

WAYFINDER




Sydney
Festival
2024

WAYFINDER

Dancenorth Australia

The Pavilion Performing Arts Centre, Sutherland

19 - 20 January

55 mins (no interval)

Warning: This performance contains strobe lighting, theatrical haze, loud startling noise, and interactive objects that emit light and sound.

CAST AND CREATIVES

Concept, direction and choreography

Amber Haines and Kyle Page

Lighting design Niklas Pajanti

Composition Hiatus Kaiyote

Sound art and design Byron J. Scullin

Sound sculpture design, construction and implementation Robert Larsen and Nicholas Roux

Visual design Hiromi Tango

Design associate Chloe Greaves

Design assistant Jeanette Hutchinson

Polyrhythm consultant Naomi Jean

Performers/choreographers Marlo Benjamin, Sabine Crompton-Ward, Tiana Lung, Damian Meredith, Darci O'Rourke, Tara Jade Samaya, Felix Sampson, Michael Smith

CREW

Production manager Liam Kennedy

Production technician - sound and technical operation
Yoshie Kenny

Company stage manager Pip Loth

Production technician - lighting Thomas Roach

ABOUT THE SHOW

Wayfinder is a gathering of heart. Physical exuberance, sonic resonance and collective exhilaration explode onto stage in a kaleidoscopic fusion of dance, music and visual art. Directed by Amber Haines and Kyle Page, Dancenorth Australia joins forces with three-time Grammy nominated Australian band Hiatus Kaiyote and sound artist Byron J. Scullin to create a soaring composition evoking pleasure and possibility. An undulating sound sculpture condenses and expands this scintillating score, immersing audiences in a new sonic dimension. Japanese-Australian visual artist Hiromi Tango offers her joyful, heart expanding artwork to both the stage design and costumes for this sublime new

performance, featuring lighting design by Niklas Pajanti. Speaking to our sensorial nature, *Wayfinder* reminds us of a state of being that transcends the words that have come to define us. Navigating bigger and more ancient reference points, *Wayfinder* recognises connection as the central axis of the universe. By the stars, the waves, and the sun, we find our way. A summoning of collective awe and wonder, *Wayfinder* is a tonic for the times.

DIRECTORS' NOTE

We all enter the world as Wayfinders.

Finding our way we dance with the world, allowing the movements of life to illuminate the unshakable truth of our elemental connectivity. Throughout this development we have consciously focused our creative energy upon the heart - allowing its wisdom to guide the process. In doing so we have attempted to loosen the grip of modern humanity's default mode of rational, reductive brain-based being. In this space a deeper, more intuitive and energetic creative eco-system has emerged.

The making of *Wayfinder* has been a heart expanding process. Nourished by the generosity of our collaborators; Byron J. Scullin, Chloe Greaves, Jeanette Hutchinson, Hiatus Kaiyote, Hiromi Tango, Nick Roux, Nik Pajanti and Robert Larsen, we have blurred the lines between form. Movement, light, sound, sculpture, and song - each simultaneously finding and showing the way for the others. With deep gratitude we honour the artists and all that they have brought to this creation.

In the studio, the way with the dancers has been one of interbeing. A deeply interwoven exploration that has led to something profound, a choreographic language has emerged from the space between all of us, yet as is the case with most magical phenomena, words fail to capture the essence of what we have co-created in the making of this show. Marlo, Sabine, Tiana, Damian, Darci, Felix, Tara and Michael - your energy and devotion have paved the way for us all.

WAYFINDER

Dancenorth Australia

Thank you, Niharika and Naomi, for your early contributions and to Aaron, Alice, Eloise, Felicity, Hillary, Liam, Pip, Tom and Yoshie - nothing that emerges within the studio does so in isolation. Your presence is felt, and feeds fuel into every aspect of the creation and presentation of this new work.

With love and appreciation for over 150 volunteers from both Townsville and Brisbane who have woven their energy thoughtfully through more than 70 kilometres of salvaged wool - a visual metaphor for the energetic bonds that connect us all as one universal body. *Wayfinder* is a beacon. Together may we find our way.

Amber Haines and Kyle Page
Co-directors

ABOUT DANCENORTH AUSTRALIA

As a major champion of the arts in regional North Queensland, Dancenorth Australia balances a dynamic regional presence with a commitment to creating compelling contemporary dance that tours the globe. Dancenorth is one of Australia's leading contemporary dance companies, having presented work in over 45 International Arts Festivals and venues around Australia and the world, and is an integral part of the Australian dance ecology making a significant contribution to the dance sector and building literacy around contemporary dance nationally. An epicentre of cultural exchange, Dancenorth empowers and supports dancemaking in Australia and independent practice through residencies, secondments, and creative developments through our Artistic Leadership and Capacity Development Program. Alongside the professional Ensemble and touring productions sits an equally vital pillar of focus: community experience. Driven by a dedicated team, Dancenorth works with diverse and minority communities across Queensland using dance to support, enhance, inspire and heal - bringing communities together.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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