Media Kit

2026

PERTH FESTIVAL

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6 Feb – 1 Mar 2026



AUSTRALIA / Perth Festival Commission

KARLA BIDI

Ilona McGuire, Jacob Nash, Chloe Ogilvie and Ian Moopa Wilkes

A Lotterywest community experience, *Karla Bidi* is a beacon of light, a welcoming WA campfire, and an invitation to be part of Perth Festival.

Inspired by the Noongar tradition of lighting fires to greet and guide visitors, *Karla Bidi*, meaning Fire Trail, transforms the Derbarl Yerrigan/ Swan River and Djarlgarro/Canning River into an illuminated pathway.

From the hills in Mandoon/Guildford to the sea in Walyalup/Fremantle, by the river and under the stars, Perth residents and visitors can gather for a free, open-air sound and light installation, created by First Nations artists Ilona McGuire, Jacob Nash, Chloe Ogilvie and Ian Moopa Wilkes.

With a trail of 11 beacons to explore, the sounds and stories of the stars at each location will deliver an experience that will touch hearts gently yet profoundly.

Perth Festival Artistic Associate and Karla Bidi creative Chloe Ogilvie says:

“It’s such an honour to bring Karla Bidi back to Perth Festival again. This work has always been grounded in and by Noongar culture, but it’s also become a beacon, a signal that Perth Festival has arrived. We’re so excited to share this experience with new audiences in new locations, and to invite more people to be part of the Festival. In 2026 the beacons will feature a brand-new soundtrack, sung in Noongar, that speaks to the djinda/stars, and the role they play in holding cultural knowledge and ancestral memory.”

WHEN: 6 Feb – 1 Mar
WHERE: South Mole, Hurlingham Playground, Burswood Park, Lilac Hill Park, Point Walter Reserve, Kings Park and Botanic Garden, East Perth, Woodbridge Riverside Park, Shelley Beach Park, Point Fraser, Mardalup Park.
PRICE: Free

Karla Bidi is supported by

lotterywest

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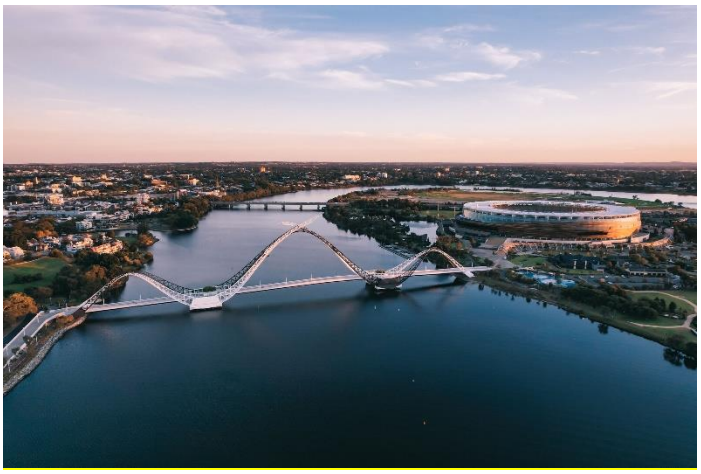
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UK & AUSTRALIA / Australian Exclusive

A VIEW FROM A BRIDGE

Joe Bloom

On a bridge with nothing but an old red telephone, British artist Joe Bloom has created one of the most moving digital projects of our time. *A View From A Bridge* is about connection in a distracted age and just how extraordinary ordinary people can be, when given the space to speak.

What began as a simple experiment and an Instragram account in 2023, has become a global phenomenon, with hundreds of thousands of followers and millions of views online.

A View From A Bridge invites randomly selected passers-by share their innermost secrets while standing on a bridge, talking into an old-school phone. A confession, a memory, a fragment of hope – truths spill into the handset while Joe films from afar, the camera slowly pulling back to reveal each speaker as part of a wider world in motion.

Later, in the editing suite, instrumental music is added to complement the original audio and the final clips are released online.

In 2026, Perth Festival invites Bloom to add a Western Australian chapter to his global collection. Released across February, audiences can follow online as the voices and bridges of Perth become part of a viral network about connection, courage and the quiet power of listening.

The contributors are mainly selected randomly on the bridge, but due to its rising popularity, celebrities have also picked up the receiver in pre-arranged segments. Fontaines D.C.'s lead singer Grian Alexander, *Adolescence* star Ashley Walters, Cynthia Erivo, Paul Smith, David Byrne, Little Simz and Loyle Carner are among the famous faces who have featured.

Joe Bloom is a London-based artist who has previously made his name creating oil paintings and short film documentaries. His project *A View From a Bridge* is on Instagram, TikTok and YouTube.

Perth Festival Artistic Director Anna Reece says:

"I was so excited when Joe Bloom accepted my invitation to come to Perth. It's vital that Perth Festival recognises that powerful work can exist entirely in the digital realm. *A View from a Bridge* will add our city to a global collection of his extraordinary digital portraits. It's a work of sharing truths - of humanity, and of the beauty and complexity of life we grapple with every day.

"Ironically, at a time when there are more ways than ever to communicate, we seem to call each other less. This project bridges that gap - sharing the people, the incredible locations of our bridges, and the beauty of our city with millions around the world."

WHEN: 6 Feb – 1 Mar
WHERE: Instagram, TikTok and YouTube
PRICE: Free

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PERTH FESTIVAL

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6 Feb – 1 Mar 2026



FRANCE / Australian Premiere Season

LACRIMA

Caroline Guiela Nguyen & Théâtre national de Strasbourg

***LACRIMA* unfolds with the edge-of-your-seat suspense of a bingeworthy series as renowned French theatre director and author Caroline Guiela Nguyen pulls back the velvet curtain on the world of haute couture.**

Paris, 2025. A prestigious fashion house receives an important commission – to create the wedding dress for a British royal princess.

The dress must be finished in eight months, is inspired by the wedding dresses of Queen Elizabeth II, Princess Diana, and Princess Kate, and it will feature a spectacular veil.

For a British fashion designer, a Parisian fashion house, three French lacemakers and a bead worker in Mumbai, it's an intense and arduous process, undertaken in utter secrecy, all for a dress that will spend mere minutes in the spotlight.

Bringing together these far-flung places in one spectacular set, Nguyen weaves together tales about relationships of domination and violence. Intimate and riveting, the split-screen image of *LACRIMA* jump back and forth between times and continents.

Caroline Guiela Nguyen focuses her gaze on those who are often invisible to our eyes. In a hyperrealist rush that masterfully incorporates poetic elements, she creates characters who reflect the richness and true complexity of the world.

This is theatre as sharp as a needle – dazzling in its spectacle, unflinching in its humanity, unforgettable in its emotional impact.

Perth Festival Artistic Director Anna Reece says:

"I am very proud to welcome Caroline Nguyen's *LACRIMA* into this year's Perth Festival. A thrilling cinematic production of truth-telling about the hidden costs of couture. This is theatre that takes hold of you - complex, surprising and deeply human.

"*LACRIMA* grips from start to finish, pulling you deep into the exquisite and the brutal truths of high fashion. Bringing major international work like this is vital to the Festival – connecting us to a global conversation. To have a work of this scale and brilliance here in Western Australia is an absolute coup."

Caroline Guiela Nguyen is a French author and theatre director. Her plays, including *SAIGON* (2017), have toured in France and around the world. She was appointed associated artist at the Schaubühne in Berlin and is currently director of the Théâtre national de Strasbourg.

WHEN: 6 – 10 Feb
WHERE: Heath Ledger Theatre, Yandilup / Northbridge
PRICE: From $79 - $119

LACRIMA is supported by Perth Festival Medici donors and The Embassy of France in Australia.

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UK / Australian Premiere

SONGS OF THE BULBUL

Aakash Odedra Company

Winner of the Best Show Award at Edinburgh International Festival, *Songs of the Bulbul* is the latest work by award-winning choreographer and dancer Aakash Odedra.

A stunning solo dance piece from Odedra, it brings together the graceful yet powerful art of Kathak dance and Sufi storytelling to create a dialogue between intense physicality and a spiritual journey.

Inspired by the ancient Sufi myth of a bulbul (or nightingale) held in captivity, the work uses the beauty of this songbird's melody as a metaphor for the fleeting moments of dance, and life itself.

Bound by its constraints, the bird's despair deepens as its final moments approach, and it sings more sweetly as its end draws near, delivering one last heartbreaking song before its soul departs.

From Persia to the Indian subcontinent, from freedom to captivity, *Songs of the Bulbul* explores the soul's journey towards divine love and enlightenment. In this extraordinary performance, Odedra poses a universal question - will we remain confined to the material world like the caged bird, or will we find freedom in the ultimate release?

Developed with choreographer Rani Khanam and composer Rushil Ranjan, Odedra combines Ranjan's new score with the music, dance and poetry traditions of Sufism to create an ambitious work that is both ferocious and contemplative.

Since its debut, the work has garnered critical acclaim across Europe, praised for its breathtaking precision, emotional depth, and innovative fusion of classical and contemporary forms. Critics at the Edinburgh International Festival celebrated it as "a mesmerising tour de force" and "a profound exploration of freedom and the human spirit."

Akash Odera Company, founded in Leicester in 2011, is a globally recognised dance company that blends classical Indian forms (Kathak and Bharatanatyam) with contemporary dance from a British Asian lens.

