

MEDIA RELEASE: Tuesday 16 February 2021

## RIVERS OF LIGHT FLOW THROUGH PERTH CULTURAL CENTRE

City of Lights, Supported by Lotterywest

A Perth Festival Commission

Tue 16 Feb– Sun 14 Mar 2021

Throughout **Perth Festival 2021**, worlds of scale, spectacle and storytelling will unfold inside a transformative free Festival experience for all the family.

Running for a full month from Tuesday 16 February, **Perth Cultural Centre** comes to life at [City of Lights](#), **Supported by Lotterywest**, where families can roam through a series of spectacular free projections and explore the precinct's venues and nightspots.

**Projections at City of Lights** will turn the Perth Cultural Centre into an immersive 360-degree cinematic thoroughfare. Seven projected works, including the **Bilya Beneath** tribute to our city's waterways, will run in a continuous loop from 8pm to midnight Tuesday to Sunday nights right through to 14 March.

'*Projections at City of Lights* transforms the familiar buildings of the Perth Cultural Centre into canvases of the imagination,' says **Festival Artistic Director Iain Grandage**.

'These familiar buildings will be flooded with vivid colours and powerful stories of our place in the world, surrounding everyone who passes through with an environment of colour, light and sound. We encourage people to wander around and experience short films, photography and animation from different angles, each new sightline unlocking surprising connections.'

Visitors can drop in at any time to watch the projections on the outside walls of the Art Gallery of WA, Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts, State Library of Western Australia, State Theatre and WA Museum Boola Bardip's historic Hackett Hall. And, at the top of every hour, inspired by the Festival's 2021 theme of **bilya** (river), watch as each building is synchronised in the cinematic experience of *Bilya Beneath*.

While in the **City of Lights** precinct, you can grab a bite before you see a show, drop into a local bar for a post-show drink, catch some free tunes at The State Theatre Centre's **STC Courtyard Sessions** or some late-night fun at **The Rechabite**. Special guest curators will bring their own flavours to **STC Courtyard Sessions**, whether that's the laid-back vibes of Grammy winner **Lucky Oceans** or the African beats of the crew behind Festival show **Black Brass**. Check out the weekly line-ups [here](#).

*Projections at City of Lights* is presented by Perth Festival and supported by the State Government, Lotterywest, Tourism Western Australia, Chevron, the City of Perth, PAV Complete Event Solutions, Audio Technik and Perth Theatre Trust.

[Perth Festival](#) runs 15 February to 14 March. We have a WA Health-approved COVID Safety Plan and remind everyone that staying Covid-safe is a shared responsibility so please follow Covid-safe practices.



**WHAT:** Projections at City of Lights

**WHERE:** City of Lights, Perth Cultural Centre

**WHEN:** Tue 16 Feb - Sun 14 Mar, Tue – Sun 8pm – midnight (Projections shown on continuous loop.)

**HOW MUCH:** FREE

## THE FILMS

### BILYA BENEATH

**[Venues]** Art Gallery of WA, Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts, State Library of Western Australia, State Theatre & WA Museum Boola Bardip

On the hour, every hour, a symbolic river rises and washes away the layers of images and history – the crescendo of the modern world and the projected environment finds quiet and tranquillity, euphoria and rebirth in the middle of our city. Northbridge is built on what was once a fresh water source for the Whadjuk Noongar people, and *Bilya Beneath* tells the story of that water and its connection to the waters of the Derbarl Yerrigan (Swan River). The river as a life source inspired this short film, directed by shot on location in, on and along the banks of the Swan and set to new music by Noongar singer songwriter Della Rae Morrison and Charley Caruso, which talks not only of histories but of new dreaming into the future.

**Commissioned and produced by Perth Festival with Clint Logan and Sandbox**

**Creative Associate** Mark Howett

**Director** David Vincent Smith

**Director of Photography (Water)** Rick Rifici

**Cinematographer** Lewis Potts

**Camera Assistant** Ari Gillespie

**Art Director** Sally Phipps

**Production Coordinator** Emma Jackson

**Music** 'Boodja Koorndarminy'

**Music written by** Della Rae Morrison & Charley Caruso

**Music performed by** Della Rae Morrison, Charley Caruso & Barry McGuire

**Music Production** Josh Hogan & Lee Buddle

**Featuring** Dr Roma 'Yibiyung' Winmar & Trevor Ryan

### LIFE THROUGH THE LENS

**[Venue]** State Theatre Centre of WA

As Minister for Racing and Gaming in the Richard Court Government, the Honourable Max Evans MBE was the driving force in the creation of Lotterywest. Max was also a prolific documentarian of the people and places that his rich and storied life brought him into contact with, shooting almost 18 hours of Super 8 film over a period of nearly 30 years. Now digitised by his son Richard, the archive sandwiches moments and people of historical significance between quiet moments of personal reflection. Selected highlights of the archive present a disarming portal into a transformative period of modern Perth.

**Edited by Richard Evans from the personal Super 8 archive (1954 – 89) of the Honourable Max Evans MBE**



## WETLANDS

[Venue] Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts

The Derbarl Yerrigan connects many Western Australians through time and place. It is a through line that ties us to our physical neighbours, but also to previous generations of Western Australians and previous incarnations of the land we inhabit. *Wetlands* references this history and the original wetland on which PICA now sits, showing the evolution of this location into its current form as a home for local and international artists and their art.

