



Monday 4 March, 2013

## PERTH INTERNATIONAL ARTS FESTIVAL DRAWS TO A CLOSE

As the highly acclaimed 2013 Perth International Arts Festival drew to a close on Saturday, Perth celebrated success in all areas of its biggest ever program.

Perth was the place to be this summer as 750 artists from Australia and the world joined hundreds of Western Australia's most talented artists in a program that included three world premieres, 31 Australian premieres, 25 Australian exclusives, three commissions, 5 co-commissions and more than 820 events and 250 film screenings.

Over the 23 days of the Festival and with six weeks of the Lotterywest Festival Films still to run, we have exceeded our box office target of \$4,800,000 and anticipate a paid audience of about 190,000, with half a million people engaging with the Festival this year.

Artistic Director Jonathan Holloway said he was delighted by the sheer numbers of people who engaged with this Festival.

"More important to us, however, has been the quality of the response to the 2013 program and the journeys people have taken through the Festival," he said.

"People have responded with standing ovations and incredibly positive feedback to some of the most significant stories of our times.

"They range from world capitalism in **The Threepenny Opera** and **Mission Drift**, to the nature of modern Australia and reconciliation in Archie Roach's **Into the Bloodstream** and **The Secret River**, from mapping our place in the world in **A History of Everything** and **Of All the People in All The World: Time Zone GMT +8**, to celebrating who we are today in **BPM Bombs Per Minute** and **La Marea**."

Perth Festival remains strongly committed to international excellence and to supporting artists to develop and present new works.

Work commissioned by Perth Festival includes the final three etudes of Philip Glass's **Complete Piano Etudes**, which had its world premiere to audience and critical acclaim, and co-commissions Sydney Theatre Company's **The Secret River**, and Laurie Anderson and Kronos Quartet's **Landfall**.

"These major new works have reasserted our position on the world artistic stage and the response from artists has reminded people how wonderful it is to travel to Perth in the summer to play for some of the most appreciative and intelligent audiences," Jonathan said.

West Australian work and artists supported by the Festival included Barking Gecko's sublime **Duck, Death and the Tulip**, **3G (Trois Generations)** and **Lotterywest Festival Celebration: La Marea** just three of 30 projects in our **Vital Stages** program.

**Perth Writers Festival** was a vibrant hub of discussion and discourse, with Margaret Atwood and Anna Funder addressing packed houses and Opening Address by Ahdaf Soueif moving many with her incredible experiences of the Egyptian Revolution. This hugely successful four-day Festival saw more than 36,000 people (including 11,000 on the much-loved Family Day) join in the conversation with 150 authors.

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We rocked to the world's hottest music in the **Chevron Festival Gardens** with sold-out shows from funk titan **Maceo Parker** to band-of-the-moment **Macklemore and Ryan Lewis**, and from inventive folksters **The Tallest Man on Earth** plus **Buke and Gase** to Australian music legends **Tim Rogers and The Bamboos**.

Dance as diverse as **The Truth 25 Times a Second**, **Shiva Shakti** and **Clouds** delighted and challenged an increasingly strong audience for contemporary dance in Perth.

The **Great Southern Festival** once again presented a program of international excellence with an increased depth of engagement with local communities through visual arts, theatre, literature and free events beloved of audiences.

While we are proud and delighted with the way the Festival has been embraced by audiences at ticketed events including 15 sold out shows, we are also thrilled with the response to our huge free program, from the 50,000 who packed Langley Park for the **Lotterywest Festival Spectacular BPM Bombs Per Minute** to the thousands of people who were mesmerised nightly by the beauty of **Scattered Light**, just one highlight of our highly acclaimed visual arts program.

Perth Festival audiences have shared with us their delight in the extraordinary moments created through our investment in art and artists but also vital is our investment in our community, much of it taking place behind the scenes.

Our Young Ambassadors, a talented group of 16 – 20-year-olds attended shows, met with artists and blogged their experiences.

