

MEDIA RELEASE: Wednesday, 25 October 2023, 7am AWST

RISE AND SHINE AT FESTIVAL TIME

2024 Program released. Pre-sale tickets available now



Perth Moves. Image credit: Duncan Wright

Welcome to **Perth Festival 2024** – a Festival radiant with stories from here and around the globe that celebrate our shared humanity under the same sun.

To close **Artistic Director Iain Grandage's** five-year cycle, we're inviting audiences to gather with leading international and local artists under the 2024 theme of **Ngaangk**. Our star, the sun and also the Noongar term for mother, Ngaangk nourishes everyone and everything that grows and thrives on Noongar Boodjar.

Warm summer nights will light up from **9 February to 3 March** in an exciting Festival program energised by diverse new voices and major stars. These include such extraordinary artists as **Angélique Kidjo, Akram Khan, Paul Kelly, Brooklyn Rider, Ludovico Einaudi, Sampha, Joan Jonas, Lonnie Holley, Jane Smiley**, and brilliant companies from Belgium's **Ontroerend Goed** to Broome's **Marrugeku**. Check out our [Festival 2024 video](#) here.

We open with **West Australian Opera's** world-premiere Festival commission from **Gina Williams** and **Guy Ghose** as they once again bring Noongar magic to the opera stage with **Wundig wer Wilura**, the Dreaming story of two star-crossed lovers whose souls are separated forever in two mountains facing each other outside York.

We end in a twilight of togetherness at **Supreme Court Gardens** as the sun sets on Perth Festival 2024 with our special free Lotterywest Closing Event **Under the Same Sun**. Leading Aboriginal

musicians and international greats – among them **Angélique Kidjo, Emma Donovan, Lior, Sampa The Great, Mama Kin, Maatakitj, Paul Kelly, Flewnt, Shane Howard** and **Stephen Pigram** – collaborate on songs that celebrate nature, nurture and shared futures under the same sun.

For more than three extraordinary weeks in between, audiences can relax, revel and reflect in equal measure at a Festival made for everyone, anywhere from indoor theatres, galleries and concert halls to sun-kissed beaches and parks, suburban streets and even a subterranean food court and public pool.

At **Scarborough Beach** audiences can don headphones and take in a vista teeming with activity as a hidden vocalist sings everyday interactions into epic significance in ***The Invisible Opera***. Also in the City of Stirling, ***Nightwalks with Teenagers*** sees young people lead a friendly neighbourhood tour to discover our city's streets with different eyes.

Fed by the sun, forests and fecundity abound throughout the program. The esteemed **Akram Khan Company** returns to Perth with a spectacular Rudyard Kipling retelling through dance, theatre, music and animation in ***Jungle Book reimaged***. Theatrical magician **Geoff Sobelle** celebrates the fruits of the Earth with his audience gathered around a vast dinner table for **FOOD**. A single tree speaks volumes at the centre of **Ontroerend Goed's** exquisitely inventive palindromic eco-drama ***Are we not drawn onward to new erA***.

Below the streets of Perth life reclaims the empty **Carillon City** basement food court through the wondrous ***Wetland*** living plant installation by **Linda Tegg** with **Vivienne Hansen**. In the lightwell above, **Rebecca Baumann's *Light Event*** will bathe audiences in iridescent light.

We present acclaimed composer **Jonathan Mills'** operatic adaption of **Murray Bail's** Miles Franklin Award-winning ***Eucalyptus***. Part Australian fairytale and part word-painting of the Australian bush, this world-premiere concert features an exceptional Australian cast performing with the **West Australian Symphony Orchestra** and **West Australian Opera Chorus**.

Musical wonders continue at Perth Concert Hall with an extraordinarily diverse music program, beginning with the return of iconic Italian composer and pianist **Ludovico Einaudi** and ending with the great American string quartet **Brooklyn Rider**. Performer and academic **Dr Lou Bennett AM** and singer-songwriter **Lior** are joined by the **Australian String Quartet** for ***Ngapa William Cooper***. The **Australian Chamber Orchestra** present their poetic synergy of film and music ***River***, narrated on screen by acting great **Willem Dafoe**.

Global powerhouse and five-time Grammy Award winner **Angélique Kidjo** and legendary Australian troubadour **Paul Kelly** bring decades of boundless musical creativity to the stage in their shows at Perth Concert Hall, with Noongar artist **Maatakitj** supporting Kidjo on her Australian tour.

On the closing weekend, charismatic Zambian performer **Sampa The Great** brings her crowd-jumping mix of rap, hip hop and R&B to the purpose-built stage under the stars at **Supreme Court Gardens**. Two nights later, Mercury Prize-winning British singer-songwriter and producer **Sampha** hits the stage there with his intoxicating blend of pop, R&B, soul, jazz and west African music.

We take over **The Rechabite** in Northbridge again in 2024 to bring some of the most exciting music acts from across the globe – including **Greentea Peng** (UK), **Kings of Convenience** (Norway), **Lonnie Holley**, **Moor Mother & Irreversible Entanglements** (USA), **Michael Rother & Friends** (Germany), **Cymande** (UK), legendary Zambian sensation **WITCH** and an incredible array of Australian acts including **Courtney Barnett** and the First Nations artists in the returning **Flewnt's Boorloo Block Party**.

