

MEDIA RELEASE: Friday 9 February 2024

## PERTH FESTIVAL 2024 OPENS TODAY

**More than 100 free and ticketed events will inspire and delight all month long**

**Perth Festival 2024** kicks off with a bumper opening weekend welcoming audiences to an exciting array of new experiences to share across the city and regional Western Australia.

Fabulous February gets a whole lot sunnier with a full spectrum of world premieres, famous international stars and shimmering local stories to make our faces shine all month long. Check out the Perth Festival 2024 video [here](#).



*Jungle Book reimaged. Image: Ambra Venuccio*

This weekend is packed with grand spectacle, tender storytelling and dazzling artistry including **WA Opera's** world-premiere lovelorn Noongar epic ***Wundig wer Wilura***, **Akram Khan's** global hit ***Jungle Book reimaged***, the acclaimed Broome-Singapore dance theatre of **Marrugeku's *Mutiara***, **Black Swan State Theatre Company of WA's** splash-fest ***The Pool***, the ***Perth Moves*** free dance hub run by **STRUT Dance**, iconic pianist **Ludovico Einaudi** in concert and so much more.

We also take our **Touring WA** program to Geraldton, with ***Block Party Boom*** celebrating First Nations' hip hop music and culture at the **Queens Park Theatre Amphitheatre**, and the **Bunbury Regional Entertainment Centre** hosting the dance, music and art sensation ***Wayfinder***.

As we celebrate the theme of **Ngaangk**, our mother star for Festival 2024, the sun and its botanic progeny infuse two special free events inside Perth's empty **Carillon City** shopping mall. **Rebecca Baumann's Light Event** bathes audiences in shifting shades of coloured sunlight beneath the atrium roof, and hundreds of water-plants inhabit the flooded basement food court in **Linda Tegg's Wetland**, in collaboration with **Vivienne Hansen**. These are just two of the many exhibitions running across the diverse visual arts program throughout the Festival.

At **The Rechabite**, ballroom trailblazers **House of Reign** join audacious MCs **Vv Pete** and **JULAI** in a free-entry extravaganza to open three weeks of global rhythms at our Northbridge hot spot. Acts include **Courtney Barnett**, **Lonnie Holley**, **Moor Mother & Irreversible Entanglements**, **Michael Rother & Friends**, **Flewnt's Boorloo Block Party**, **xmunashe**, **Wednesday** and **MJ Lenderman**, **Thee Sacred Souls** and **Greentea Peng** all the way through to March.

**Artistic Director Iain Grandage** says: 'Welcome to your Festival filled with light and warmth, built to celebrate our shared humanity through stories from here and around the globe.'

'Over the next three weeks, some of the finest artists in the world are with us, each creating the most extraordinary experiences across locations around our city of light. It is a privilege to share their offerings with audiences from near and far – we hope to make your faces shine.'

With many Festival shows selling fast, tickets are still available to experience the tasty stage illusion of **FOOD**, with the audience joining creator **Geoff Sobelle** at a linen-clad table on the stage of **His Majesty's Theatre**. Other highlights include the brilliance of acclaimed string quartet **Brooklyn Rider**, the exhilarating stage show **Wayfinder**, the artistry of **Dr Lou Bennett**, **Lior** and the **Australian String Quartet** in **Ngapa William Cooper** and the new-look **Writers Weekend** (23 – 25 February) at the **State Library of Western Australia**.

On the final Friday of the Festival, **Sampa The Great** brings her powerhouse mix of rap, hip hop and R&B to **Supreme Court Gardens**, where British superstar **Sampha** wraps up the weekend with his mesmerising soul-fuelled live concert supported by **Nai Palm** from **Hiatus Kaiyote** on Sunday March 3. Festival 2024 ends formally in a twilight of togetherness at our free **Lotterywest Closing Event Under the Same Sun** on Saturday, 2 March. Capacity limits apply so you must register for tickets to attend.

Also forging deeper understanding and connection for artists and audiences will be our arts-sector support, creative learning and community engagement opportunities through our extensive **Connect** program of special behind-the-scenes experiences. Visit our [website](#) to get involved.

These are just some of the 120 diverse and accessible events – many of them free – across theatre, music, dance, opera and literature until the Labour Day long weekend. And our extensive **Lotterywest Films** and visual arts programs continue running through to late March and April.

Perth Festival runs from Friday 9 February to Sunday 3 March 2024. Lotterywest Films is currently running through to Sunday 31 March 2024.

BOOKINGS AND FESTIVAL INFO: [perthfestival.com.au](https://perthfestival.com.au)

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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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