festival precinct running on Friday and Saturday nights throughout the Festival in Prince Alfred Square – the perfect place to relax after a busy week. Market Street will be closed off, joining Riverside Theatre and Prince Alfred Square together to create a new hub featuring live music performances, drinks, food and the fairground rides of *Arquitectura de Feria*.

In an Australian premiere inspired by real-life human reactions to trauma, **Catherine McClements** is joined by local community choirs in the major new theatre work *The Events* - an extraordinary fusion of theatre and music. A co-production by Belvoir, Malthouse Theatre and State Theatre Company of South Australia and set in Granville Town Hall, *The Events* reveals how a terrible act of violence can rip apart a community and the ideals that form it.

Also making its premiere is a magical storytelling experience in a Parramatta backyard, Bidjambul man **Uncle Wes Marne** invites audiences to share his stories with him – of his grandfather's dreaming, of

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Level 5, 10 Hickson Road The Rocks  
Sydney NSW 2000 Australia  
Phone 61 2 8248 6500 Fax 61 2 8248 6599  
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bitterness and love, and of his life as an Elder living in Mount Druitt – in **Fire Bucket**. Whilst in another intimate performance at Riverside Theatre, audiences will have the rare chance to witness the raw energy of hip-hop's most important ritual in **Cypher**. Choreographed by **Nick Power**, one of Australia's leading hip-hop dance artists, the crowd are kept deliberately close to experience a glimpse into the depth of b\*boy culture.

Also coming to Parramatta's Prince Alfred Square is the large scale installation **1000 BELLS** that embraces the diversity of Sydney's communities through the hand-making of 1000 ceramic bells. Australian artists **Lauren Brincat** and **Bree van Reyk** will host workshops to create simple pinch-pot bells, and eventually the bells and their creators will reunite in a mass performance and communal musical experience.

The Lennox at Riverside Theatre plays host to a specially curated music program with performances ranging from American West Coast funk to Icelandic electro-pop and Australian roots music melded with Indian rhythms. With tickets only \$35 the music program is beautifully crafted full of fantastic Festival experiences. Iceland may have a reputation for its majestic soundscapes and twee pop, but **FM Belfast** and **Hermigervill** are here to set the record straight – and the dancefloor ablaze – in **Reykavik Calling**. From the USA, Pasadena's maverick funk hero, **DãM-Funk (LIVE)** will treat audiences to some seriously golden, breezy West Coast vibes whilst **Matthew E. White** matches his velvet croon to rock'n'roll, gospel and soul stylings to swooning effect. In an exquisite fusion of Indian folk and Australian roots, famed Australian guitarist Jeff Lang and tabla player Bobby Singh join forces with two leaders in traditional Rajasthani music with **Maru Tarang** and Cambodian Space Project deliver their high-energy sci-fi psych rock'n'roll take on a Phnom Penh karaoke bar in **Cosmic Cambodia**.

Over the last 5 years, Sydney Festival has positioned major centrepiece productions in its Parramatta program as both ticketed and free events. Some of the best local and international artists and companies in the Festival perform in Parramatta in world premieres and international exclusive performances.

**Festival Director Lieven Bertels** says "Sydney Festival is thrilled to be presenting another extraordinary program of circus, theatre, music and free events at Parramatta. In 2016 we will be presenting Australian exclusive and premiere works, and will create a fantastic new Festival precinct in Prince Alfred Square with the fairground delight *Arquitectura de Feria* appearing exclusively in Parramatta. With increasing popularity among audiences from wider Sydney it is rewarding to build on that strong relationship year by year."

**Lord Mayor of Parramatta, Cr Paul Garrard** says "Parramatta City Council has a proud history of supporting Sydney Festival, and we are proud to be celebrating the fifth year with a dedicated and expanded program in Parramatta, with world-class performances and exclusive works from Iceland to Cambodia and beyond. I look forward to welcoming visitors from all over Sydney to experience ground-breaking works from some of the world's finest artists, musicians and performers in the heart of Western Sydney."

With a diverse program of free and ticketed events over three weeks, Sydney Festival is set to bring a surprising and spectacular experience to Parramatta this summer.

**Multipack tickets for the 2016 program go on sale on Thursday 22 October at 9am.** Discounts apply to full price A Reserve or General Admission tickets for a wide range of Festival shows. More information: [sydneyfestival.org.au/multipack](http://sydneyfestival.org.au/multipack) or 1300 856 876

**Single tickets go on sale Monday 26 October at 9am.** More information: [sydneyfestival.org.au](http://sydneyfestival.org.au) or 1300 856 876

All media releases are available for download at [sydneyfestival.org.au/media](http://sydneyfestival.org.au/media)

When Thursday 7 January - Sunday 24 January 2016

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Sydney NSW 2000 Australia  
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[sydneyfestival.org.au](http://sydneyfestival.org.au)

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### For interviews and further information contact:

Jessica Keirle, Publicity Manager, 02 8248 6525 / 0438 805 109 [jessica.keirle@sydneyfestival.org.au](mailto:jessica.keirle@sydneyfestival.org.au)  
Cath Hayes, Publicist, 02 8248 6546 / 0431417112 [cath.hayes@sydneyfestival.org.au](mailto:cath.hayes@sydneyfestival.org.au)  
Julia Barnes, Publicist, 02 8248 6538 / 0402 678 589 [julia.barnes@sydneyfestival.org.au](mailto:julia.barnes@sydneyfestival.org.au)