Led by Bessie Award winning dancer and choreographer Akash Odedra, the Company is known for its boundary pushing award winning works created in collaborations with world class artists and has performed in over 600 full length productions across 50 countries.

Perth Festival Artistic Director Anna Reece says: "*Songs of the Bulbul* is one of those rare works that reaches right inside you. Aakash Odedra dances with such precision and vulnerability that it feels both meditative and electric - a story of love, loss and transcendence. It's a work of quiet power and beauty that will stay with you."

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ *"It is a song of beauty and light and life." The Guardian UK*

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ *"A work of exquisite beauty and sadness, Akash Odedra's brand new solo, Songs of the Bulbul, is the kind of theatrical moment that stays with you forever." The Scotsman*

WHEN: 13 – 15 Feb
WHERE: is Majesty's Theatre, Karboordup / Perth CBD
PRICE: From $39 - $99

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AUSTRALIA / Perth Festival Commission

LÉ NØR (THE RAIN)

The Last Great Hunt

From the multi-award-winning team behind 2025's hit production *Night Night* comes *Lé Nør (The Rain),* a deeply romantic, hilarious and visual extravaganza that promises to reignite audiences' love of humanity and offer hope for a world that's falling apart.

Created in the iconic style of The Great Last Hunt, *Lé Nør* is a live faux foreign film experience performed on stage. Told with'80s flair and a touch of late-night SBS, it showcases the company's signature blend of cinematic mastery and theatrical magic.

Set in the northern seas, the small island nation of Sólset was once a thriving metropolis, now battered by a decades-long drought and inhabited only by a hopeful few. *Lé Nør* invites audiences to witness both the onscreen story and the behind-the-scenes action, creating a nostalgic celebration of everything worth fighting for.

The Last Great Hunt is an internationally renowned collective of five theatre makers: Gita Bezard, Adriane Daff, Arielle Gray, Jeffrey Jay Fowler and Tim Watts. Their productions, including *It's Dark Outside, Whistleblower* and *Alvin Sputnik : Deep Sea Explorer*, feature an eclectic variety of forms, styles and experiences, striving to give audiences engaging, challenging and transformative theatre.

Perth Festival Artistic Director Anna Reece says:

"Festivals often focus on creating the new, but it's just as important to make space for brilliant works that deserve to be seen again. *Lé Nør* is one of those productions - a masterpiece of wit, intelligence and theatrical brilliance. I absolutely love it. It's hilarious, deeply imaginative and feat of technical genius. A reminder of just how bold and inventive Australian theatre can be. In this case Western Australian theatre!"

WHERE: Heath Ledger Theatre, Yandilup / Northbridge
WHEN: 25 - 28 Feb
PRICE: $49 - $79

Supported by

The Guardian

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AUSTRALIA & INDONESIA / Perth Festival Commission

U>N>I>T>E>D

Chunky Move

A futuristic epic, *U>N>I>T>E>D* is a dance experience like no other. Part ritual, part cinematic battle, part future vision, it features human bodies colliding with digital culture in a wild odyssey of machine mysticism.

Six performers in sculptural, motocross-inspired costumes – designed Bali-based streetwear label Future Loundry – transform into otherworldly beings, moving with unstoppable energy to a thundering score by Javanese experimental duo Gabber Modus Operandi.

Created by Chunky Move's visionary Artistic Director Antony Hamilton, this genre-bending performance fuses explosive choreography with sci-fi design, the dancers' mantis-like prosthetic limbs the creation of global leaders in animatronic design, Australia's Creature Technology Co.

Exploring the persistence of spirituality in a post-industrial digital age, *U>N>I>T>E>D* is the latest work in the canon of Hamilton's 'speculative future' performances, following recent innovative dance experiences including *Token Armies* (2019) and *Yung Lung* (2022).

Perth Festival Artistic Director Anna Reece says:

"We are really thrilled to have co-commissioned Chunky Move's *U>N>I>T>E>D* - a contemporary, futuristic dance epic that looks outward from Perth to our place in the Asia-Pacific. It's an expansive and spectacular work that reimagines what dance can become, challenging us to consider movement, connection and identity in a rapidly evolving world."

Based in Melbourne, Chunky Move was founded in 1995 by Gideon Obarzanek, with Antony Hamilton appointed Artistic Director in 2019. His choreographic work examines the elemental and primordial nature of the body, set against intersecting narratives that explore past, present and future. He often employs a sophisticated melding of movement, sound and visual design to collaboratively imagine complete worlds, and develops new choreographic languages to occupy them.

"An engaging dance experience as spectacular as it was stylised." Dance Australia

"An impressive beast to behold" ArtsHub

WHEN: 19 – 22 Feb
WHERE: Heath Ledger Theatre, Yandilup / Northbridge
PRICE: From $59 - $79

U>N>I>T>E>D was commissioned by Asia TOPA, Arts Centre Melbourne, Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay (Singapore) and Perth Festival

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AUSTRALIA

MEOW MEOW'S THE RED SHOES

Black Swan State Theatre Company, Malthouse Theatre & Belvoir St Theatre

Having wowed audiences from New York's Carnegie Hall to concert halls across the globe, the world-renowned performer behind *Meow Meow's Little Match Girl* and *Meow Meow's Little Mermaid* now urgently remedies *The Red Shoes*.

This fairytale by Hans Christian Andersen brutally punished its covetous protagonist with an ever-dancing curse that propelled her far from heaven's gates. When a young orphan girl wears red shoes to church, she is cursed to keep dancing forever in the gleaming footwear.

In this wildly imaginative re-envisioning of Andersen's dark fairytale, Meow Meow asks: *What if she could never start dancing at all? Can we save her? Can we save the world all while remembering why we love to dance in the first place?*

Directed by Black Swan Theatre Company Artistic Director Kate Champion, this musical celebration features chanteuse Meow Meow, alongside Kanen Breen (Opera Australia's *The Marriage of Figaro*, Baz Luhrmann's *La Bohème* on Broadway), Mark Jones (Bell Shakespeare's *The School for Wives*) and Dan Witton (*Meow Meow at Carnegie Hall*, State Theatre Co's *The Tempest*).

"Sensuously articulate and creatively comic, Meow Meow has the unique ability to seduce your brain while she reinvigorates your soul, turning tears of laughter into tender recognitions," says Kate Champion, Black Swan State Theatre Company Artistic Director.

Perth Festival Artistic Director Anna Reece says:

"This first-time collaboration between the brilliant Kate Champion and international cabaret sensation Meow Meow promises to be one of the most exciting and entertaining works in our program. Western Australia fell in love with Meow years ago — she's intoxicating, hilarious and intimidatingly captivating. Together, she and Kate create a work that blurs theatre, dance and cabaret in the most deliciously daring way — a wild, unforgettable reinvention of a classic tale."

From a chorus of hairy fauns to singing swans and showgirl stars, *Meow Meow's The Red Shoes* promises an unforgettable evening of frenetic song-and-dance into meaning. This is a musical celebration that will shock you out of stagnancy and into ecstatic oblivion from "the queen of chanson" (*Berliner Zeitung*) with "devilish funny bones and heavenly vocal chords" (*Evening Standard*, UK).

Meow Meow's The Red Shoes is a co-production between Black Swan State Theatre Company, Malthouse Theatre and Belvoir St Theatre, and is presented in association with Perth Festival.

WHEN: 26 Feb – 1 Mar
WHERE: His Majesty's Theatre / Karboordup / Perth CBD
PRICE: $80 - $139

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AUSTRALIA & INTERNATIONAL

SANCTUM SERIES

Roomful of Teeth, WASO, Martin Hayes, Lonquich-Clerici-Mehner Trio & Åkervinda

Perth Festival has created a new fine music hub for 2026 in the luminous surrounds of St Mary's Cathedral, hosting intimate and electrifying concerts in the *Sanctum Series*. International luminaries, Australian masters and WA's finest musicians will share the stage in a program offering profound beauty and thrilling discovery.

Grammy-award winners ***Roomful of Teeth*** will bring their cutting-edge compositions and unique octet vocal stylings to Perth on 13 Feb. Gleefully dismantling the traditional definition of ensemble singing, the group will draw from their lauded album *Rough Magic* alongside a kaleidoscope of works from their expansive catalogue.

Through their unique collaborative process, *Roomful of Teeth* have worked with many of today's most compelling musical creators to build a significant and continuously growing repertoire. From the NPR Music Tiny Desk Concert to the East Perth cathedral bell towers - eight voices will soar high to reveal an extraordinary sonic landscape, reminding audiences how the boundaries of the human voice are never what they seem.

The evocative ***Echoes Through Time*** sees **Riley Skevington** leads WASO musicians in this iconic chamber music program. Expect music of profound beauty, soul and theatrics, featuring work from **Melody Eötvös, Henry Purcell, Wojciech Kilar, Arvo Pärt, Benjamin Britten** and **Ralph Vaughan Williams**.

With his unmistakable tone, exquisite phrasing and deep emotional range, virtuosic fiddler ***Martin Hayes*** will enchant audiences with the spirit of traditional Irish music. Joined by guitarist and composer **Kyle Sanna**, and supported by WA's own **Robert Zielinski** and **Manuela Centanni**, Hayes presents an uplifting evening where the ancient and contemporary meet.