Our Vital Stages Peer Review group included the artistic directors of key WA companies who were invited to a large range of events throughout the Festival. They then met weekly to discuss the work, the artistic practices at play and engage in exhilarating critical dialogue about the program.

Our Rio Tinto Family and Education program has brought in 5000 young people from 91 schools to see shows and attend workshops.

Through our Indigenous program we affirmed our commitment to the artistic Indigenous voice with major presentations, and engaged behind the scenes with Welcome to Country moments for artists and patrons alike. The local Noongar community were invited to a special dress rehearsal performance of *The Secret River* and emerging Indigenous artists part of Yirra Yaakin's Next Steps program were supported to engage with a wide range of Festival events.

We're proud of all we've achieved but more importantly, here are the responses of those who engaged with this year's Perth International Arts Festival:

## AUDIENCES

"A brilliant choice for the opening – instead of feathers raining down, we had sparks raining down. What will we get next year??" *Friend of the Festival*

"Fantastic start to the festival film season with *Searching for Sugar Man*! Loved it, and haven't heard a round of applause at the end of a film for some time so I think it's safe to say everyone else was of the same opinion. Bring on the rest of the season!" *Conor Mines, Perth Festival audience member.*

"One word - wow! Perth Festival has done us proud with these stunning surrounds. Like everyone says, it's such a shame the Festival Gardens aren't here all year round!" *Laura, Perth Festival audience member.*

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"Last night I had my head blown at Macklemore and Ryan Lewis. I really love the Gardens this year. The sound in that venue is unbelievably good and I am very impressed that the quality has continued from last year." *Philippa, Perth Festival audience member.*

"I took my kids to The House of Dreaming on Saturday, I have never seen them so captivated by anything! It was magical!" *Treacy, Perth Festival audience member.*

"Thanks again for the opportunity to volunteer and be part of Perth Festival. Honestly, I received so many positive comments about this year's Festival today - and although I am well aware of how great it is - it is a true testament to everyone behind the event that the public is so enthusiastic." *Tahlia Perth Festival Volunteer*

"Receiving the opportunity to meet the people who create and set up the artworks really opened my eyes to the amount of work put into presenting artworks. PIAF connects the people of Perth with amazing artists from all over the world, and I am very keen to see what they have in store for us next year!" *Tabitha, Perth Festival Young Ambassador*

"Anna [Funder] had me spellbound and after her address I was at a loss for words; she was exceptional and truly in a class of her own. What a wonderful way she has with words, an absolute natural!" *Friend of the Festival*

"Back in Sydney after a fantastic few days of Perth Writers Festival. Fantastic guests, brilliantly programmed, wonderfully enthusiastic audiences. Loved it." *Perth Festival audience member.*

## ARTISTS FROM NEAR AND FAR

"This Festival's amazing, man. It goes all month right? You guys get a new act every night? We're moving to Perth!" *Macklemore (Ben Haggarty)*

"Thank God for these Festivals as they bring us all together." *Robert Wilson*

"One of the great things about the arts is that it's very democratic. Talent just pops up. It doesn't belong to a race or an age or a gender. It belongs to all of us. One of the wonderful things about collaborating is that you discover that." *Philip Glass*

"[Somerville] is one vision of paradise, and the best cinema experience I have ever had." *Srinivas Krisha*

"Thank you very much for giving us this amazing opportunity to presenting our work down under. It's been a wonderful experience and we loved every moment working with you guys." *Les Commandos Percu*

"Love you love you Perth! We had a ball. Thanks SO much for having us and opening your hearts and souls to our music, we hope to return soon. What a memory playing the Perth International Arts Festival!!!" *Soul Rebels Brass Band*

"I just wanted to say thank you so very much for having me to the Perth and Write in the Great Southern festivals. I had a thoroughly enjoyable trip and it was great to see a part of the world I see far too little of. Perth is a very pretty city and the University of WA is a beautiful venue." *Gus Gordon*

"Congratulations on the festival which was indeed impressive, beautifully curated and seamlessly run." *Todd Hosfelt, Jim Campbell's gallerist*

