

MEDIA RELEASE: Monday 7 March 2022

THANK YOU, PERTH. THAT'S A WRAP

Tide flows out for Perth Festival's 2022 Wardan celebration

'Perth Festival illuminates the past and the future.' - *The Australian*



Trevor Ryan in Noongar Wonderland. Image by Court McAllister

Perth Festival's three-week performance program has wound up, farewelling our 2022 summer celebration of culture and community on the shores of the Indian Ocean.

As most of our artists and crews pack up and autumn returns, continuing Festival events include [Lotterywest Films](#), this month's theatre season of [City of Gold](#), an extensive series of free [Visual Arts](#) exhibitions and our new [Touring WA](#) program to regional areas.

Steeped in Indigenous culture and the 2022 theme of **Wardan (ocean)**, the Festival began with the joyous world premiere of the musical **Panawathi Girl** and closed with **Noongar Wonderland** lighting up Perry Lakes with song, culture, art and an inclusive sense of belonging.

Some 650 artists across 100 Festival events revealed countless moments of beauty, joy and provocation. They included **Mary Stuart's** towering theatrical majesty, the awesome luminous world of **Patch's Lighthouse**, **Tim Winton**, **Helen Garner** and many other brilliant authors at **Writers Weekend**, **Kim Crotty's** heart-warming **The Smallest Stage**, **Ta-ku's** walk-through music box **Songs to Experience** and the salty serenade of **Sounds of Sunset** at South Mole.

We are so grateful to our audiences, artists, partners and donors whose resilience and commitment have made the Festival possible in the face of the serious challenges thrown our way. Together, for

the second year running, we have navigated a pandemic to safely share the bonds of culture and community.

Festival **Artistic Director Iain Grandage** says: 'It has been a privilege to be able to put on this Festival in these times - to witness the joy of our artists who have been thrilled by such enthusiasm from our audiences. We understand how tough it has been for so many people in so many ways and we hope this has been a Festival to offer comfort and joy through the shared stories of this place. We now turn our gaze skyward to the dreams of Festival 2023 and its theme Djinda (stars).'

Perth Festival is Australia's longest-running cultural festival, founded by **The University of Western Australia** and supported through the State Government through **Principal Partner Lotterywest**.

Lotterywest Films continues until April 3 at **UWA Somerville**, where triple-Oscar nominee *Flee* is screening this week only. Ongoing exhibitions around the galleries include *Isaac Julien* at **John Curtin Gallery**, *Undertow* at **Fremantle Arts Centre**, *Sonia Kurarra* at **Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery** and *Amrita Hepi's Monumental* at **Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts**.

This year, we have taken the Festival on the road with our inaugural **Touring WA** program to Bunbury, Albany and Karratha, supported by **Minderoo Foundation**. The one-man hit comedy *JALI* tours to **Bunbury Regional Entertainment Centre** on 8-9 March and at the **Red Earth Arts Precinct** in Karratha on 17 March. A series of award-winning international films from our hugely successful Lotterywest Films program, including *Flee*, also are showing in Karratha.

FILM BOOKINGS AND FESTIVAL INFO: perthfestival.com.au

Click [here for highlights](#) images and [here](#) for media resources and images.

For further information, interviews or images please contact:

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Perth Festival acknowledges the Noongar people who continue to practise their values, language, beliefs and knowledge on their kwobidak boodjar. They remain the spiritual and cultural birdiyangara of this place and we honour and respect their caretakers and custodians and the vital role Noongar people play for our community and our Festival to flourish.

ABOUT PERTH FESTIVAL

Founded in 1953 by The University of Western Australia, Perth Festival is the longest running international arts festival in Australia and Western Australia's premier cultural event. The Festival has developed a worldwide reputation for excellence in its international program, the presentation of new works and the highest quality artistic experiences for its audience. For 70 years, the Festival has welcomed to Perth some of the world's greatest living artists and now connects with hundreds of thousands of people each year.

Iain Grandage is the Artistic Director 2020–24.



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