Drawing inspiration from many musical genres, Hayes remains grounded in the music he grew up with in East County Clare.

Internationally acclaimed chamber musicians from Italy, Spain and Hungary will reunite as ***Lonquich-Clerici-Mehner Trio*** for a collaboration of the highest calibre. Clarinetist **Tommaso Lonquich**, cellist **Umberto Clerici** and pianist **Claudio Martínez Mehner** will be joined in this Sanctum Series performance by violinist **Júlia Pusker**, performing an exquisite evening of Beethoven, Poulenc and Bartók.

Despite demanding schedules and geographical distance, the *Lonquich-Clerici-Mehner Trio* have cultivated a profound artistic partnership since 2012, appearing in major Italian concert seasons, including La Fenice in Venice and the Dino Ciani Festival in Cortina d'Ampezzo.

Closing out the Sanctum Series performances is award-winning Swedish vocal quartet ***Åkervinda***, as they reimagine centuries-old Nordic melodies through luminous and modern harmonies. With nothing but their voices, the quartet conjure landscapes of forests, mountains and folklore, weaving spellbinding stories of love, loss and resilience.

At the heart of *Åkervinda* is four jazz singers, united by a deep love for traditional music. With their fresh interpretations they breathe new life into traditional Scandinavian folk tunes. The group's second album, *Förgänglighet*, earned a Swedish Grammis nomination for "Folk Music of the Year," setting the stage for their continued success.

Perth Festival Artistic Director Anna Reece says:

"The Sanctum Series is where exquisite musicianship meets an extraordinary setting, where each note lingers longer. This year we are delighted to present a program that brings together exquisite choral works, intimate chamber ensembles and masters of their instruments – artists whose craft borders on the spiritual.

Sanctum offers a chance to listen deeply, to be held by architecture and artistry, and to experience music that elevates and transcends."

WHEN: 12 - 26 Feb
WHERE: St Mary's Cathedral / Karboordup / Perth CBD
PRICE: $59 - $89

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AUSTRALIA / Australian Premiere

THE TRIAL

Presented by Lost & Found Opera & Perth Festival
in association with West Australian Opera & West Australian Symphony Orchestra

An Opera by Philip Glass
Libretto by Christopher Hampton
Based on the Story of Franz Kafka

Contemporary thriller meets operatic fever dream in the Australian premiere of Philip Glass' *The Trial*. Franz Kafka's nightmarish world of accusation and authority finds a thrilling new voice with Lost and Found Opera.

The production is presented with **West Australian Symphony Orchestra** - performing Glass' hypnotic score - and **West Australian Opera.** Oscar-winning dramatist Christopher Hampton's razor-sharp libretto is brought to life by a powerhouse ensemble (led by Noongar singer-songwriter **Jarred Wall**) in a stark bureaucratic dystopia that crackles with Kafka's black comedy while resonating uncannily with modern times.

Continuing Perth Festival's commitment to presenting unexpected venues in new ways, *The Trial* will be performed in the chilling maze of a forgotten office space in Forrest Chase, where order masks chaos and every desk hides a secret.

Comparisons to television's hit series *Severance* are justified, as audiences can expect a disorientating and hypnotic journey crafted by director **Mel Cantwell** (*Mary Stuart*, Perth Festival 2022), echoing the alienation of the protagonist in an unfamiliar and unfeeling world, one governed by wealth, privilege, and position.

Perth Festival Artistic Director Anna Reece says: "*The Trial* - Kafka's haunting masterpiece reimagined through Philip Glass's hypnotic score - will be seen in Australia for the first time. Under the new leadership of Mel Cantwell and Mark Coughlan, Lost and Found deliver contemporary opera with edge, intelligence and imagination. This site-specific production brings Glass' music and Kafka's dark humour into a thrilling dialogue with our times, embodying Perth Festival's drive to transform unexpected spaces across our city into places of drama, reflection and revelation."

Lost and Found Opera present unusual and rarely performed operas in found spaces that speak to the resonance of the work and the human condition. The company produces and tours work on a scale that integrates the audience, performance and environment - collaborating with artists from a range of disciplines. A unique arts company in Western Australia's creative sector, they produce work that extends the boundaries of operatic form and language, integrating site and audience in unusual and bespoke performance environments.

Director Mel Cantwell says: "We are thrilled to relaunch Lost and Found Opera in partnership with Perth Festival. This compelling Australian Premiere finds the perfect home in Anna Reece's dynamic 2026 program: speaking to the present, looking to the future and honouring our much-loved company's legacy of innovative, surprising and relevant works."

WHEN: 17 – 21 Feb
WHERE: Forrest Chase / Karboordup / Perth CBD
PRICE: $110

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AUSTRALIA / World Premiere

SECRET OPERA

West Australian Opera

Last season *Secret Opera* delighted audiences with intrigue and romance, and for the 2026 Perth Festival, West Australian Opera will present a new *Secret Opera* experience cloaked in mystery at a different undisclosed venue.

Audiences are invited to meet at a secret location and be guided to a private space – an intimate, atmospheric space humming with expectation. When the music begins, the secret and stories unfold.

Hosted last season in the Liberty Lair (the basement venue of Perth CBD's iconic Liberty Theatre), the industrial space was transformed into a romantic hideaway complete with a rose petal entryway, as the sounds of Richard Wagner's masterpieces were performed by a 13-strong orchestra.

The West Australian praised the intimate experience, calling the performance *'a love song to savour, down to the last, velvet chords.'*

Details for 2026 will be kept secret until the week of the performance, when a rendezvous location will be disclosed to ticketholders.

Perth Festival Artistic Director Anna Reece says:

"West Australia Opera's Secret Opera was already one of the most intriguing experiences of the 2025 Festival. This year they've taken the concept of surprise and immersive opera up a notch or two. I'm delighted to welcome them back. I love their ambition, their vision and their appetite for adventure. It's exactly what Perth Festival is about; surprise and delight and bringing extraordinary arts and cultural experiences to life in unexpected places and spaces. We're all in for a treat."

West Australian Opera was established in 1967 and has been Western Australia's full-time, professional opera company for nearly 60 years.

Under current Artistic Director Christopher van Tuinen, West Australian Opera presents operas drawn from the mainstream operatic repertoire and is involved in the commissioning and development of new work.

WHEN: 14 Feb – 1 Mar
WHERE: Undisclosed location
PRICE: $80

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AUSTRALIA & INTERNATIONAL /
World Premiere

PERTH MOVES

STRUT Dance

Returning to Perth Festival for its fourth iteration, the ever-popular *Perth Moves* is a radical offering of free dance happenings staged in the city square.

Created by the team at STRUT Dance, the program invites the community to hit the Forrest Place dancefloor across eight summer nights.

Festival goers can take part in an eclectic mix of open dance classes where all abilities are welcome. Whether it's as an experienced dancer, a wannabe dancer or a keen observer, everyone is welcome and there's something for everyone to get down to.

Highlights include an epic opening night dance battle: breaking, ballet, krump, contemporary go head-to-head in an all-styles dance battle. Complete with a DJ, an MC and an expert panel of international judges, this is one night guaranteed to leave everyone beaming from ear-to-ear.

The world premiere of ***Concrete Echoes*** – a thrilling collaboration between STRUT Dance and award-winning Aotearoa duo Ta'alili (Aloali'i and Tori Manley-Tapu - will see leading street dancers from across the Asia-Pacific region create an original new work.

Perth Festival Artistic Director Anna Reece says:

"I love that come February, the national dance world looks west to see what exceptional and groundbreaking program STRUT Dance will offer. 2026 is no exception, the Perth Moves program overflowing with opportunities for professional and dance wannabes to step onto the stage through workshops, battles or performance, collaborating with and learning from some brilliant international artists".

Established in 2003, STRUT Dance is WA's celebrated choreographic centre situated in Boorloo. Existing as a member-based not-for-profit organisation, they develop and sustain the careers of independent dance artists. STRUT champions diverse voices, experimental practice and cross artform collaboration, developing new audiences and an understanding of what contemporary dance can be.

Ta'alili is the Aotearoa arts group led by Aloali'i and Tori Manley-Tapu, with work spanning stage, performance, exhibitions, films and conversations centred on themes of faces, language and the dream world. Their first work *LEECHES* launched the 2019 Pacific Dance Festival and was met with an astounding hope for the next generation.

WHEN: 21 – 28 Feb
WHERE: Forrest Place / Karboodup / Perth CBD
PRICE: Free

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FRANCE & WA / Australian Exclusive

CERCLES

Boris Charmatz / Terrain & STRUT Dance

After captivating audiences around the world, French choreographer Boris Charmatz brings his exhilarating large scale dance work *CERCLES* to Perth Festival, working with STRUT Dance to stage its Australian debut.

Under the guidance of Charmatz, and alongside a team of professional dancers from Europe and Australia, participants will engage in a series of three-hour workshops culminating in public nightly performances that will transform Forrest Place into vibrant dance arena.

Over six days, 200 dancers – both amateurs and professionals – will explore the circle as a cocoon, a raging crowd, or a wall of bodies.

Propelled by a soundtrack from Hamburg-based band Meute, bodies trace circles and shapes multiply as *CERCLES* becomes a living composition. This is choreography that constantly reinvents itself in full view of the city – agile, determined and alive.