"Just wanted to say another heartfelt thank you to you for all your hard work in getting my PIAF [school] workshop organised. It was just as important to me as it was to play the concerts and I learnt a great deal about my own artistic process through creating with others." *Sally Whitwell*



“Thank you so much for inviting me along, and for creating such a special atmosphere. Everything, from the fruit in the Greenroom to the ride in the buggy to the Moreton Bay beauty, is etched into my memory under “happiness”.” *Ailsa Piper*

“PIAF 2013 has made Perth in February the best place and time to be an artist. The level of interaction that Perth audiences have had with quality immersive art has really lifted the level of engagement between the Western Australian public and its own world class artists. Thank you to all festival staff for making this PIAF a new bench mark in the WA arts scene.” *Kyle J Morrison, Yirra Yaakin Artistic Director* (Peer Review panel)

“Thank you for putting together such a wonderful [Perth Writers] festival. It was planned to perfection and being in the midst of such great talent was a joy. Thank you immensely for everything.” *Muditha Dias*

“It was such a wonderful experience for us – I heard that we [Tangle] got in over 700 people at the last session! Nothing you can't do with a bit of giant coloured elastic!” *Tamara Harrison, Polygot Theatre*

## SUPPORTERS

“Lotterywest congratulates the Perth Festival team on the outstanding success of this year's Festival. We have been inspired, challenged, moved and entertained as we have watched the best the world, Australia and our local Western Australian artists have to offer. The response of the community to the Festival and the buzz which has been created over the past three weeks shows us that is just what Western Australia has been waiting for.” *John Atkins, Lotterywest Chairman*

“I would like to congratulate Festival Director Jonathan Holloway on the creativity and imagination of his programming. He has demonstrated once again the courage to mix popular successes and family favourites with more thought-provoking fare which has both challenged and delighted audiences. Our thanks go to all the dedicated team at the Festival for bringing to Perth a magnificent range of exceptional artists, both Australian and international, and for creating such a sense of cultural vibrancy throughout the city.” *Professor Paul Johnson, Vice-Chancellor of The University of Western Australia*

“*Bombs Per Minute* was a fantastic success, attracting tens of thousands of people into the city with a spectacular display of pyrotechnics and sound. The Festival's opening performances are truly extraordinary, adding to Perth's growing reputation as a vibrant and world-class destination for locals and visitors.” *Stephanie Buckland, Tourism WA CEO*

“Rio Tinto is a strong advocate for the arts sector providing over \$3.5 million in 2012 to arts and cultural programmes in Western Australia. Each year as the Perth Festival launches with an extravagant public spectacle in front of thousands of Western Australian families, we are reminded of why it is so important to support initiatives like this. The Perth Festival has raised the bar again and we are proud to be the Family and Education Program Partner.” *Trisha Comerford, Rio Tinto Community Investment Manager*

“It is noteworthy how many young people are participating in the experience [the energy brought to the city by the Perth International Arts Festival and Fringe World]. It is adding enormous vitality to central Perth” *Warwick Hemsley, Chamber of Arts and Culture chairman*

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“So many compliments on this years visual arts festival program, it really is a gesamtkunstwerk of wonder and delight, and each project converse with the others in such a lyrical and clever way.” *Leigh Robb, Curator, PICA – Perth Institute of Contemporary Art*

## PRESS

*“A triumph in every possible way”*

“The scope, diversity and prescient programming of Festival 2013 was crystallised during its second weekend. That was when Philip Glass presented the world premiere of all 20 of his Etudes, with the final three commissioned by PIAF, when the white-hot Macklemore and Ryan Lewis electrified the Festival Gardens and when La Marea redefined what could be done with street theatre.” *Stephen Bevis, The West Australian*

“The Perth International Arts Festival seems to have the most vigour and momentum of any in the country. If you have the time and means to sample Australia’s festival circuit, it is worth an interstate visit, not least because many of the most lustrous works presented are exclusive to the city of mining riches.” *Cameron Woodhead, The Age/Sydney Morning Herald.*