Groundbreaking dance and theatre collective **The Farm** returns to Perth with their genre-bending **Stunt Double** stepping inside the power dynamic of a 1970s Aussie action-flick. It is one of many thrilling new Festival commissions across the program, including **Mutiara**, a brand-new Broome-Malay dance and theatre collaboration by the much-loved company **Marrugeku**. Our celebration of local artists continues, with the world-premieres of **Geordie Crawley** and **Elise Wilson's** immersive cabin-in-the-woods thriller **Logue Lake** and the post-sunset joy of **Black Swan State Theatre Company of WA's** world premiere production **The Pool** at **Bold Park Aquatic Centre**. Nearby, **West Australian Ballet's** ever-popular **Ballet at the Quarry** returns to the **Quarry Amphitheatre**.

After the success of **Perth Moves** in 2023, **STRUT Dance** is back to celebrate movement, music, connection and community at its free 10-day dance hub. In **Wayfinder** an inflatable set and kilometres of coloured thread feature in **Dancenorth Australia's** explosion of dance, music and visual art created with three-time Grammy-nominees **Hiatus Kaiyote** and Japanese-Australian visual artist **Hiromi Tango**.

Across galleries and site-specific projects, visual artists ask audiences to consider sustainability and the tension between heat's creative and destructive power. The entire **Visual Arts** program is free, including iconic US artist **Joan Jonas'** first Australian exhibition **Sun Signals**, the largest Australian showing of **Yhonne Scarce's** glass and mixed media works in her solo show **The Light of Day** and Thai artist **Rirkrit Tiravanija's** public art provocations that will appear around town throughout the Festival.

Exhibitions featuring **Helen Johnson**, **A.K. Burns**, **Robert Fielding**, **Susan Flavell**, **Andrew Nicholls**, **Curtis Taylor** and many others also brighten up gallery spaces across the city. In 2024 **DADAA** comes together with three Japanese arts and disability organisations to reframe our understanding of disability arts and culture with **A Rising in the East**. While at **Fremantle Arts Centre** First Nations perspectives and knowledge are the focus of the group exhibition **Polarity: Fire & Ice**.

Writers Weekend (23 – 25 February) has a new home at the **State Library of Western Australia**, as we reinvent the writers' festival experience in an exciting new partnership with **Writing WA**. After a special opening evening with **Deborah Conway**, there will be two binge-worthy days of inspiring sessions across every form and genre with guests including **Brenda Matthews**, **Laura Jean McKay**, **Christos Tsiolkas**, **Mok Zining**, **Natasha Lester**, **Holden Sheppard** and **A.J. Betts**. Acclaimed American writer **Jane Smiley** closes the weekend with a bang as she discusses her thrilling new novel **A Dangerous Business**. More names will be announced with the full program released in December. Over the previous weekend, the Ideas Program will see the free **Ngaank Talks** series light up the

afternoon at **UWA Somerville** and staged readings of **Victoria Midwinter Pitt's *I'm With Her*** will be in the evening at the **Octagon Theatre** next door.

To usher in summer ahead of the main Festival, our **Lotterywest Films** season returns to **UWA Somerville** on 20 November with the Australian premiere of ***Copa 71***. In **James Erskine** and **Rachel Ramsay's** crowd-pleasing documentary, the pioneering women players and unseen archival footage tell the extraordinary story of the 1971 Women's Soccer World Cup, a tournament that attracted record crowds but has been largely written out of sporting history.

Copa 71 leads a 19-week line-up of the best new international films including the Oscar-nominated feature ***EO***, the Cannes Grand Prize-winning historic drama ***The Zone of Interest***, Cannes Palme d'Or-winning thriller ***Anatomy of a Fall***, Spanish charming deadpan comedy animation ***Robot Dreams*** and **Wim Wenders'** return to form with his poignant Japan-set film about finding beauty in the everyday, ***Perfect Days***.

We also hit the road again to share our **Touring WA** program of dance, music and films with audiences from the Great Southern to the Pilbara. Those spreading the magic include **Paul Kelly** in Kalgoorlie, **Dancenorth Australia's *Wayfinder*** in Albany, Bunbury, Geraldton and Karratha, and a First Nations music and culture celebration ***Flewnt's Block Party Boom*** in Geraldton, Busselton and Broome.

Also creating bridges between artists and audiences will be our **Connect** program of arts sector support, creative learning and community engagement opportunities. Visit our [website](#) to get involved.

Artistic Director Iain Grandage says: 'Our 2024 Festival will be filled with light, life and love. This Festival will bathe us in warmth like our nearest star and have us celebrating our shared lives under the same sun. We celebrate not only our shared humanity, but also Ngaangk's effect on the Earth and the botanical marvels that grow here.'

'Our Festival speaks to the life-giving sun above and the energy that radiates within us all. We cannot wait for you to join us – we hope to make your faces shine.'

Perth Festival runs from Friday 9 February to Sunday 3 March 2024.

Lotterywest Films runs from Monday 20 November 2023 to Sunday 31 March 2024.

Festival Club members priority access booking period is open from Wednesday 25 to Sunday 29 October 2023.

General Public ticket sales open at 12pm WST on Monday 30 October.

BOOKINGS AND FESTIVAL INFO: perthfestival.com.au

Click [HERE](#) for media kits and images.

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Perth Festival acknowledges the Noongar people who continue to practise their values, language, beliefs, and knowledge on their kwobidak boodjar.

They remain the spiritual and cultural birdiyangara of this place and we honour and respect their caretakers and custodians and the vital role Noongar people play for our community and our Festival to flourish.

Perth Festival

Founded in 1953 by The University of Western Australia, Perth Festival is the longest running international arts festival in Australia and Western Australia's premier cultural event. The Festival has developed a worldwide reputation for excellence in its international program, the presentation of new works and the highest quality artistic experiences for its audience. For 70 years, the Festival has welcomed to Perth some of the world's greatest living artists and now connects with hundreds of thousands of people each year.

Iain Grandage is the Artistic Director 2020 – 24.



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