For the Perth community, this free, open-air event offers a rare opportunity for the to engage with cutting-edge contemporary dance in an accessible and inclusive setting. Onlookers can follow warm-ups, observe rehearsals and immerse themselves in an exciting choreographic emergence that will build day by day.

With over 25 years of experience challenging the boundaries of dance and theatre, Boris Charmatz is known as one of Europe's most innovative choreographers and has had his work acclaimed internationally in Paris, Berlin, London and New York. He has also been involved in various collaborative projects, including Terrain, a choreographic initiative that brings dance into public spaces such as street, parks, museums and train stations.

Established in 2003, STRUT Dance is WA's celebrated choreographic centre situated in Boorloo. Existing as a member-based not-for-profit organisation, they develop and sustain the careers of independent dance artists. STRUT champions diverse voices, experimental practice and cross artform collaboration, developing new audiences and an understanding of what contemporary dance can be.

Perth Festival Artistic Director Anna Reece says:

"Having Boris Charmatz and his incredible work at Perth Festival is a major moment for dance in Australia and a huge coup for our city. Cercles is a hypnotic, high energy and beautiful work of mass participatory dance. To have it performed here by 200 people will be something very special and a joy to watch".

WHEN: 26 – 28 Feb
WHERE: Forrest Place, Karboordup / Perth CBD
PRICE: Free

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SOUTH KOREA & BELGIUM /
Australian Premiere

HARIBO KIMCHI

Jaha Koo / CAMPO

The surprising flavour of seaweed soup, the sharp sound of a knife slicing cucumber, the hiss and sizzle of mushrooms on a scorching fire, Jaha Koo's heart-warming *Haribo Kimchi* is a feast for the senses in a personal work on migration, home and the healing power of food.

Jaha Koo invites the audience to a *pojangmacha*, a typical late-night snack bar that can be seen scattered across the streets of South Korea.

Together with a baby eel, a singing snail and a gummi bear, he takes us on a culinary journey and explores food cultures as an approach to understand the structures of a society.

Combining music, captivating and entertaining video and robotic performers paired with cozy chatter and a culinary journey, *Haribo Kimchi* is a heart-warming performance that plays with all the senses.

Perth Festival Artistic Director Anna Reece says: "*Haribo Kimchi* by Jaha Koo is an important piece within our international program. It's a quietly extraordinary work — quirky, captivating and deeply moving. Through humour and reflection, Jaha gives us an intimate insight into Korean culture while revealing stories that resonate across the world. He's a gentle genius, and *Haribo Kimchi* is an absolute gem of a production — delicate, intelligent and unforgettable.

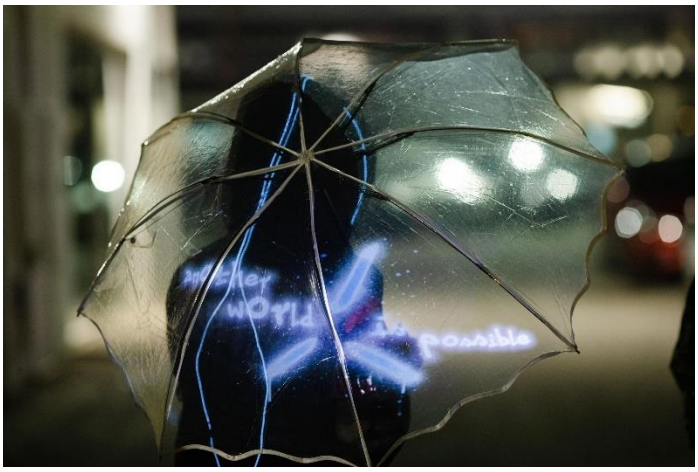
"For Perth Festival, presenting *Haribo Kimchi* is about celebrating the power of the personal to connect us globally. It's about making space for voices that invite empathy and curiosity — that remind us that art (and food) can cross language and geography to help us better understand ourselves and each other."

Jaha Koo is a South Korean theatre/performance maker, music composer and videographer. His artistic practice oscillates between multimedia and performance, encompassing his own music, video, text, and robotic objects.

His work represents a long-term exploration of the political landscape, colonial history and cultural identity of East Asia. Thematically, it focuses on structural issues in Korean society and how the inescapable past tragically affects our lives today."

WHEN: 18 – 22 Feb
WHERE: Studio Underground, Yandilup / Northbridge
PRICE: $59

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AUSTRALIA / World Premiere

the booster protocol

pvi collective

Created by Perth's tactical media art group pvi collective, *the booster protocol* is an immersive, game-based artwork that blends social science fiction, performance and participation.

Playful and provocative, this part-performance, part-role-playing experience invites audiences onto the streets of Perth to explore what it takes resist despair - and to instead imagine a radically hopeful future.

Wearing an audio device and carrying a portable screen, participants move through the city guided by voices from around the world. Along the way, they time-travel their way across pivotal global social movements throughout history, encountering flashes of protest, rupture and defiance – moments that helped shape history and change the world.

By logging in to the booster mobile app, players complete three levels, undertaking tasks and challenges designed to disrupt their own feelings of anxiety and paralysis.

Perth-based pvi collective create performances, videos and interventions that invite genuine engagement from audiences and members of the public. They are committed to ensuring that audiences experience seriously fun artworks that negotiate difficult issues in provocative and accessible ways.

the booster protocol brings together a creative team including **Kelli McCluskey** and **Steve Bull**, **Daisy Sanders**, programmer **Chris McCormick**, games consultant **Harry Lee (Play Reactive)**, Indigenous consultant **Helah Milroy**, and access consultant **Fayen d'Evie (AccessLab)**.

Perth Festival Artistic Director Anna Reece says:

"pvi collective are the tech-savvy troublemakers of Australian art - playful activists and fearless experimenters who make us see the world differently. With the booster protocol, they invite us to plug in and participate in a thought-provoking exploration of how we might lift our hope levels (individually and collectively) in challenging times."

WHEN: 24 – 28 Feb
WHERE: booster HQ, Boorloo / Perth CBD
PRICE: $49

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AUSTRALIA

POV

re:group performance collective

Following acclaimed seasons at Belvoir St Theatre in Sydney and RISING in Melbourne, *POV* makes its Western Australian premiere, bringing its bold and inventive approach to live theatre to audiences in Perth.

The latest production from re:group performance collective, *POV* centres on Bub, an 11-year-old girl obsessed with documentary filmmaking who enlists two adult actors—unrehearsed and unprepared—to help her re-enact the story of her family's breakdown.

Each night, the adult performers discover the script in real-time, guided by Bub's direction, resulting in a performance that's as unpredictable as it is emotionally raw. The script is playful, heartfelt, and funny, but the narrative shifts with the whims of human impulse as the actors respond live and unprepared. Bub seeks to understand her mother's erratic behaviour, posing tough questions that challenge the adults around her.

By blending live filmmaking with theatre, *POV* creates a unique experience that challenges both performers and audiences, delivering a performance that is at once funny, poignant and unforgettable.

re:group performance collective is **Mark Rogers, Solomon Thomas, Malcolm Whittaker, Steve Wilson-Alexander** and **Carly Young**. Inspired by the highs and lows of pop culture, they work as an ensemble to mash theatre-making and moviemaking together to create live cinema. Their aim is to turn the typically comfortable and passive movie-going experience into something immersive, irreverent, sweaty and live.

Perth Festival Artistic Director Anna Reece says:

"*POV* is brave, honest and unflinching theatre. It's a work of truth-telling that invites us to sit inside another person's lived experience and really look. Raw, deeply human, incredibly moving and impossible to forget, *POV* reminds us that honesty on stage can be the most powerful art of all."

★★★★½ *"POV is exactly the kind of production festivals are built for – innovative, provocative and really rather special." Arts Hub*

★★★★ *"Watching two unrehearsed actors thrown in the deep end, it's tremendous fun – and exhilarating, in the same way that watching good improv or a high-wire act is." The Guardian AU*

WHERE: Subiaco Arts Centre, Wandaraguttagurrup
WHEN: 10 – 15 Feb
PRICE: $49

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PERTH FESTIVAL

Founding Partner UWA

Principal Partner lotterywest

6 Feb – 1 Mar 2026



AUSTRALIA / World Premiere / Perth Festival Commission

DRAGON I

Adam Kelly / Neuro Bureau

Adam Kelly likes dragons. He's been writing, talking and performing about dragons for years. Now he's noticed everyone seems to be talking about and using AI, and he's wondering, should he?

What if he could use Dragon I ...

In this world premiere, Adam uses his dragon world to debate: to AI or not to AI? Using theatre, animation and music, he explores the moral, artistic, neurodiverse and environmental implications of the AI juggernaut for a neurodivergent writer performer like himself.

Dragon I is co-written by Adam with James Berlyn, directed by James and features animations by local artist Ben Hollingsworth, the trio is also known as Neuro Bureau.

Adam Kelly is an emerging theatre-maker and a self-described autistic gentleman. Adam started his career as an actor with WA Youth Theatre Company in and has performed in many of WAYTCo's productions. *ARCO*, a 20-minute solo show which he co-wrote with then WAYTCo Artistic Director, James Berlyn, toured Australia and the UK, winning Adam the ECU Performing Arts Award and the prestigious Best of Children and Family awards.