“The buzz in Perth was palpable, generated by a program rich with free public events and classy programming that balanced spectacle and intimate performance.” *Alison Croggon, ABC Arts Online.*

“Seriously though – what an amazing [Perth Writers] festival. Perfect weather, massive attendance (somebody told me 300 people were turned away from one of Andy Griffith’s Family Day sessions) and a dazzling lineup of authors” *William Yeoman, The West Australian.*

“It is only February, but the performance [Macklemore & Ryan Lewis at Chevron Festival Gardens] could be one of the concerts of the year for Perth music lovers” *Anne Gartner, Western Suburbs Weekly.*

“It’s not often that you come away from a night out at the theatre feeling like your life has been improved by seeing the production in question, but that is the impression left by the Berliner Ensemble’s The Threepenny Opera at the Perth Festival.” *Mariyon Slany, Arts Hub*

“Glass’ *Piano Etudes* was a beautiful work and there is no doubt scoring the exclusive show for Perth was a highlight of this year’s festival.” *Katie Robertson, The Sunday Times/Perth Now*

“The quality of the 2013 Perth International Arts Festival has been outstanding. It’s probably been one of the most memorable for its broad sweep of quality events. I can think of four events where the normally shy Perth audience has spontaneously leapt to their feet for a standing ovation...and each of the events have been in a different venue and in a different genre. This alone demonstrates the depth of talent that the Festival brought to Perth this year.” *Linda Wayman, Mix 94.5*

“I’ve had a great Perth Festival. Apart from the Festival’s traditional attributes, I’ve really enjoyed the alternative experiences ... the unorthodox venues like Kings Park for Jim Campbell’s *Scattered Light*. What’s better than a summer night catch-up with a friend at Festival Gardens ... on a Monday!!” *Russell Woolf, ABC 720*

“From the poignancy of *Trois Generations* to the quirky appeal of *Clouds*, the 2013 PIAF dance program was eclectic and engaging, showcasing five beautiful works from around the globe.” *Nina Levy, Dance Australia.*

## FESTIVAL FAST FACTS

- More than 820 events with 750 artists from around the world joining hundreds more from WA over three weeks
- Three world premieres, three commissions, five co-commissions

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- 31 Australian premieres and 25 Australian exclusives
- 252 film screenings over 20 weeks from 22 countries
- Visual Arts Exhibitions: 8
- Dance events: 5 – From France, India, Spain and Australia
- Classical Music events: 9
- 38 bands over 23 nights at the Chevron Festival Gardens
- 111 hard-working volunteers from ages 16 to 77
- 493 primary and secondary students attended free workshops with artists
- 26 tonnes of rice used for Of All The People In All The World: Time Zone GMT +8
- 30 Vital Stages projects including master classes and workshops
- Largest waitlist for any show: 1,400 people for Macklemore & Ryan Lewis
- 150 authors, 95 from Australia and the rest from 13 different nationalities
- Over 70 artists participating in the Great Southern Festival

There's still plenty of great art on offer for the rest of the **Lotterywest Festival Film** season:

**SOMERVILLE Mon-Sun**

**What's in a Name?** (4-10 Mar)

**About Elly** (11-17 Mar)

**Blancanieves** (18-24 Mar)

**The Patience Stone** (25-31 Mar)

**I Wish** (1-7 Apr)

**Tabu** (8-14 Apr)

**JOONDALUP PINES Tue-Sun**

**Amour** (5-10 Mar)

**What's in a Name?** (12-17 Mar)

**Violetta Went to Heaven** (19-24 Mar)

**Blancanieves** (26-31 Mar)

**The Patience Stone** (2-7 Apr)

**The Loneliest Planet** (9-14 Apr)

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***Perth International Arts Festival***

*Founded in 1953 by The University of Western Australia, the Perth International Arts 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 60 years the Festival has welcomed to Perth some of the world's greatest living artists and now connects with over 700,000 people each year.*

*Jonathan Holloway is the Artistic Director 2012-2015.*

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