

MEDIA RELEASE: Wednesday 24 February 2021

CREATIVE CRITTERS RUN WILD THIS WEEKEND

Wild Things: Perth Festival Takes Over Perth Zoo on Sunday 28 February

It's bound to be our wildest family day yet – a bright and beautiful takeover of Perth Zoo for all creative creatures big and small.

Perth Festival celebrates the long weekend this **Sunday 28 February** when our **Curated by Kids** young programmers let their ideas run free at **Wild Things: Perth Festival Takes Over Perth Zoo**. Bookings are open now so make sure you don't miss out on the day. Family packs are available and children aged 3 and under get in for free.



Songs for Tricia at Perth Zoo. Cr. Dan Grant

If you could ask a zookeeper anything, what would it be? Ever wondered what music an elephant likes to listen to? What bedtime stories does a koala like to listen to after a long lunch? Ever heard of a dibbler? Or a hairy marron?

To answer these questions and many more, Perth Festival's annual **Curated by Kids** program has gone wild for 2021. We've recruited ten curious curators from Years 4-6 to help us create a carnival for all wild things, both animal and human.

This zootopia of artists, authors, musicians and animal magic for all ages includes **The Last Numbat**, a giant 10m-long numbat puppet that children can help move to tell a story of survival, sustainability and cooperation. This 30-minute interactive sculptural performance has been created by Australia's renowned **Spare Parts Puppet Theatre** with designer and puppet-maker **Leon Hendroff**.

Other special human guests during Sunday's two three-hour sessions include **Perth Symphony Orchestra** performing songs for **Tricia** the elephant, **Grace Barbe**, **De Cuba Son**, **Soukous**

Internationale and authors **James Foley, Frané Lessac, Alton Walley, Kathryn Lefroy** and **Helen Milroy**.

Throughout the day there will be animal illustration classes, creature choreography, Noongar storytelling, survival-skills sessions and an around-the-world animal passport trail. With a focus on Perth Zoo's conservation work, learn about the numbat, the western swamp tortoise and the red tail black cockatoo in this exciting family day out.

Perth Zoo Executive Director Wendy Attenborough said: 'We're excited to be joining Perth Festival to showcase Perth Zoo, celebrate the 1500 animals that reside here and raise awareness of the vital conservation work we do to help save wildlife.'

'This event has been created with the help of some extraordinary young people, local children who are our future conservationists. They have created a program that will delight both young and old and engage everyone in the wonders of wildlife.'

Perth Festival Artistic Director Iain Grandage said: 'We are thrilled to be taking this exciting Festival excursion to Perth Zoo's beautiful and inspiring home for wildlife conservation, care and education.'

'The zoo's residents and their keepers are ambassadors for a world of wonders and we are delighted that our artistic menagerie – led by our kid curators – can come and share with them a very special day out for all the family.'

Perth Festival runs until 14 March.

WHAT: Wild Things: Perth Festival Takes Over Perth Zoo

WHERE: Perth Zoo, South Perth

WHEN: Sun 28 Feb, 9am-12pm and 2pm- 5pm

HOW MUCH: \$39 (Child 3 and under FREE)



BOOKINGS AND FESTIVAL INFO: perthfestival.com.au

Click [here](#) for more 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 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.