Perth Festival Artistic Director Anna Reece says:

"We are very proud to be commissioning Adam Kelly to create his new work *Dragon I*. Adam is an exceptional Western Australian artist whose imagination burns bright. Drawing on his lived experience of neurodiversity, his fascination with AI, and his lifelong love of dragons, this work is a powerful expression of curiosity and creative freedom — a glimpse into the unique way Adam sees and celebrates the world."

WHEN: 26 Feb – 1 Mar
WHERE: Subiaco Arts Centre, Wandaraguttagurrup
PRICE: $39

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AUSTRALIA

SCENES FROM THE CLIMATE ERA

WA Youth Theatre Company

***Scenes From the Climate Era* is the latest work from award-winning Australian playwright David Finnigan, brought to life by the Western Australian Youth Theatre Company. Created by young people, the production explores the realities, fears and hopes of a generation growing up in a word shaped by climate change.**

Scenes From the Climate Era unfolds across 66 short scenes, blending comic, tragic and surreal to illuminate life on a planet in flux. It asks the question: the planet is changing, but are we?

Friends recall their last flight before the skies closed. Landholders in Borneo negotiate the value of forests with western environmentalists. The final frog of its species searches in vain for a mate. Beaches vanish, aeroplanes disappear and somewhere zombie mice roam.

Perth Festival's iteration of Finnigan's climate work will be performed by the next generation. Invigoratingly honest and unexpectedly funny, the WA Youth Theatre Company will dive headfirst into the climate change conversation with the creative spark that only youth can bring to one of the most urgent issues of our time.

Perth Festival Artistic Director Anna Reece says: "*Scenes from a Climate Era* captures the urgency and humanity of the climate story. It reminds us that climate change isn't an abstract concept; it's our lived experience. Realised through the vision of the Western Australian Youth Theatre Company's Amelia Burke, this work shows how young artists are leading the conversation about our shared future."

Founded in 1983, the WA Youth Theatre Company (WAYTCo) is a leading arts organisation dedicated to empowering people through theatre. The company provides professional pathways for Western Australians aged 13-26, creating bold, high-quality productions that amplify young voices and explore diverse perspectives.

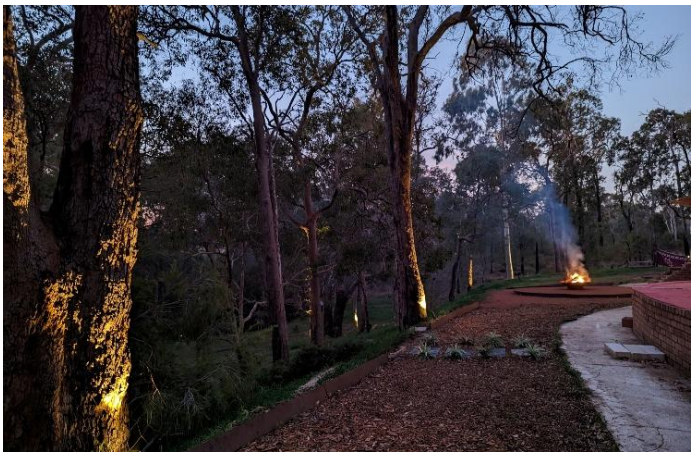
David Finnigan is a writer and theatre-maker from Ngunnawal country in Australia. He collaborates with research scientists to create theatre exploring climate and global change. In 2017, his playscript *Kill Climate Deniers* was awarded the Griffin Playwrights Award. *Scenes From the Climate Era* continues Finnigan's internationally acclaimed work on climate.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ *"This is theatre doing what it was made to do. An invigoratingly honest portrayal of what it's like to engage with climate change conversations (and be alive!) right this second."*
Limelight Magazine

★ ★ ★ ★ *"Finnigan's play manages to reach into the minds of its audience and create an emotional, practical and shudderingly wide-ranging awareness."*
Time Out

WHERE: Victoria Hall Walyalup / Fremantle
WHEN: 13 - 22 Feb
PRICE: $45

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AUSTRALIA, INDIA & MALAYSIA / World Premiere

THE BHUMEJHA PROJECT

ChitAmbara

***The BhuMeJha Project* invites audiences to escape into nature for an immersive evening of ceremony and culture, song and dance, storytelling, ritual and reflection on the edge of the Perth Hills**.

Celebrated Wagilak Yolŋu songman and ceremonial leader **Daniel Wilfred** from Ngukurr (Arnhem Land) will be joined by dancers, musicians and elders from Noongar Boodjar, India and Malaysia in a performance that invokes the stories of rivers and the land, across several generations.

Perth Festival Artistic Director Anna Reece says:

"The BhuMeJha Project will be a beautiful, moving and truly singular festival experience. Set within the exquisite Art Sanctuary in the Perth Hills - under the gum trees and the stars, with the river whispering nearby - you'll be invited on an intercultural journey through music, dance, stories and shared food."

This is Perth Festival at its best: extraordinary art and cultural exchange in places many have never ventured. The BhuMeJha Project honours Whadjuk Country and celebrates the brilliance of our vibrant Indian community who also call this place home.

ChitAmbara is a Perth organisation on a mission to forge connection with the people of the historical supercontinent, Gondwanaland. Their programs seek to simultaneously unravel the mysteries of the past while embracing the boundless possibilities of the future.

They strive to bring a diverse range of artistic practices, cultural thought and communities together, with the overarching aim to engage and explore our purpose of service through the arts and culture.

WHEN: 21 – 22 Feb
WHERE: The Art Sanctuary / Goolamup / Kelmscott
PRICE: $59

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AUSTRALIA / Perth Festival Commission

NITJA

City of Melville

Inspired by stories from the banks of the Derbarl Yerrigan at Dyoondalup/Point Walter, *Nitja* (Noongar for here) is a free outdoor event encouraging the community to gather, celebrate and connect on Country.

For one night only this iconic riverside park will be transformed through live music, storytelling, dance and projected animation.

Led by visionary artist **Ian Moopa Wilkes**, and in collaboration with the City of Melville, *Nitja* brings together an extraordinary collective of First Nations artists and performers to share stories that are both contemporary and deeply rooted in tradition.

Perth Festival Artistic Director Anna Reece says:

"It's a real joy to collaborate with Creative Melville on Nitja. This event celebrates one of the most beautiful stretches of the Derbal Yerrigan — a place rich with story and spirit. To see it come alive with music, dance and light, and to share that experience freely with the community, feels really special. For me, this is what Perth Festival is about — connection, celebration and a deep sense of place. Created by, with and for the people who live here."

Lead Artist Ian Moopa Wilkes says:

"Nitja is about connection, about coming together in a beautiful spot by the Derbal Yerrigan to share stories and song. It's about really noticing where we are, and celebrating life from here, songs from here, and stories from here, that are still and always have been here. This is a chance to see this place in a new flight and experience the energy that happens when community, art and Country meet."

Ian Moopa Wilkes is a proud Noongar man with connection to the Wadjuk and Ballardong people. He is a multidisciplinary artist - theatre maker, director, performer, writer, dancer - and a graduate of Aboriginal Theatre at WAAPA. In 2021 Moopa won the Perth NAIDOC award for Artist of the Year. He has a long association with Perth Festival, creating *Djoondal* (2023) and co-writing and performing in *Galup* (2021).

WHEN: 14 Feb
WHERE: Point Walter Reserve / Dyoondalup / Bicton
PRICE: Free

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AUSTRALIA & INTERNATIONAL

THE EMBASSY

The doors of the beautiful old Perth Town Hall will swing open once again as *The Embassy* makes its return in 2026 for three weeks of music, glamour and surprise.

Inspired by Perth's historic Embassy Ballroom, this is a space with history in its bones, elegance in its architecture and a playful spirit at its heart, supported by The City of Perth.

Across the season, The Embassy will overflow with jazz, blues, soul, cabaret, contemporary crooners and indulgence fuelled by the Embassy Bar. Big band swing, smoky blues, soulful voices and bold new sounds will be served with a side of cocktails and sophistication.

Perth Festival Artistic Director Anna Reece says: "The Embassy returns — our love letter to nostalgia and an invitation to join us for intimate nights and a lineup of exceptional entertainment. Cabaret, big bands, jazz and crooners set the tone, with music, style, cocktails and plenty of sass. A place of sophistication, surprise and delight. Gather, celebrate and lose yourself in rhythm, conversation and a little mischief".

Perth's celebrated chanteuse **Ali Bodycoat** will return with The Embassy Big Band for two unforgettable nights that will bring the golden age of dance to life. This will be an invitation to dress to the nines and revel in the glamour of the dance floor. With musical direction by Tom O'Halloran on grand piano and the swinging sophistication of Ali Bodycoat's voice backed by the lush sounds of a full big band, the rhythm and charm of a bygone era will fill Perth Town Hall.

Celebrated as the first African woman recognised in any Grammy jazz category, **Somi** is redefining jazz for a new generation. Blending the soul of East African folk with the improvisational spirit of New York jazz, **Somi** has carved out her own path as an artist, scholar and activist.

Promises & Wild Beasts is Mama Kin Spender as you've never seen (or heard) them before. In their theatrical debut, they will take audiences on a transformative story through a cycle of songs drawn from their recent ARIA-nominated album *Promises*.