The work draws upon the experimental practices that PICA has nurtured and encouraged, bringing together illustrations of flora, fauna and faces with digital networks that display them as manifestations of the river, the wetland or the built environment of Perth Cultural Centre.

In acknowledging PICA's commitment to supporting new artistic work, Sam Price mentored recent UWA graduate Annie Huang, whose projection-mapped sculptural work was selected for inclusion in PICA's 2020 Hatched program.

**Artists** Sam Price with Annie Huang

## A NIGHT INSIDE OUT AT THE MUSEUM

[Venue] Hackett Hall, WA Museum Boola Bardip

A specular series of illusions bring the Museum and its collections to life. See the century-old façade of Hackett Hall fade, crumble and rebuild itself anew, exposing the whale – and other treasured stories – kept within.

**Artist** Kye Howard

## HISTORY IN MOTION: VISUAL STORIES FROM THE STATE LIBRARY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

[Venue] State Library of WA (Amphitheatre side)

The State Library of Western Australia becomes a giant canvas of moving pictures, bringing the richness and depth of its collections to life.

The work will expose significant parts of the collection to the outside world for the first time. Intimate details of letters, artworks, photographs, illustrations, newspapers and other hidden gems will be rendered larger than life, piecing together an abridged visual history of Western Australia.

Digital artist Roly Skender, in collaboration with the State Library of Western Australia, presents this bespoke projection work for Perth Festival, originally commissioned by the State Library of Western Australia in celebration of its 125th year.

**Artist** Roly Skender

## PIECES

[Venue] State Library of WA (James St side)

A slideshow of portraits documents some of the people of Perth Cultural Centre – the artist, workers and visitors who bring the culture to the centre.

With a background in film, photography and records management, Nicolee Fox is deeply interested in the physical presence of memory and creating a tangible human presence. Shot on a range of physical and digital media – film,



mini DV tape film, phone camera and home-printed cyanotypes – *Pieces* captures a vivid snapshot of Perth Cultural Centre at the start of 2021.

Featuring portraits of Janet Carter, Hafsa Mohamed, Suzanne Fielding, Ryan Sandilands, Leslie Rigot, Cara Teusner-Gartland, Salma Yousef, Aisyah Sumito, Brent Harrison, Asha Kiani, Alisha Francis, Yoshiko Kon, Cecile Vuailat, Ilham Adani, Halima Abukar, Carla Adams, Wade Taylor, Helen Smith, Dimitri Dimitriadis, Alex Hayes, Julian Solecio, Lenore Solecio, Walter Solecio, Mimi Helm, Paul Komadina, Mark Howett, Jenny Robinson, Alec Thomas, Charlotte Sym, Darcy St James.

**Artist** Nicolee Fox

## BEAUTIFULLY BRUTAL

**[Venue]** Art Gallery of Western Australia

Built on Yandilup land in 1979, the Art Gallery of Western Australia's main building is an iconic example of Brutalist architecture adjoining a cluster of late 19th century buildings (dubbed the Centenary Galleries) and surrounded by Perth Cultural Centre.

Marking both the 40th Anniversary of the Brutalist building in 2019 and AGWA's 125th anniversary in 2020, *Beautifully Brutal* is a roaming video work that explores the Gallery's original design features and reveals the beauty within what some consider to be an impenetrable exterior. It makes visible the form and function of the State's Art Gallery — from its open hexagonal form and spiral staircase to the 360-degree internal vistas and concrete blockwork exterior.

The project launches at a transformational time for AGWA as the rooftop development fulfils the architect's original plan to make AGWA's upper level publicly accessible, making the Gallery a true point of connection between the cultural centre and the city. As new gallery spaces develop under the construction site cladding, *Beautifully Brutal* projects the Gallery's past and present on the site that is manifesting this rich and long-term civic vision for the future.

**Director** Dominic Pearce

**Cinematographer** Ben Berkhout

**Producer** Sandbox



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

Click here for [Festival media kits](#) and [images](#).



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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 67 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 – 23.

Founder



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Boffins Books  
Shadow Wine Bar  
Alex Hotel

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*Archives of Humanity* supported by Wesfarmers Arts.

*Children of the Sea* and *Hymns for End Times* supported by the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts, its arts funding and advisory body.

*Children of the Sea*, *Black Brass*, *Hymns for End Times*, *Slow Burn*, *Together* and *Whale Fall* supported by the WA Government through the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries.

*Dreams of Place* partnership between West Australian Symphony Orchestra and Western Australian Youth Orchestra supported by Woodside.

*Hymns for End Times* and *Whistleblower* supported by Minderoo Foundation.

*MoveMoveMove* presented with the support of venue partners, State Theatre Centre of Western Australia and The Rechabite and project donors Impact100 WA, Megan & Arthur Criddle and the APS Foundation.

WASO's Indigenous Creative Collaborations supported by Bendat Family Foundation.

*Whale Fall* supported by City of Perth and PICA's Art Commissioners.

*Whistleblower* assisted by the Australian Government's Major Festival's Initiative, managed by the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body, in association with the Confederation of Australian International Arts Festivals Inc, commissioned by Perth Festival, Sydney Festival and Arts Centre Melbourne.



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