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## FANTASTIC FIVE HEAD TO 2020 PERTH FESTIVAL

- [Bungul](#) celebrates the music of Gurrumul and Yolŋu culture in epic style
- Beloved musical [Bran Nue Dae](#) makes triumphant 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary return to Perth Festival
- Acclaimed circus ensemble Circa present their astounding new show [Leviathan](#)
- Beethoven's only opera [Fidelio](#) set to thrill in a landmark Perth Concert Hall event
- Tim Winton's Australian classic [Cloudstreet](#) reimaged for the 21<sup>st</sup> century stage



Circa's Leviathan. Photo cr Damien Bredberg

Perth Festival announces five glorious shows as a taste of the summer cultural feast to come next February under new **Festival Artistic Director Iain Grandage**.

An epic celebration of the Yolŋu culture of the great Australian songman **Gurrumul** will be an opening weekend highlight of the 2020 Perth Festival, which has Indigenous culture as its bedrock. **Bungul** invites us to experience the culture that inspired Gurrumul's final album, **Djarrimirri (Child of the Rainbow)**, in a live performance by Yolŋu dancers, songmen and the **West Australian Symphony Orchestra**.

In a Festival that celebrates our place, we also hail the return of two of the finest theatre works ever to have emerged from Western Australia, **Bran Nue Dae** and **Cloudstreet**.

**Bran Nue Dae**, Australia's first Indigenous musical by **Jimmy Chi** and **Kuckles**, is back in a sparkling new production presented by **West Australian Opera** at the Regal Theatre to mark 30 years since its 1990 Festival world premiere. And **Black Swan State Theatre Company of WA** and **Malthouse Theatre** will fill His Majesty's Theatre with magic and wonder of an exciting homecoming production of **Cloudstreet**, which broke box-office records when it premiered in Melbourne earlier this year.

One of the world's most outstanding circus companies, **Circa**, the Brisbane artists behind the hit Festival shows *Beyond*, *Opus* and *How Like an Angel*, join us in Perth to create the world premiere of their exhilarating new show **Leviathan** created in collaboration with local circus performers, dancers and young people.

In 2020, we rejoice in the music of **Ludwig van Beethoven** and celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth with a concert version of his only opera **Fidelio**. This stunning work of love and sacrifice triumphing over tyranny unites the forces of WASO and WA Opera with a new spoken text from **Alison Croggon**, narrated by actor **Eryn Jean Norvill** and with the heroic lead performed by acclaimed German soprano **Christiane Libor**.

"I am thrilled to be able to share just a taste of my first Perth Festival program for 2020," **Perth Festival Artistic Director Iain Grandage** says.

"These five brilliant productions are some of the finest circus, music and theatre you will see anywhere in the world, and they are all grounded here in the West by Perth Festival.

"*Bungul* and *Leviathan* are both new Festival commissions made for you. In collaboration with WASO, Beethoven's *Fidelio* is reframed for our times, and we joyfully reclaim the great Western Australian works *Bran Nue Dae* with WA Opera and *Cloudstreet* with Black Swan State Theatre Company of WA as defining stories of us in this place.

"I can't wait to share the full 2020 Perth Festival program with you soon – one that celebrates our time, our place and our home here on Noongar Boodjah."

**Perth Festival runs from 7 February to 1 March 2020. Look out for more details when we announce the full Festival program on 31 October 2019.**

**BOOKINGS AND FESTIVAL INFO: [perthfestival.com.au](http://perthfestival.com.au)**

**Priority bookings:** Tickets are on sale now (ticket reserves available for *Cloudstreet*) for Friends of the Festival and Subscribers of WASO (*Fidelio*) and WA Opera (*Bran Nue Dae*).

**General public:** Tickets on sale on Monday 2 September at 9am AWST.

**Cloudstreet:** Tickets on sale to Black Swan members from Monday 21 October.

## EVENT DETAILS

### [Leviathan](#)

Regal Theatre, Fri 26 Feb – Sun 1 Mar

**WORLD PREMIERE**

**Tickets: \$35 (Friend) - \$69**

Under the direction of Yaron Lifschitz, Circa's renowned artists joins local circus performers, dancers and young people to push the limits of human possibility in this world-premiere circus event. The Brisbane company behind past Perth Festival hit shows *Opus*, *Beyond* and *How Like an Angel* take the art of circus in an exciting new direction as 36 performers hang from a grid suspended in the air and propel themselves across the stage, tumbling, balancing and soaring together.

The dramatic power and extreme skill of Circa's trademark acrobatics thrillingly expose the tension between the mass and the individual in this deeply moving and physically stunning show. In these complex times, *Leviathan* offers hope by celebrating what we can achieve when we work together.