For those who crave music with swagger, strangeness and soul, **C.W. Stoneking** will deliver a night to remember at *The Embassy*. The cult bluesman known for his gravel rich voice, trademark banjo and steel guitar, will bring his distinctive blend of Delta blues, ragtime and gothic storytelling to the stage.

For lovers of live jazz at its sharpest edge, Grammy-nominated Japanese pianist **Makoto Ozone** will blend sounds worlds and a host of influences into his virtuoso performances. With his trio TRiNFiNiTY, he locks in drum and bass for one night of fearless improvisation and sheer musical chemistry.

The opera-occasional, black-bearded drag diva **Le Gateau Chocolat** will present a unique performance of this latest delicious treat *Raw Cacao*. Lurching from opera to pop, folk, musical theatre and opera, this larger-than-life performer will offer a glimpse of the artist - and man behind the wig.

Avant-garde, post-punk, death oompah band and cult cabaret geniuses **The Tiger Lillies** present *Serenade from the Sewer*, celebrating the weird, the macabre and those that society has abandoned. Inspired by the seedy underbelly of London's Soho district in the 1980s, the show is a melancholic yet ironic reflection of life on the margins of society; a grotesquely

beautiful tale framed by the band's signature fusion of chanson, dark cabaret and operatic punk.

For a night of simply the best, **What's Tina Got To Do With It!** brings the music of Tina Turner back to life. The fabulous Miss TINA (the alter ego of Ben Graetz/Miss Ellaneous) takes the stage as glittering host and MC for a special evening of powerhouse performances, with guest artists bringing their own fire and flair to iconic hits.

Fresh from her starring role as Celine Dion in *Titanique*, cabaret diva **Marney McQueen** will showcase her brand-new show, *Songs About Boats*, serving up a night of Broadway classics, pop hits, a touch of yacht rock - and of course some songs about boats.

LA-based **Annahastasia** will deliver a compelling set of contemporary folk and blues. First gaining attention as a 17-year-old, she brings songs to life with her enchantingly acrobatic voice, developed through an appreciation for complex vocalists such as Bill Withers, Nina Simone and Janis Joplin.

After a decade with Tinpan Orange, alt-country star **Emily Lubitz** brings her ARIA charting album *Two Black Horses* to *The Embassy*. With her velvet smooth vocals, her songs play like an old Hollywood movie starring Dolly Parton, Patsy Cline and Phoebe Bridgers on holiday together, swapping stories and secrets.

WHERE: Perth Town Hall, Koorari / Perth, CBD
WHEN: 13 Feb – 1 Mar

PRICE: From $49 - $79

Supported by The Embassy partners

CITY OF PERTH City of Light
JCDecaux

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UK

The TIGER LILLIES

Serenade From the Sewer

Avant-garde, post-punk, death oompah band and cult cabaret geniuses The Tiger Lillies to steam up The Embassy with *Serenade from the Sewer*, celebrating the weird, the macabre and those that society has abandoned.

Olivier award-winning and Grammy nominated, The Tiger Lillies have toured the world for over 35 years and released scores of critically acclaimed albums.

They have starred in many unforgettable theatre productions from their West End smash hit *Shockheaded Peter* to 2025's *A Macbeth Song,* which ran for three months in Barcelona and is now touring worldwide.

"One of the most unique and subversive acts in contemporary performance." The New York Times

"Phenomenal ★★★★★" The Guardian UK

With Martyn Jaques on vocals, accordion, piano and guitar, Adrian Stout on double bass, musical saw, theremin and vocals, and Budi Butenop on drums, they never cease to surprise, shock and entertain with their inimitable musical style, conjuring up the macabre magic of pre-war Berlin and fusing it with the savage edge of punk.

Inspired by the seedy underbelly of London's Soho district in the 1980s, ***Serenade from the Sewer*** is a melancholic yet ironic reflection of life on the margins of society; a grotesquely beautiful tale framed by the band's signature fusion of chanson, dark cabaret and operatic punk.

WHEN: 27 Feb
WHERE: The Embassy
PRICE: $79

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AUSTRALIA / Perth Festival Commission

LET ME IN, LET ME OUT

Hugo Flavelle

Just before sunset, multidisciplinary artist Hugo Flavelle sets out in his Wonderchair. As he travels through our city, he quite literally shines a light on venues and spaces that remain inaccessible.

At each location, he highlights personal experiences of inequality with striking projections, inviting the public to reckon with the visible – and invisible – barriers faced by many.

Let Me In, Let Me Out explores urgent political themes of access, equity and inclusion. Discover Hugo and his Wonderchair in locations around Perth.

Multidisciplinary Perth artist Hugo Flavelle was born with cerebral palsy. He uses his Wonderchair – a wheelchair enhanced with film, sound, lighting and projection – as a structure to support physical independence and artistic practice, experimenting with thought-provoking concepts and ideas.

Perth Festival Artistic Director Anna Reece says:

"Hugo Flavelle is a remarkable Western Australian artist. From his Wonderchair he cheekily, yet very genuinely, shines a literal provocation onto buildings and institutions that remain inaccessible to him. Hugo is a young artist living with disability and navigating his own city. He explores the critical question and completely reasonable demand of access for all."

WHEN: 24 – 28 Feb
WHERE: Various Perth CBD locations
PRICE: Free

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AUSTRALIA & INTERNATIONAL / Perth Festival Commission

EAST PERTH POWER STATION

Following the hugely successful revival of the iconic *East Perth Power Station* last year, the city's wildly celebrated and award-winning music venue returns for Perth Festival 2026 with another incredible line-up of local and international artists and events.

Throughout the Festival, audiences can expect everything from immersive live performances and late-night DJ sets to unexpected collaborations and one-off experiences. With a mix of music, late night energy and insta-worthy visuals, this Lotterywest community experience is set to become the ultimate cultural venue for hot summer nights. The East Perth Power Station recently won Best Cultural, Arts or Music Event for WA at the 2025 Australian Event Awards.

As the sun goes down, **Casa Musica** invites families, friends and festival goers to settle by the river for free live music every Wednesday to Sunday. Inspired by the vibrant piazzas and parks of southern Europe, this open-air celebration of community and summer will bring people together for food, drinks and great music beneath the paperback trees.

In 2026 Casa Musica will feature the sounds of world-class musicians from across the Indian Ocean rim and beyond, in a program reflecting the diversity of the city and our place in the world.

Highlights include: First Nations rock band **Selve** led by Jabirr Jabirr man Loki Liddle; the lush grooves and power of PNG born **Ngaiire**; traditional Irish music from **Beoga**; a fresh mix of Middle Eastern, Indonesian and funk influences from **Ali**; traditional songs from Italy and Latin America by **Kavisha Mazella**; Indian classical, jazz and blues by **Bobby Singh & Friends,** plus lots more.

As darkness falls, the Power Station transforms a hidden corner into a pulsating festival hub. On the **Main Stage**, industrial steel and brick becomes a dynamic backdrop for hypnotic electronic sets, rock legends, pop icons and master instrumentalists. Here, performance, light and energy collide, turning its industrial skin into a dynamic engine room of music.

Highlights include: contemporary UK electronic visionary **Max Cooper** kicking off the program with his fusion of cutting-edge sound design with immersive visuals to create a living, breathing artwork; Perth's underground club music icons **SYBER: 013** spinning global rhythms from baile funk and Jersey club to trap and hip hop; Australian rock loyalty Mick Turner, Mick Harvey, Adalita and Marty Brown joining forces as **Bleak Squad**; the unmistakable sound of Britain's **Morcheeba** who have shaped the sound of chilled groove for more than three decades.

Other highlights include: the genre defying brilliance of English rock band **Black Country, New Road**; multi award-winning superstar **Baker Boy** alongside Haisla Nation rappers **Snotty Nose Rez Kids**; the electrifying indie pop of one of Britain's most exciting singer songwriters **Nilüfer Yanya**; **Perth Symphony Orchestra** with special guest vocalists bringing David Bowie's greatest songs back to life in a one night only spectacular, ***Rebel Rebel***; and the USA's **Sudan Archives** who fuses R&B, hip hop, electronica and strings into a sound that defies labels closing the Main Stage with her acclaimed boundary breaking album.

Returning for a second year, **Boorloo Contemporary** will bring the Power Station to life with entirely new

awe-inspiring and thought-provoking commissions alongside solo exhibitions from First Nations artists.

A Perth Festival commission, the industrial façade will become a vast canvas, transforming our Festival hub into an awesome outdoor gallery. Bibbulmun Noongar/Budimia Yamatji artist **Lance Chadd Tjyllyungoo's** breathtaking depictions of landscapes skilfully weave Noongar spiritual beliefs and stories into images of physical landforms.

His paintings of this Country, wetlands to hills, from another time and perspective come to life on the façade of the colonial building in an exquisite expression of the inseparable connection between land and spirit in Noongar culture.

Also at the Power Station, a series of colour pennant flags created by Wadawurrung artist **Kait James** will adorn the venue. ***Blak Flags*** critiques and subverts the stereotypes that have shaped Australia's image, using bold colours, pop-culture iconography and humour to heal - rewriting toxic narratives and calling for respectful cultural dialogue.

This year's Power Station Commissions are stunning Insta-worthy experiences. Ones that also challenge us to consider the place where we're gathering to enjoy the Festival – its significance, stories and beauty.

