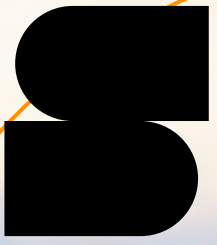


THAWM



**Sydney
Festival
2022**

**Legs On The Wall
Co-presented by Sydney Opera House
World Premiere**

THAW

Legs On The Wall | Co-presented by Sydney Opera House

World Premiere

Over Sydney Harbour by Western Broadwalk, Sydney Opera House

14 - 16 Jan, 8.5 hours

CAST AND CREDITS

THE WOMAN Performed by and developed with Vicki Van Hout, Jenni Large, and Isabel Estrella (in order of appearance)

Creator: Joshua Thomson

Composer: Matthew Burtner (Alaska, Turtle Island/USA)

Costume Designer: Aleisa Jelbart

Head Performance Rigger: David Jackson

Creative Producer: Cecily Hardy

Consulting Dramaturg: Liesel Zink

Artists in Development: Lisa Fa'alafi and Gabrielle Nankivell

Technical Director: Jason Thelwell

Stage Manager: Daniel Story

Lighting Consult: Karen Norris

Company Manager: James Beach

Crane Partner: Active Crane Hire

Engineer Partner: Ironbridge Engineering

Promotional images: Shane Rozario

WITH THANKS TO

Those who speak up and take part in climate justice, First Nations justice and human rights justice - they are all intrinsically interconnected, Seed Indigenous Youth Climate Network, all the speakers of *Enough Talk*, Climarte, Deborah Brown, Leah Shelton, Alexandra Harrison, Jasmin Sheppard, Craig Bary, Elizabeth Gadsby, Ryan Tate, Hermann Buchberger, Pete Hunt, Barry Milne, Neville, and all at Active Cranes, Ironbridge, Intense Lighting, Simone Whetton, Cheryl Stock, Kate Champion, Narelle Beattie, Malcolm Moir, Janice Lee, Leisa Bacon, Fiona Winning, Chip Rolley, Olivia Ansell, and most especially the hardworking teams at Sydney Festival, Sydney Opera House, and Legs.

The world premiere of *THAW* is supported by Sydney Festival, Sydney Opera House and Australia Council for the Arts. This project has been assisted by the Australian Government's Major Festivals Initiative, managed by the Australia Council for the Arts, its arts funding and advisory body, in association with the Confederation of Australian International Arts Festivals, Sydney Festival and Brisbane Festival. Legs On The Wall are supported by Create NSW.

ABOUT THE SHOW

Over more than 8 hours, Legs On The Wall bring death-defying beauty to the current climate crisis with the premiere of *THAW*.

A lone woman exists on 2.7tonne of intricate sculptured ice, suspended high over the waters of Sydney Harbour, from the foot of the Sydney Opera House.

Isolated on this frozen world, the woman scrambles to protect it from the elements and the industrial crane that seems to toy with them both, all to a durational composition from Alaskan Composer Matthew Burtner.

This is not an illusion. Or a stunt. It is all real. Unfolding, melting in real time. Twenty meters in the air. Audiences can gather throughout the day to witness for themselves the ice disappearing beneath her, thawing in Sydney's summer heat.

As sunset approaches, what will become of this exhausted heroine? We are confronted by her struggle yet inspired by her undying determination to survive. *THAW* brings powerful resonance for us all, as we each grapple with our role in the climate emergency and define our collective obligation to a sustainable future.



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A NOTE FROM THE CREATOR

"*THAW* is a response to the building sense of voicelessness, hopelessness, and disheartenment the Legs team of artists, makers, and I, have been feeling over the last two years. Personally, collectively, we have felt the direct impacts of climate change through bushfires and floods, losing property, but most acutely the wildlife and wilderness around us.

THAW is a cry, but mostly a cry to hope.

We wanted to push to the absolute limit of our own physical capacities, our bravery and artistic expression, to reflect the urgency of the climate situation. Taking us to the very edge, and through the intensity and endurance required of these women, create a metaphor of what's required from us all. This is a beckoning to other voices to join us, or for us to join them, to add to the collective that is forging a way through, together."

– Joshua Thomson

LEGS' CLIMATE ACTION

Legs' climate justice partner has withdrawn from Sydney Festival, Legs will not be mobilising the climate 'call to action' strategy as planned. You can discover more about *THAW*'s sustainability journey at THAW.ORG.AU

ABOUT LEGS ON THE WALL

"... giving the audience gripping, confronting and moving physical theatre at its best."

THE CONVERSATION

Legs On The Wall (Legs) has a 37year story defined by daring and calculated risk. Their successes have made them one of the world's most celebrated independent physical theatre companies. Legs artists craft stories through an inimitable teaming of theatre, dance, circus, spectacle, music, film, installation and more. Working with a dynamic group of some of Australia's best physical and non-physical artists with a mandate to support and promote First Nations artists the world over. With more than 700,000 people having experienced Legs' work firsthand, Legs' work appeals to a broad audience across barriers of language, socio-economic status, and more. Above all, Legs are determined to tell transformative and empowering stories in forms that thrill and resonate with audiences.

