

MEDIA RELEASE

Level 5, 10 Hickson Road The Rocks
Sydney NSW 2000 Australia
Phone 61 2 8248 6500 Fax 61 2 8248 6599
sydneyfestival.org.au



Moses Sumney

USA



“He sounds not quite like anyone else, his style a big-armed embrace hugging the expressive jazz of Billie Holiday, Thom Yorke at his most atmospheric, or Antony Hegarty at her most reflective.”
Pitchfork

“Standing behind a veritable candelabra of microphones, his looping voice reached the sorrowful grit of Nina Simone and the ecstatic falsetto of Prince, all in moments.”
Consequence of Sound

Celestial, soulful, and subtly subversive, **Moses Sumney**'s voice makes heartbreak sound holy.

Armed with just a guitar, a loop pedal and an arresting otherworldly voice, his performances come together one luminous layer at a time. Sumney's vocals are often reverbed and looped, ethereal and haunting in the manner of avant-folk acts like **Bon Iver** and **Grizzly Bear**.

With strands of Anohni and Billie Holiday in his musical DNA, Sufjan Stevens and Solange were counted as fans before he'd even released his acclaimed debut EP. Having released on **Terrible Records**, the imprint of Grizzly Bear's **Chris Taylor**, Sumney writes songs that sound like they grew out of cracks in an LA sidewalk: natural, surprising, elegant and perfectly formed.

Sumney was raised in California by his Ghanaian-born parents, who are both pastors. When Sumney was ten, they re-located to Ghana's capital, Accra, where he was bullied for being American rather than African. Rather than engaging with the local music, he studied the music of indie bands coming out of the US and whilst studying creative writing at UCLA, taught himself how to play guitar and began performing in 2011.

Since that time he's become an independent artist to watch, supporting **James Blake**, **Connan Mockasin**, **St Vincent**, **Erykah Badu** and **Sufjan Stevens**. Sumney's credits also include recording the opening track for **Beck's** experimental project *Song Reader*, singing alongside **Karen O** at a Sofar Sounds concert, contributing vocals on **Solange Knowles'** recently released album *A Seat At The Table* alongside Lil Wayne and collaborating with **Dev Hynes** of **Blood Orange** for Solange's FYF fest performance.

In 2014, Sumney released a self-recorded EP, *Mid-City Island*, whilst last year's single *Seeds/Pleas* received widespread critical acclaim, hailed as *“unexpected and captivating”* by Pitchfork. His most recent release *Lamentations*, a five track collection released in September this year, features a bass contribution from **Thundercat** and hints at what can be expected from his anticipated full-length release.

Due to popular demand a second performance has been added on Sunday 15 January at 5pm in the intimate surrounds of the Magic Mirrors Spiegeltent at Meriton Festival Village.

MEDIA RELEASE

Level 5, 10 Hickson Road The Rocks
Sydney NSW 2000 Australia
Phone 61 2 8248 6500 Fax 61 2 8248 6599
sydneyfestival.org.au



Where St Stephen's Uniting Church & Magic Mirrors Spiegeltent, Meriton Festival Village

When 14 January at 7pm & 15 January at 5pm

Duration 75 mins

Tickets General Admission \$40 + booking fee (M)

Bookings Sydney Festival on 1300 856 876
sydneyfestival.org.au/moses

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:

Jessica Keirle, Publicity Manager jessica.keirle@sydneyfestival.org.au

Julia Barnes, Publicist julia.barnes@sydneyfestival.org.au

Georgia McKay, Publicist georgia.mckay@sydneyfestival.org.au