Perth Festival Artistic Director Anna Reece says:

"Perth showed up for the Power Station last year, it was massive. Thousands came out to see this incredible old site come alive again with music, art and energy. The atmosphere was electric, the riverfront was glowing, and it felt like the whole city was in on the secret. So of course we're bringing it back. It's one of the best places in Perth to see live music and art — gritty, beautiful, and completely ours. Big summer nights, brilliant artists, and that feeling only Perth Festival can pull off."

The complete main stage line-up will be revealed in December, with all Main Stage performances requiring tickets.

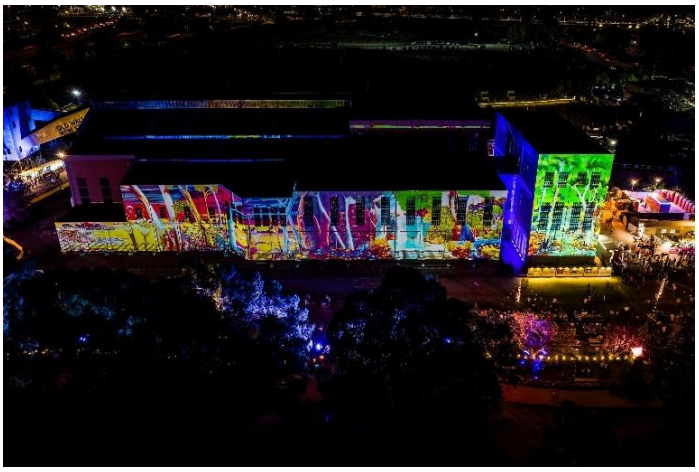
WHEN: Casa Musica, Wed – Fri 5pm – 8pm, Sat – Sun 4pm – 8pm
WHERE: East Perth Power Station, Warndoolier / East Perth

East Perth Power Station is supported by lotterywest

Support for Casa Musica comes from Audio Technik, City of Vincent, CFC Group, Stan Perron Charitable Foundation and Spinifex

Support for Boorloo Contemporary comes from Wesfarmers Arts, PAV and Wright Burt Foundation

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AUSTRALIA / World Premiere

BOORLOO CONTEMPORARY

Lance Chadd Tjyllyungoo, Kait James, Melissa Sandy, April Phillips and Darrell Sibosado

Shaped by a group of First Nations curators and arts leaders, *Boorloo Contemporary* is the commissioning visual arts stream that returns for Perth Festival 2026, fostering genre-defying contemporary artworks steeped in Indigenous storytelling.

These transformative, immersive and personal artforms explore relationships between new and old technologies, light, sound, storytelling and ceremony. This year's artists include **Lance Chadd Tjyllyungoo, Kait James, Melissa Sandy, April Phillips** and **Darrell Sibosado.**

Boorloo Contemporary will once again bring East Perth Power Station to life with two awe-inspiring and thought-provoking commissions on site, as well as presenting three additional exhibitions across Perth and Fremantle, offering deep explorations of personal creative practices.

The industrial façade of the Power Station serves as a spectacular outdoor gallery for art from Bibbulmun Noongar/Budimia Yamatji artist **Lance Chadd Tjyllyungoo**. Each night the walls come alive as they project breathtaking depictions of animated landscapes, skilfully weaving Noongar spiritual beliefs and stories into images of physical landforms. Tjyllyungoo began painting professionally in 1981, without having taken formal training. His unique realistic style is akin to Hans Heysen and Albert Namatjira, whose work he was introduced at an early age.

Also at the Power Station, a series of colour pennant flags created by Wadawurrung artist **Kait James** will adorn the venue. ***Blak Flags*** critiques and subverts the stereotypes that have shaped Australia's image, using bold colours, pop-culture iconography and humour to heal - rewriting toxic narratives and calling for respectful cultural dialogue. Utilising punch needling techniques, James embroiders onto found materials that reference colonial settlements and histories, carving out a unique visual language.

Further along the Derbarl Yerrigan, Boorloo Bridge lights the river and night sky in the large-scale animated feature ***Kwop Ben | Good Light***. Transforming the bridge into a living digital canvas, this commission will honour the Country and complex history of the bridge's Matagarup location.

Across the city in Fremantle at PS Arts Space, Yindjibarndi artist **Melissa Sandy** honours her family legacy with ***The Void*** – a deeply personal series of large textured canvases and accompanying audio-visual works, created after the loss of her aunt (fellow artist Mrs. A. Sandy). The show marks Sandy's first solo exhibition - a culmination of decades of artistic dedication and storytelling through Country, culture and lived experience – and is a deeply personal journey exploring loss, resilience and hope.

At Perth's Cultural Centre, Wiradjuri–Scottish artist **April Phillips** will transform PICA's gallery into a meditative parallel universe with her projection work ***Under Waters***. The project merges contemporary Indigenous storytelling with an experimental digital craft to launch the gallery's *boorda yeyi* Immersive Arts Commission series. Phillips is recognised as one of Australia's most rapidly evolving contemporary media artists, as she playfully engages digital technologies as tools for art making, with a focus on futurism, human intelligence and ethical methodologies.

Also at PICA, ***Awakening Histories*** honours First Nations people's longstanding histories of encounter and interaction with people, technologies, plants and ideas from across the seas. Ensuring the Western Australian connection to this narrative is shared, Bard

man **Darrell Sibosado** has been commissioned though Boorloo Contemporary to create a new large-scale pearl shell installation. The work brings light to the relationships forged between Makassans and First Peoples from the Kimberly region - both peoples who have been less often represented in discussion of this continent's precolonial history.

Perth Festival Artistic Director Anna Reece says:

"Boorloo Contemporary sits at the heart of Perth Festival. It's a space for powerful storytelling, deep listening and bold new commissions that speak from this place. These extraordinary artists are truth-tellers and visionaries - reimagining how we see our city, our history and our future. Boorloo Contemporary reminds us of that contemporary art and culture in Boorloo begin with First Nations voices, grounded in Country, alive with possibility."

Perth Festival Artistic Associate Chloe Ogilvie says:

"Boorloo Contemporary is all about pushing boundaries and showcasing the incredible creativity of First Nations artists. In 2026, we're excited to transform spaces like the East Perth Power Station and Boorloo Bridge, creating immersive experiences where art can be experienced in new ways, by new audiences. These works invite people into bold, unforgettable encounters with contemporary First Nations art."

The initiative is supported by Wesfarmers Arts. Manager of Wesfarmers Arts Helen Carroll says:

"Wesfarmers Arts are proud to see the return of Boorloo Contemporary in 2026 - the exciting First Nations-led program of special commissions and cultural conversations. We are thrilled to support Perth Festival on this program, which places creativity in storytelling, culture and Country at the heart of the Festival once again."

Boorloo Contemporary's curation is guided by a curatorium made up of Clothilde Bullen (OAM), Chad Creighton, Chloe Ogilvie and Glenn Iseger-Pilkington.

WHEN: 6 Feb – 29 Mar
WHERE: East Perth Power Station, Boorloo Bridge, PS Arts Space, Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts
PRICE: Free

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AUSTRALIA & INTERNATIONAL

LOTTERYWEST FILMS

UWA Somerville

For 18 balmy weeks beneath the Somerville pines, *Lotterywest Films* will roll out a hand-picked lineup curated from the world's major film festivals including Cannes and Venice.

Adventures, pulse-quickening thrillers, eye opening documentaries, spicy rom coms and emotion-soaked dramas ensure there's something to excite, inspire, shock, entertain, move and amuse all cinema lovers.

The program will take audiences across the globe and introduce them to new faces and places, offering access to the insights and imaginations of the world's best filmmakers.

From the streets of 1960s Paris and the mountain villages of Italy to the coastlines of Brazil and the towns of the American south, these weekly and one-off screenings will continue the long-cherished summer tradition that has been at the heart of Perth Festival since 1953.

Perth Festival Film Curator Madeline Bates says:

"This year's program is a kaleidoscope of themes and places that make up the world and the human experience, reflecting the depth and diversity of international cinema and its continuing capacity to thrill, contemplate and inform.

Courageously revealing stories beyond the simple headlines, or evoking, and celebrating, the wonders of the everyday - the range of films is as vibrant as the stories they shed light on.

I hope they bring people together in the magical shared space of Somerville auditorium for a summer of immersive cinema."

The season opens with **Richard Linklater's *Nouvelle Vague***. The iconic and Oscar-nominated director brings 1960s Paris to life in his meticulous and affectionate portrait of the making of Jean-Luc Godard's legendary feature debut *Breathless*. A love letter to Godard's genius and the French New Wave, this season opener is a film no cinephile - or anyone - should miss.

The Mastermind from the USA, directed by indie icon Kelly Reichardt, follows an unemployed carpenter turned amateur art thief who plans his first big heist. When things go haywire, his life unravels. Josh O'Connor stars in this offbeat, wryly funny Cannes Competition highlight.

From the UK/Ireland, director Harry Lighton's ***Pillion*** follows a timid man swept from his dreary suburban life by a handsome, enigmatic biker (Alexander Skarsgård), who takes him on as his submissive. Sensitively directed with captivating performances, this sexy and tender debut is a surprisingly funny film audiences will gladly submit to.

From Spain, director Eva Libertad's ***Deaf*** - Berlinale Panorama Audience Award winner is a refreshingly honest look at motherhood and the love between a deaf and hearing couple expecting their first child.

