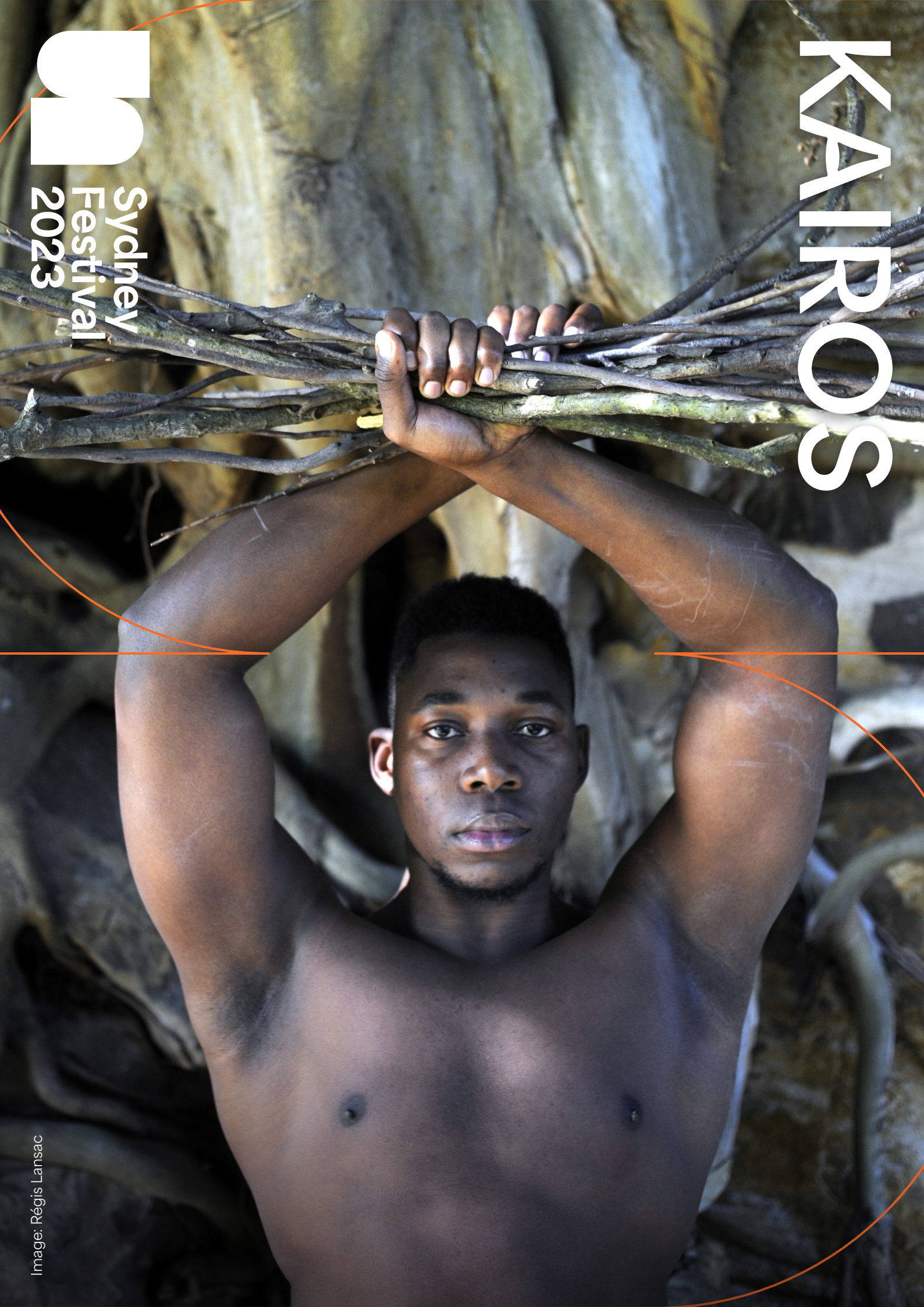


KAIROS

Sydney
Festival
2023

Image: Régis Lansac



KAIROS

Meryl Tankard
WORLD PREMIERE

Carriageworks - Bay 20
19 - 21 January
Approx. 60 minutes (no interval)

Commissioned and Produced by
FORM Dance Projects

CAST AND CREDITS

Concept, Direction, Choreography Meryl Tankard

Composer, Pianist Elena Kats-Chernin

Video Design and Photography Régis Lansac

Assistant Director Kate Dunn

Performance and Choreography Lillian Fearn, Cloé Fournier, Taiga Kita-Leong, Jasmin Luna, Julie Ann Minaai, Thuba Ndibali

