



# COWBOY

Sydney  
Festival  
2025



Ben Lindberg



# COWBOY

Michael Smith, FORM Dance Projects & The Farm

Riverside Theatres

8-11 January

45 minutes (no interval)



## CAST AND CREDITS

**Created by** Michael Smith and The Farm

**Performed by** Michael Smith

**Produced by** FORM Dance Projects

**Music Composition** Ben Ely

**Sound Design** Anna Whitaker

**Lighting and Production** Chloe Ogilvie

**Mentored by** Gavin Webber

**Dramaturgy** Martyn Coutts, Liesel Zink, Gavin Webber

## ABOUT THE SHOW

"I am deeply consumed,  
I am deeply committed,  
I am becoming,  
A Cowboy."

– Michael Smith

*Cowboy* is an interactive, solo contemporary-dance work that unpacks one's ability to have a complete, genuine and meaningful experience as an imagined self. An original sound-score composed by Ben Ely transforms our surroundings into that of a Western film.

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*Cowboy* utilises its performance space to create both intimate settings and vast, open landscapes with a free-roaming audience who actively transform into instruments of the Western world. *Cowboy* is poignantly humorous yet sensitive, where Michael's personal attempt for self-realisation and connection resonates beyond the cowboy fantasy.

## A NOTE FROM THE CREATOR

From surfing trains and taming horses to wandering the desert, *Cowboy* holds a deeper inquiry into the existence of a shared humanity beyond fantasy. By committing entirely to the iconography of a cowboy, I seek to expose desires and vulnerabilities that exist in our pursuit to form identity.

– Michael Smith

## MICHAEL SMITH

Michael Smith is an award-winning artist working within contemporary dance, dance-theatre, film and installation. Michael's choreographic works have been performed at esteemed national and international festivals.

## THE FARM

Based on the Gold Coast with roots in Berlin, The Farm has been described as the gateway drug to contemporary dance. The Farm's artistic nerve centre is led by Gavin Webber, Grayson Millwood, Kate Harman, Michael Smith and Chloe Ogilvie.

## FORM DANCE

FORM Dance is the leading producer and presenter of Australian independent contemporary dance in Western Sydney. FORM Dance is an artist-lead organisation with Paul Selwyn Norton as Creative Director, Lewis Major as Executive Director and Naomi Hibberd as Creative Producer.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

FORM Dance Projects would like to thank and acknowledge support provided by Create NSW and Riverside Theatres. *Cowboy* was co-created and originally produced by The Farm with support by the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland.

## SUPPORT SYDNEY FESTIVAL

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