Cannes Grand Prix winner ***Sentimental Value*** comes from Denmark/Norway, directed by Joachim Trier. An intimate and moving exploration of family, memories, and the reconciliatory power of art, it follows two sisters as they navigate their relationship with their estranged father.

From France/Iran, Palme d'Or-winning director Jafar Panahi's ***It Was Just An Accident*** is a powerful revenge drama and a real-world triumph against authoritarian oppression. Combining moral dilemmas, comic moments, and shocking

revelations, the cast delivers a story that resonates long after the credits roll.

The winner of three major awards at Cannes, Kleber Mendonça Filho's ***The Secret Agent*** is heralded as one of the year's best films. This genre-bending slow-burn thriller is filled with hypnotic tension and set against a colour-saturated backdrop of '70s Recife, Brazilian carnival, and political corruption.

The Cannes Caméra d'Or winner ***The President's Cake***, directed by Hasan Hadi, is a rare film from Iraq and a humorous yet poignant debut. Beautifully shot and acted, this playful fable tells a timely and bittersweet story of life under Saddam Hussein's dictatorship through the eyes of a child.

The Venice 2024 Grand Jury Prize winner, ***The Mountain Bride Vermiglio***, directed by Maura Delpero, is an intimate portrait of a family in a remote Italian Alps village during the final days of WWII. Drawing on the director's own family history, this breathtaking film is made to be experienced on the big screen.

Matthew McConaughey stars in ***The Rivals of Amziah King,*** a boisterous ballad of the deep south from director Andrew Patterson. Playing a banjo-strumming professor of bees who reunites with his former foster daughter, McConaughey leads a charismatic crime caper blending Coen Brothers-style hijinks with charming musical interludes – a touching tale about what makes a place a home.

Lotterywest Acting CEO Lorna Pritchard said Lotterywest is proud to support Perth Festival each year to showcase local talent and bring unique arts experiences to Western Australians.

"A record-breaking Lotterywest grant of $9.6 million is supporting the Festival this year, which includes Lotterywest Films, delighting WA audiences with diverse and inspiring local and international cinema," Ms Pritchard said.

"This year's program is set to transport audiences around the world, all while enjoying an iconic experience under the stars."

The full program of films can be found at perthfestival.com.au.

WHEN: 24 Nov – 29 Mar, gates open 6pm
WHERE: UWA Somerville / Godroo / Crawley
TICKETS: $24, 6-ticket film pack $129, 12-ticket film pack $231, Cheap Tuesdays $12 per ticket

Lotterywest Films is supported by

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EPKS are available on request

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AUSTRALIA

BIOMASS

Various artists

Step inside a living, breathing future through the magical worlds of virtual reality and immersive technologies. WA Museum Boola Bardip's Jubilee Hall transforms into an immersive gallery showcasing some of the most boundary-pushing extended reality works from around the globe.

Biomass invites audiences on a powerful sensory journey through the ever-shifting relationship between organic life, energy and environment in an age of ecological and social reckoning.

Through virtual reality and interactive installations, the art works explore the resilience of human and non-human living systems and confront the emotional, physical and environmental questions that shape our shared future.

It's a meditation, a call to action and an artistic response to the complexity, fragility and diversity of life on Earth.

Biomass features a one-of-a-kind installation and VR work, *Gondwana*, that participants into the heart of one of the world's oldest tropical rainforest, the Daintree in Far North Queensland.

The full *Biomass* program will be announced in the coming months.

Perth Festival Artistic Director Anna Reece says:

"It's vital that Perth audiences experience the most ambitious, forward-thinking work being made today — and digital, virtual and interactive art sits at the heart of that. Biomass is a reminder that art can be both transportive and transformative; it can expand how we perceive technology, the environment, and even ourselves. We're thrilled to partner with the WA Museum to present this showcase — together we're creating a space where science, art and imagination collide, shaping the kind of future-focused culture Perth deserves."

WHEN: 3 Feb – 14 Jun
WHERE: Jubilee Hall, Immersive Gallery, WA Museum Boola Bardip, Yandilup / Northbridge

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AUSTRALIA & INTERNATIONAL

VISUAL ARTS

Fremantle Arts Centre, Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts, John Curtin Gallery, Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery, Goolugatup Heathcote

Exploring identity, heritage and connection across continents, the Perth Festival 2026 Exhibitions Program invites audiences into powerful conversations that span family, history and place.

Presented in galleries across Boorloo and Walyalup, this year showcases a diverse lineup of artists from around the globe, weaving together traditional and contemporary practices to reflect the complexity and beauty of their cultural identities.

Acclaimed WA artist **Brad Rimmer** captures the beauty, history and complexity of the Wheatbelt in his poetic, contemplative photographs. Through photography, sound and place, ***Loom of the Land*** reflects on landscapes and communities shaped by European colonisation, revealing both resilience and fragility.

This **Fremantle Arts Centre** exhibition also premieres two new video works that breathe life into abandoned Wheatbelt town halls – once bustling social hubs, now silent reminders of another era. With original soundtracks from **Emily Barker** and **Mark Holdsworth**, the work reimagines spaces of memory and connection.

Presented at **Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts**, ***Awakening Histories*** honours First Nations people's longstanding histories of encounter and interaction with people, technologies, plants and ideas from across the seas.

Key works from major collections across Australia, Indonesia, China and the Philippines and new artists' commissions – including a Boorloo Contemporary commission from **Darrell Sibosado** – showcase the storytelling of art and artists, following trade routes and cultural exchange to recast history.

Also at Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts, five artists from Hong Kong, Kuala Lumpur, London, Shanghai and Singapore explore a new horizontal culture in painting with the exhibition ***Painting Itself 绘画本身***.

Through fresh approaches, the collaboration reimagines painting through an East and Southeast Asian lens, challenging fundamental Western ideas about its history and vitality. Each artist searches for the 'face' of their work, leaning into the mood and psychic processes of their own painting, with its inner constraints and struggles.

South African artist **Thania Petersen** invites audiences into a poetic and immersive world of song, scent and ritual with their work ***Jawap***. Through two major installations, she reclaims histories and cultural memory in ways both personal and communal, with a powerful multi-sensory exhibition at **John Curtin Gallery**.

Tracing the journey of Sufi song traditions, Thania's newly commissioned multi-channel sound work *Jieker*, links northern Australia (Yolŋu), Makassar and Cape Town, evoking a call and response across the ocean space. Whilst *Rampies Sny* asks visitors to create fragrant herb sachets – a practice rooted in Cape Malay tradition and reimagined for each place it appears.

Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery will host two powerful exhibitions that honour legacy and Indigenous art history.

The profound ***Birrundudu Drawings*** will showcase over 100 works from senior Aboriginal men who lived at the pastoral station of Birrundudu in 1945. This epic collection of knowledge and creativity, which has rarely

been seen and never exhibited, is a profound gift from ancestors to their communities today.

The gallery will also host an exhibition celebrating the prodigious lifetime and artistic contribution of **Gracie Green,** a major figure in the early development of the Balgo art movement. Across a long career, Green remained singular, her innovative style of combining lively figuration within finely dotted topographies allowing stories to unfold dynamically across the canvas. From early work at Balgo to a long partnership with Mangkaja Arts, her works embody a weighty legacy of sharing knowledge.

On the riverfront at **Goolugatup Heathcote**, WA artist **Pascale Giorgi** brings together a body of new sculptural works formed through a process of remixing, fracturing and reassembling. A bootleg compilation of fixations, leftovers and sculptural outtakes, this new solo exhibition tries to create sense from the detritus of Giorgi's studio, in an interpretation of an anti-retrospective, worst hits compilation.

Worst Hits alludes to the invisible spectre of storage and expensive studio rent, while creating a mapping of an artistic practice, tracing the recurring themes, research interests, and material fixations that lead to the creation of artworks.

Perth Festival Artistic Director Anna Reece says:

"Visual art holds truth and invites interpretation, gifting us space to look closer, to question, and to feel. In partnership with many of Western Australia's leading visual arts institutions, this year's program invites that discovery. Across these exhibitions, themes of holding onto culture, past and present, and exploring our sense of place and truth run deep. Together they remind us that art doesn't just reflect the world — it reveals it. I have such deep respect and gratitude for the curators and artists whose work has shaped such a rich and meaningful offering for the 2026 Festival."

WHAT: Brad Rimmer
WHEN: 7 Feb – 19 Apr
WHERE: Walyalup Fremantle Arts Centre
PRICE: Free

WHAT: Awakening Histories
WHEN: 6 Feb – 29 Mar
WHERE: Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts
PRICE: Free

WHAT: Painting Itself 绘画本身
WHEN: 6 Feb – 29 Mar
WHERE: Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts
PRICE: Free

WHAT: Thania Petersen
WHEN: 6 Feb – 3 May
WHERE: John Curtin Gallery
PRICE: Free

WHAT: Birrundudu Drawings
WHEN: 14 Feb – 4 Apr
WHERE: Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery
PRICE: Free

WHAT: Gracie Green
WHEN: 14 Feb – 4 Apr
WHERE: Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery
PRICE: Free

WHAT: Pascale Giorgi
WHEN: 8 Feb – 26 Apr
WHERE: Goolugatup Heathcote
PRICE: Free

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