

MEDIA RELEASE

## DANCE CHARGED WITH HIGH-VOLTAGE ENERGY

### Structural Dependency

#### Brooke Leeder & Dancers



Image: Matsu

A special **Perth Festival** season of the explosive dance spectacle *Structural Dependency* invites audiences into the midst of the action where dancers, sound, light and space collide.

Award-winning Perth choreographer **Brooke Leeder's** highly physical and immersive dance style compels audiences to be more than mere bystanders.

Set to a driving industrial soundtrack by **Louis Frere-Harvey**, *Structural Dependency* showcases the hypnotic movement of **Brooke Leeder & Dancers** by playing up the intense movement of the human body against built structures. The walls, surrounding structures, even the chairs you are sitting on, all become elements in the live performance to close the gap between viewer and performer.

In a Festival dedicated to celebrating Western Australia's best artists, this performance in a rehearsal room at the State Theatre Centre is a wonderful opportunity to shine a light on an extraordinary independent Perth choreographer. This work includes 10 Perth independent dancers; all trained here, having worked nationally and internationally.

Leeder set up her Perth-based collective, Brooke Leeder & Dancers, in 2018 to take contemporary dance into unconventional performance spaces - from car parks to hotel foyers and even inside a sea container. *Structural Dependency* was the first work performed in the large gallery space of PSAS in Fremantle and her second work, *RADAR*, was performed inside the B Shed with the open working port a stunning live backdrop to the experience.

'We want to connect with our audiences in new ways, to be at eye level, to play with proximity, a sense of expanse and intimacy, set within grand and unusual spaces,' Leeder says.

‘The concept of this work is embodied by the title, *Structural Dependency*, an immersive and participatory experience where the movement, space, sound and viewer depend on each other, structurally relying on each other,’ she says. ‘Within the interactive sections, the audience are to feel safe to experience the connection they have with the dancers and the space, invited into a more sensory experience, not just visual.’

Brooke Leeder is from Perth and a graduate of the Victorian College of the Arts. She has performed with Stephanie Lake, Balletlab, Phillippa Clarke, Buzz Dance Theatre, Company Complesso, and previously performed in *Tenebrae et Lux* and *Midsummer Nights Dream (As You Like it)* with Perth Festival in 2013 and 2014. Her own works include *Dancers Speak Volumes*, *Mechanic*, *Unravel* and *three* - the experiment series from 2014 to 2017. She has danced with companies in Germany and created new work for Taipei’s Kandu International Arts Festival in Taiwan, Co3 Australia and WAAPA.

**Perth Festival Artistic Director Iain Grandage** said: ‘Brooke Leeder’s dance work is vital, energetic and thrilling – a very direct, immediate and immensely visceral experience for audiences. *Structural Dependency* is a pulsating collaboration between choreographer, dancers, the building and the audience. It is a thrill to be able to celebrate an independent Perth artist of this calibre in the Festival.’

**WHAT:** Structural Dependency

**WHERE:** Rehearsal Room, State Theatre Centre

**WHEN:** 4 – 13 Mar, Thu – Sat 8.45pm, Sun 7.30pm

**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 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.*