### [Bungul](#)

*Gurumul's Mother's Bungul*

*Gurumul's Grandmother's Bungul*

*Gurumul's Manikay*

**Perth Concert Hall, Sat 8 Feb, Sun 9 Feb**

**Perth Festival Co-Commission**

**Tickets: \$53 (Friend) - \$89**

'Yolŋu don't have books or computers. They carry it in the heart, in their song, their dance, their paintings.' Don Winimba Ganambarr

A bungul is a ceremony, a meeting place of dance, song and ritual. Created on country in North East Arnhem Land with the Yunupingu family, *Bungul* is a ceremonial celebration of one of the transcendent albums of our time. You're invited to experience the traditional songs, dances and paintings that inspired Gurumul's final album, *Djarimirri* (Child of the Rainbow), in a live performance by Yolŋu dancers, songmen and the West Australian Symphony Orchestra directed by Senior Yolŋu Don Winimba Ganambarr and Nigel Jamieson.

*Djarimirri* was Gurumul's gift to the world. An astounding achievement of music acclaimed the world over, it presented traditional songs and harmonised chants from his traditional Yolŋu life with hypnotic orchestral compositions. Now, in his honour, his family add a further cultural and immersive visual dimension to this historic work, performing the songlines that have forged their identity and every aspect of their existence since the beginning of time.

*Bungul* represents a majestic union of two disparate worlds. It points to a potential contemporary Australian identity grounded in and drawing upon the extraordinary knowledge, understanding and wisdom of First Nation People that inspires us all listen to and care for the precious land we share.

### [Bran Nue Dae](#)

**By Jimmy Chi and Kuckles**

**Regal Theatre, Feb 7-15**

**Tickets: \$49-\$99**

Set out on the road trip of a lifetime with a runaway teenager, two hippies, a wily Uncle and a German priest. By the time you shake the red dust from your feet, you'll know what it means to come home. Jimmy Chi's coming-of-age musical comedy *Bran Nue Dae* is an exuberant ride through 1960s Western Australia packed with humour and hope. *Bran Nue Dae* celebrates family, forgiveness and reconciliation with a feel-good mash-up of rock-and-roll, gospel, country and blues music.

Returning to the Perth Festival stage 30 years after its sparkling 1990 debut, this bran'-new production is a story for all Australians. It unites members of Kuckles (Patrick Bin Amat, Gary Gower, Michael Mavromatis, Stephen Pigram) with original director Andrew Ross, working with associate director Naomi Pigram, set and costume designer Mark Thompson, choreographer Tara Gower, lighting designer Mark Howett and sound designer Michael Waters.

*'It is my story but it is also yours and everybody else you know who seeks love and happiness in a world clouded by injustice.'* Jimmy Chi

### [Cloudstreet](#)

**Black Swan State Theatre Company of WA and Malthouse Theatre**

**Fri 21 Feb – Sun 15 Mar, His Majesty's Theatre**

**Tickets: [bsstc.com.au](http://bsstc.com.au) (Prices TBA)**

*'Hilarious and harrowing. And still the story of us.'* Herald Sun

There is no finer expression of Perth and its history than *Cloudstreet*, adapted for the stage by Nick Enright and Justin Monjo from Tim Winton's award-winning novel. It's been more than 20 years since this epic play (first commissioned by Black Swan and Company B Belvoir) made its stunning splash at the 1998 Perth Festival. This brand-new production directed by Perth's own Matthew Lutton with design by Zoë Atkinson, will reconnect you with our city even more.

The house at Number One Cloud Street is a great continent where two larger-than-life families — the Lambs and the Pickles — collide. Developed with First Nation artists, *Cloudstreet* celebrates diversity and is packed full of heart. This five-hour special experience includes a meal break and interval.

### [Beethoven's Fidelio](#)

**Presented by West Australian Symphony Orchestra and Perth Festival in association with West Australian Opera**

**Feb 29 and March 1, Perth Concert Hall**

**Tickets: \$45 - \$175**

Beethoven's only opera blazes with one woman's heroism. We're celebrating the 250th anniversary of Ludwig van Beethoven's birth with a bold new concert event. *Fidelio* brings together West Australian Symphony Orchestra, West Australian Opera Chorus and WASO Chorus with some of the world's finest singers.

Experience Beethoven's only opera reframed with text written by award-winning Australian writer Alison Croggon and narrated by actor Eryn Jean Norvill interwoven with the music. Chained in a secret dungeon, an innocent man awaits certain death unless his daring wife can save him. Beethoven's ode to love, risk and resistance is rarely performed in Perth, but its relevance today is arguably greater than ever.

Conducted by Asher Fisch, the radiant score blazes with soul-stirring emotion in a timely meditation on the triumph of human will and freedom over injustice and tyranny.

Images are available [HERE](#)

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**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 66 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 – 22.*

**Leviathan and Bungul are supported by**

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**Leviathan** has been assisted by the Australian Government's Major Festivals Initiative, managed by the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body, in association with the Confederation of Australian International Arts Festivals Inc, Brisbane Festival, Perth Festival, La Strada Graz Festival and Stanford Live.

**Bungul** has been assisted by the Australian Government's Major Festivals Initiative, managed by the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body, in association with the Confederation of Australian International Arts Festivals Inc, Perth Festival, Melbourne Festival, Darwin Festival, Sydney Festival, Brisbane Festival and Adelaide Festival.