

MEDIA RELEASE: 15 November 2021

**DANCERS PLUNGE INTO A REALM BEYOND OUR OWN**

**And The Earth Will Swallow Them Whole**

By Rachel Arianne Ogle

**World Premiere**

**A Perth Festival Commission**

Subterranean landscapes unfold and erupt to reveal the stunning beauty and deep rituals of **Rachel Arianne Ogle's** brand-new dance work ***And The Earth Will Swallow Them Whole***.



*Image: Peter Cheng*

Emerging from the darkness of the theatre and an expanse of undulating black silk, an ensemble of dancers and musicians lead the audience on an epic descent deep into the earth in this world-premiere production for **Perth Festival**.

***And The Earth Will Swallow Them Whole*** combines dynamic design, fearless movement and an exquisite new score played live by famed Australian pianist **Gabriella Smart** and renowned sound artist and composer **Luke Smiles**.

This Perth Festival Commission will be a transformative and unforgettable opening performance of dance and live music at the **State Theatre Centre of WA's** Studio Underground.

*And The Earth Will Swallow Them Whole* contemplates the power, fragility and impermanence of nature. Drawing on rituals around death, burial and honouring the body, the performance takes the form of an immersive rite – a voyage into realms beneath, or beyond, our own.

As an independent dance artist, Ogle has encompassed artistic roles across companies, international residencies, exchange projects and tertiary lecturing. Her iconic techniques are distinguished by precise, physically demanding and acutely complex choreography, with this latest production seamlessly integrating her style across choreography and design.

Ogle is thrilled to premiere the performance in her hometown, saying *And The Earth Will Swallow Them Whole* is her most ambitious work to date in both scale and vision. 'It is at once deeply personal yet universal in its embrace of rituals that pay homage to the profound fragility of nature and life itself,' she says. 'From inception, it was my dream to premiere this work in Perth Festival - so to be commissioned by my home festival is an incredible honour which is quite literally a dream come true. I can not wait to share this work with Perth audiences in February.'

'After the success of presenting local independent dance choreographers in 2021, it is a pleasure to feature this major new work from one of Perth's most senior and widely respected creators,' **Perth Festival Artistic Director Iain Grandage** said.

'Rachel is an extraordinary artist and this highly sophisticated and profoundly moving work takes us to places that call to mind the words of Peter Goldsworthy in the libretto for the opera *Batavia*: "There is nothing In the Seven Seas as turbulent /As the four small chambers of the heart.'

*And The Earth Will Swallow Them Whole* is a poetic and compelling dance work of seismic proportion, created by a team of leading Australian performance artists.

**WHAT:** And The Earth Will Swallow Them Whole

**WHERE:** Studio Underground / Yandilup / Northbridge

**WHEN:** Thur 10, Fri 11, Sat 12 Feb 7.30pm. Sun 13 Feb 2pm & 7.30pm. Mon 14 Feb 6.30pm

**HOW MUCH:** \$39

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

Click [here](#) for 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 nearly 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.

## AND THE EARTH WILL SWALLOW THEM WHOLE

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## ARTISTIC AND PRODUCTION CREDITS

**Choreographer** Rachel Arianne Ogle

**Composition** Luke Smiles & Gabriella Smart

**Set & Costume Design** Bruce McKinven

**Lighting Design** Bosco Shaw

**Dancers** Linton Aberle, Imanuel Dado, Harrison Elliott, Storm Helmore, Tyrone Robinson, Zee Zunnur

**Understudy** Bethany Reece

**Producers** Rachel Arianne Ogle & Sam Fox

**Production Manager** Mark Haslam

**Costume Technician** Sheridan Savage

## RACHEL ARIANNE OGLE

Rachel Arianne Ogle is a Western Australian independent dance artist with an extensive career as a dancer, performer, choreographer, educator and arts worker. Her investments in dance as a contemporary art form are deep and multi-faceted, encompassing artistic roles in company and independent dance, international residencies and exchange projects, tertiary lecturing, and a dedication to long term projects within disability arts and remote communities.

Rachel's work is distinguished by precise, physically demanding and acutely complex choreography. Rachel's detailed approach to kinaesthetic movement and energy allows intricate, elastic dynamics to emerge and immersive experiences to manifest through the body for performer and audience. Her works seamlessly integrate choreography and design, creating synergetic collaborations with designers across visual, spatial and sonic planes.

Rachel has created work for Sydney Dance Company, Tasdance, Maya Dance Theatre (Singapore), Proximity Festival, Link Dance Company, WAAPA, Nat Cursio Company, STRUT Dance and STEPS Youth Dance Company. Her work has been presented in Australia, France, Netherlands, Singapore and Nigeria.

Rachel's 2014 landmark work *precipice* was nominated for a Helpmann Award for 'Best Dance Work' and shortlisted for an Australian Dance Award for 'Outstanding Achievement in Independent Dance' in 2015. In 2020 Rachel received the WA Performing Arts Award for 'Best Choreographer' for the 2019 return season of *precipice*.

Her performance and installation work *i have loved the stars too fondly to be fearful of the night* (in collaboration with Benjamin Cisterne and Luke Smiles) was presented by Melbourne's The SUBSTATION in Dance Massive in March 2019, followed by a Perth season at PICA in June 2019.

Rachel has been the recipient of an Asialink Residency (2016); an Australia Council International Residency at the Experimental Media and Performing Arts Centre (EMPAC) in New York (2017); and an Australia Council International Residency at Cite Internationale des Arts in Paris (2018).

Her new work *And The Earth Will Swallow Them Whole* will premiere in the 2022 Perth Festival.