

MEDIA RELEASE

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



Home Country

WORLD PREMIERE

Urban Theatre Projects & Blacktown Arts Centre, Australia



Photo: Joshua Morris

“Urban Theatre Projects is one of the too few performance companies that continually think outside the square.”

The Sun Herald

Presented in a **multi-level car park in Blacktown**, *Home Country* is an epic story which shares perspectives on place and identity. **Urban Theatre Projects** gives audiences unforgettable experiences in unusual locations. *Home Country*, their latest venture, makes its world premiere at Sydney Festival.

This powerful new work explores the meaning of ‘home’ in a narrative which weaves new work by writers **Andrea James**, **Peter Polites** and **Gaele Sobott**. Audiences will be guided through various levels of the car park in Sydney’s west, as the stories unfold, including, at one point, a communal feast for the audience.

Consistently challenging what theatre is and what it can do, Urban Theatre Projects (UTP) brings people together through telling contemporary Australian stories. *Home Country* grapples with our multi-faceted national identity – an issue that could not be more pertinent today.

Home Country is the story of urban Sydney told in three interweaving chapters from the perspectives of an Aboriginal man, post-war Greek migrant and a recently arrived immigrant to Australia. With Aboriginal Elder, Uncle Cheeky, as your host, over the course of the evening, audiences meet: Ali from Algeria and neighbour Zaphora who clash over cultural values; sharp-witted Pita caught between the old and the new Greek culture; and the Blacktown angel, restless in the afterlife.

Home Country continues UTP’s ongoing commitment to contemporary stories, cultural diversity, and ambitious theatre staged in non-traditional locations. UTP Artistic Director **Rosie Dennis** adds: “We are thrilled to be working with this calibre of local Sydney artists to once again tell real stories of people and tackle social issues that are at the heart of everyday life.”

Directed by Urban Theatre Project’s **Rosie Dennis** - one of Australia’s foremost makers and curators of contemporary art - *Home Country* is a theatrical triptych blending the intimate and the universal. Go on the journey as the sun sets over the Blue Mountains.

About Urban Theatre Projects:

Urban Theatre Project (UTP) has a 30-year history of creating groundbreaking work. Under a handful of visionary

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artistic directors, the company has played a vital role in Australia's cultural landscape. Urban Theatre Projects is renowned for telling compelling, real life stories and revealing the universal within the personal. The company's work not only reflects the diversity of contemporary culture, but also considers whose voice it is telling these stories whether that be older Australians, young people with experiences of the Foster Care system, social housing residents or people living with a disability. UTP actively creates opportunities to tell stories that might help to shift people's perception, grow empathy, and show us a different perspective on life.

Where Colo Lane Car Park, Blacktown
When 11–22 January at 6:30pm
No performance on Monday and Tuesday
Duration 210 Minutes
Tickets \$59/49 + booking fee (includes communal feast)

Multipacks are available for Sydney Festival events. Book 3 or more events and save up to 15%. Discounts apply to full price A Reserve or General Admission tickets.

For interviews and further information contact:

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