

MEDIA RELEASE

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sydneyfestival.org.au



Sydney Festival Announces its 2018 Program for Western Sydney



Model Citizens, Photo: Rob Blackburn

Sydney Festival returns to Parramatta and Western Sydney from **6-28 January 2018** with **Circus City**, Sydney Festival's central hub for all things circus, two world premieres and an extensive program of free shows and workshops across Parramatta, Campbelltown and Blacktown.

Circus Oz mark their 40th anniversary by bringing their much-anticipated Sydney summer season to Parramatta for the month of January. In the **Circus Oz Big Top** the home-grown company perform their latest show **Model Citizens**, the first work by the new Artistic Director Rob Tannion, featuring an all-new ensemble of 11 acrobats and a live band. The performance explores what it means to be a member of Australian society today through biting satire, high-flying acrobatics and set design that includes an oversized cotton reel, huge collapsing cards and giant aerial underwear. Performing at Riverside Theatres, the award-winning company Gravity and Other Myths on the other hand was described by the UK's Daily Express as "Cirque du Soleil with a fistful of grit". Their show **Backbone** at Riverside Theatres displays a raw virtuosic physicality that cements the group as one of the most creative and progressive circus companies in the world.

Circus City also hosts free performances by spectacular physical aerial performers **Legs On The Wall** on their multi-level, outdoor trampoline playground in **Highly Sprung**, running alongside flying trapeze and Aerialize workshops for aspiring circus performers.

As part of Sydney Festival's significant Indigenous program, **Bayala** returns following last year's overwhelming interest, with an expanded range of language classes to reawaken local language and celebrate the Indigenous heritage of Sydney. New Zealand's **Lisa Reihana** displays her first Australian survey show **Cinemania**, featuring video and photographic works including *in Pursuit of Venus [Infected]*, a colossal panoramic video interrogating colonialism and cultural identity.

Broken Glass is a powerful installation and performance work at St Bartholomew's Church and Cemetery in Blacktown that illuminates the rituals of death and mourning in First Peoples communities from the woman's perspective. At Riverside Theatres **Alice in Wonderland** offers an all-new Australian adaptation of the children's classic from the award-winning playwright Mary Anne Butler, giving the show a contemporary twist and stars the world's first Aboriginal Alice, **Dubs Yunupingu**.

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Symphony Under The Stars, one of the most well-loved Sydney Festival events returns to Parramatta Park with a free concert by the Sydney Symphony Orchestra.

Festival Director Wesley Enoch says *"Sydney Festival has been working in Western Sydney for the past two decades and we add our voice to the call for more cultural infrastructure in the region. With the support of the city councils and arts centres we continue to bring more and more Sydney Festival to the west in 2018. Blacktown and Campbelltown Arts Centres as well as Riverside Theatres in Parramatta are brilliant initiators of world class projects and incubators of local, national and international talent. Together we are collaborating to bring greater investment in the artists and audiences during January."*

"You only have to scratch the surface to realise that there is a lot of cultural vibrancy in Western Sydney. We are so excited to be part of an energetic cultural expansion."

City of Parramatta Council Lord Mayor Cr Andrew Wilson said: *"Parramatta has firmly cemented itself as an events destination, and this year's festival is sure to bring visitors from far and wide to experience the amazing line-up of performances on offer. Sydney Festival has been embraced by the City of Parramatta and is a much-loved event on the City's calendar."*

NOTES TO EDITORS:

For a comprehensive look at the Parramatta and Western Sydney program see a digital copy of the festival brochure here <http://sydfe.st/Parramattabrochure>

For further information on the individual shows, find the Media Information Sheets here <http://sydfe.st/2018mediainfosheets>

Images for the Parramatta and Western Sydney program can be found here: <http://sydfe.st/parraimages2018>

General images for Sydney Festival can be found here: <http://sydfe.st/genpics2018>

Listings Information:

Sydney Festival
When: 6-28 January 2018
Where: Central and Western Sydney
More information: www.sydneymfestival.org.au

For interviews and further information contact:

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For customer tickets telephone 1300 856 876 or visit www.sydneymfestival.org.au

About Sydney Festival

Every January, Sydney Festival enlivens and transforms Sydney with a city-wide multi-art form cultural celebration. Sydney Festival 2018 takes place 6-28 January and sees Festival Director, Wesley Enoch in his second year with program of over 130 events and performances across theatre, dance, music, circus and art. Inclusive programming, a broad range of free events and accessible pricing policies for the ticketed shows means that Sydney Festival is open to all, welcoming both Sydneysiders and visitors from wherever they live.

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Since its launch in 1977, Sydney Festival has presented international artists such as Björk, Brian Wilson, Grace Jones, Manu Chao, Elvis Costello, AR Rahman, Cate Blanchett, Ralph Fiennes, Robert Lepage, The Flaming Lips, Peter Sellars, Sir Ian McKellen and David Byrne & St. Vincent alongside some of the world's great companies - Wayne McGregor's Random Dance, Cheek by Jowl, Gate Theatre and the Schaubühne Berlin to name only a few. Sydney Festival creates a meeting point for the best in national and international art, building a world class Festival in one of the world's greatest cities.