

## 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



# The Encounter

Complicite/Simon McBurney, UK



Photo: Chloe Courtney

*"One of the most fully immersive theatre pieces ever created"*

**The New York Times**

★★★★★ *"A five-star hallucinogenic trip"*

**The Independent**

★★★★★ *"a story that seems to lead us towards the very source of human consciousness, and its connection with that thing – magical, mysterious, ever-shifting as we perceive it – that we still call reality."*

**The Scotsman**

Fresh from Broadway, Sydney Festival and Sydney Opera House present the Australian premiere of *The Encounter*. Following universal acclaim in London, Edinburgh, Vienna and New York, Sydney audiences have the chance to experience this award-winning and technologically ground-breaking new work from **Complicite**.

Directed by **Simon McBurney**, **Richard Katz** transports us to the humid depths of the Amazon, his storytelling served by the enveloping presence of innovative binaural 3D audio technology.

In 1969, National Geographic photographer **Loren McIntyre** became lost in a remote part of the Brazilian rainforest while searching for the Mayoruna people. His encounter was to test his perception of the world, bringing the limits of human consciousness into startling focus.

The real life events were made into the book *Amazon Beaming* by **Petru Popescu**. Inspired by the book, Simon McBurney, co-founder of **Complicite**, blends personal encounters with details of Loren McIntyre's journey. As McIntyre's mesmerising tale reaches its climax, this extraordinary performance asks some of the most urgent questions of today: about how we live and what we believe to be true.

In a solo performance, Katz incorporates objects and sound effects to evoke an intimate and shifting rainforest landscape. Transmitted direct to the audience through provided headphones, the show's ground-breaking sound design plugs into the power of the imagination, questioning our perceptions of time, communication and our own consciousness.

Founded in 1983, Complicite has performed in more than forty countries and won over fifty major awards, becoming known as one of the UK's most exciting and enduring theatre companies. From its early performances at the Edinburgh Fringe, where *More Bigger Snacks Now* became the first theatre show to win the Perrier Comedy Award, to being screened throughout the world as part of the National Theatre's NT Live program, Complicite has continued to experiment and break ground with every new show.

Last seen at Sydney Festival in 1993 with the production *Street of Crocodiles*, the festival is delighted to be presenting the company's latest creation.

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Director Simon McBurney  
Performed by Richard Katz  
Co-director Kirsty Housley  
Design Michael Levine  
Sound Gareth Fry with Pete Malkin  
Lighting Paul Anderson  
Projection Will Duke  
Associate Direction by Jemima James

*A Complicite co-production with Edinburgh International Festival, the Barbican, London, Onassis Cultural Centre – Athens, Schaubühne Berlin, Théâtre Vidy-Lausanne and Warwick Arts Centre. Supported by Sennheiser and The Wellcome Trust*

Where Sydney Opera House, Drama Theatre

When Preview: 18 January at 7.30pm  
19–28 January  
Mon–Fri at 7.30pm  
Sat 21 January at 2.00pm & 7.30pm  
Sat 28 January at 7.30pm  
No performance on Sunday

Duration 120mins  
Suitable for ages 12 +

Tickets Mon–Thu  
Premium \$96  
A Reserve \$86/\$77  
+ booking fee  
Fri–Sun  
Premium \$110  
A Reserve \$90/\$81  
+ booking fee

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

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