Child Izabelle Kharaman

Understudy Naomi Hibberd

Sound Design Bob Scott

Costume Design Melanie Liertz, Sam St. Aubyn

Set Design Meryl Tankard, Mason Browne

Associate Set Design Benedict Janeczko-Taylor, Ruby Jenkins

Lighting Design Verity Hampson

Associate Video Design Morgan Moroney

Production Manager Mark Haslam

Stage Manager Frankie Clarke

Costume Assistants Nicole Artsetos, Eloise Cochrane

Executive Producer Annette McLernon

Production Co-Ordinator Naomi Hibberd

Business Manager Sally Ebert

Production Intern Joshua Sherwood

Program Manager Agnès Michelet

ABOUT THE SHOW

In ancient Greek, *Kairos* is “the right or opportune moment for doing, a moment that cannot be scheduled”. That moment is now for director Meryl Tankard AO, composer Elena Kats-Chernin AO and visual artist Régis Lansac OAM, who have created a vibrant new dance work responding to these uncertain and challenging times.

Commissioned and produced by FORM Dance Projects and created by three world-renowned Australian artists and long time collaborators, with the next generation of dance makers, this Sydney Festival world premiere will encompass a vast lexicon of human experience and human movement: the dark and challenging; the ugly and beautiful; the humorous and joyful.

“Tankard is the humanist of our choreographers and one of the most inventive.”

- The Age, Melbourne (on Meryl Tankard)



KAIROS

Meryl Tankard

WORLD PREMIERE

A NOTE FROM THE CREATOR - MERYL TANKARD

I am interested to collaborate with the next generation of independent artists who are curious, have unique voices and dance vocabularies, and are passionate about exploring their dance practice.

The framework for *Kairos* was initiated in an immersive residency at Bundanon, where dance artists created individual solos in personal response to paintings by modernist Sidney Nolan in the Bundanon Collection. The natural bush environment on the banks of the Shoalhaven River at Bundanon, post 2020 bushfires, and some rare and radical spray painted portraits by Sidney Nolan from his little known *Heads* series in the 1980s, were an inspiration for Regis, Elena and I and the dance artists.

I was impressed by these huge bold portraits in the environment of Bundanon. I'd never seen this work before...had no idea Nolan painted like this...it seemed so free and contemporary. I felt it was a good starting point for the work as there were many stories behind these portraits. We began with the dancers' response to these paintings and individual solos. The soldier and war seemed to reappear often in Nolan's work. This led us to the poem of Rimbaud of the soldier lying in the verdure/greenery...not resting, not asleep but with two bullet holes in his side.

Kairos leapt from these foundations. Elena created a piece for each individual dancer but rather than present these dances as a series of solos I wanted to create a world around each dance, around these isolated humans. I wanted to create a dramatic and turbulent world like the one we have experienced in the last three years - a world collapsing and expanding through a concertina of floods, fire, plague and war. A pandemic that has left us isolated and impacted the very essence of dance, the artform of touch. I have attempted to capture glimpses of the goddess Iris, a

messenger between heaven and earth...and the great archetype, Mother Earth...the romantic and the everyday.

"C'est un trou de verdure, où chante une rivière"

"It is a green hollow, where a river sings"

Arthur Rimbaud, *The Sleeper in the Valley*, 1870

ABOUT FORM DANCE PROJECTS COMPANY

FORM Dance Projects is a presenter and producer of contemporary dance, based in Parramatta, Western Sydney. FORM's mission is to support Australian independent dance by driving an artistic program that engages a community of local, national and international artists.

FORM partners with Riverside Theatres, Parramatta, to create a dynamic hub for dance in Sydney, working with a diverse group of choreographers to realise their artistic vision. FORM's signature Dance Bites program has launched the choreographic careers of many independent dance artists and companies.

FORM's ambitious vision includes the commissioning of large-scale and innovative new dance works in collaboration with leading choreographers, artists and partners. Since 2011, FORM has successfully commissioned and produced four genre-defying festival productions including the current production, *Kairos*, directed by Meryl Tankard (Sydney Festival 2023).

KAIROS

Meryl Tankard

WORLD PREMIERE

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FORM Dance Projects would like to thank:

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City of Parramatta, Caroline Baum, Jennifer Thompson, Glen Menzies, Shiho Ogawa, Sarah Hindson, Felicity Woodhill, Michael O'Donnell, Lyle Chan, James Pensini, Mark Adams.

Kairos Hero Image

Thuba Ndibali, Image: Régis Lansac

Homage to Jack Mitchell from Alvin Ailey's "Hermit Songs"

Source images in video projections by Régis Lansac Sidney Nolan, Head, 1983, spray paint on canvas. Bundanon Collection, Sidney Nolan Trust.

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Credit: Kairos, Cloé Fournier, Image: Régis Lansac

GOVERNMENT PARTNER

