

## SYDNEY FESTIVAL 2013

### This Is Our City In Summer

January 5-27

Festival Director **Lieven Bertels** and the Sydney Festival team today revealed the full program for **Sydney Festival 2013**, an explosion of exceptional theatre, dance, music, visual arts, film and more that will take over Sydney's venues, streets and parks from January 5-27.

Bertels' first program as Festival Director continues the precedent established by previous Directors, bringing high quality programming sourced from around the world and within Australia, with a unique slant that reflects his background in musicology and radio & TV production.

From one-off musical experiences and intimate storytelling-based events to large-scale free visual spectacles and plenty of opportunities for Sydneysiders to kick up their heels and dance, this year's Sydney Festival has something for everybody. 92 events (18 of them free!) will take place across the Sydney CBD, Parramatta, the Inner West, Chatswood and Mosman.

**Sydney Festival Parramatta** returns with ten days jam-packed with free and ticketed events in the true heart of Sydney. With an even bigger and better Spiegeltent, the **Salon Perdu**, and free opening and closing events suitable for the whole family, Sydney Festival Parramatta expands Sydney Festival's ongoing commitment to present great work in Western Sydney.

Fresh from a highly acclaimed season on Broadway, sexy Latino circus show **URBAN from Circolombia** promises to be one of the hot tickets of Sydney Festival 2013. It's gravity-defying three-man towers, somersaults and flips will fill Parramatta's Riverside Theatre with a high-energy depiction of life on the streets in Colombia.

This year's **About an Hour** program will fill multi-arts venue Carriageworks over a massive long weekend, giving Festival devotees the opportunity to see five or more productions in the one day and soak in the Festival atmosphere.

In the hugely popular **Honda Festival Garden, The Famous Spiegeltent** plays host to not one but two house shows this year, with the World Premiere of **INSIDE** from physical comedy geniuses **Frank Woodley** and **Simon Yates** and the irresistibly dark cabaret/variety act **Cantina** from Brisbane's **Strut & Fret Production House**.

Home grown talent is well-represented with the world premiere of Sydney Theatre Company's **The Secret River**, directed by **Neil Armfield and adapted for stage by Andrew Bovell**. World Premieres continue with Sydney's visual theatre magicians Erth's **Murder** (based on Nick Cave's chilling *Murder Ballads*), and a highly original fusion of street sport and dance **Concrete and Bone Sessions** from Branch Nebula, held at dusk around the rim of the Dulwich Hill Skate Park. Plus new work from **Dappled Cities, Legs On The Wall, Ensemble Offspring, Performance Space** and more.

Sydney Festival's ongoing claim to being "**the most wonderful summer festival in the world**" makes perfect sense when you throw in highly anticipated performances from **David Byrne & St. Vincent** and **Dirty Projectors**, Australian debuts from artists including **Richard Hawley** and **Mike Scott and The Waterboys**, and work from **La Fura dels Baus, Fabulous Beast** and **Heiner Goebbels** are just some of the international acts appearing at Sydney Festival 2013.

**This Is Our City In Summer.**

**QUICK STATS:**

- For three weeks every January, Sydney Festival presents a diverse program of theatre, music, dance, films, visual arts, talks and genre-defying events, with something for everyone.
- In 2013, there are 92 events in the Festival, and 18 of these are **free**, for a total of 360 performances
- Over 53 venues and sites around Sydney will host Sydney Festival events, ranging from major theatres and regular Festival favourites State Theatre, Sydney Opera House, Theatre Royal and Carriageworks, to streets, laneways, beaches and even the Dulwich Hill Skate Park
- Over 750 artists will come from nearly 20 countries around the world to be part of Sydney Festival
- There is no rest for Festival devotees – even though many Festival shows have short seasons, there is something on every night!
- Sydney Festival 2013 presents 25 Australian exclusives, 10 world premières and 3 further Australian premières.

**DAY ONE: AN OPENING IN THREE ACTS**

**Sydney Festival 2013** will open with a trilogy of free outdoor spectacles spearheading a weekend full of openings and premieres.

Kicking off the Festival is **Fun Run** in Hyde Park in the morning, a unique event that combines sport, comedy, live performance and community group engagement as the crowd cheers our unlikely athletic hero Humphrey along his 42.2km treadmill marathon. With a celebrity MC and Humphrey's own professional dancing troupe Haus da Humps on hand to keep energy levels at a constant high, Fun Run has wowed audiences in Melbourne and Darwin, and promises to be bigger and better than ever before. Don't forget your spandex!

**Day One's** family friendly party in the sunshine continues with **The Arrival** at Darling Harbour. Directed by Legs On The Wall's **Patrick Nolan**, **The Arrival** is a harbour-warming welcome celebration of dance, theatre and song for Dutch artist **Florentijn Hofman**'s giant bobbing artwork **Rubber Duck at Darling Harbour**. With **Rubber Duck** sizing up at a massive 15 metres' high (with a little more in girth), you'll see Pyrmont Bridge and the Monorail line swing open to accommodate our colourful bathtub toy guest who will inhabit Darling Harbour for over two weeks of Sydney Festival.

And in The Domain at night, it's time to party in the park, Sydney Festival style. Join 60,000 of your closest friends for the **Daptone Super Soul Revue**; a huge outdoor dance party featuring **Sharon Jones & The Dap-Kings**, **Charles Bradley**, **Menahan Street Band** and **Sugarman 3**, with the super cool **Binky Griptite** from the Dap-Kings as MC for the evening.

From the House of Soul to the Domain stage, the **Daptone Super Soul Revue** is a nonstop 3-hour show starring a red hot selection of artists from the infamous Brooklyn label Daptone Records, the indie label which has delivered delectable nuggets of Soul, Funk, Gospel and Afrobeat to the world for the last decade. Musician-owned and run, the Brooklyn-based family of soul-drenched talent channels the spirits of bygone powerhouses like Stax and Motown into gilded moments of movement and joy. We dare you not to dance!

**Sharon Jones** returns to Sydney Festival with her 10-piece backing band **The Dap-Kings**. Known for her relentless energy and soulful voice, Jones and her awesome band are the perfect choice to celebrate the return of summer and Sydney Festival!

**MUSIC/THEATRE**

Opera is represented in this year's Sydney Festival in a big way, with **Semele Walk**, a bold take on Handel's **Semele** which sees Berlin's **Solistenensemble Kaleidoskop** join forces with **Sydney Philharmonia Choirs** and ten local catwalk models dressed in outrageous Vivienne Westwood couture for a truly original visual and musical spectacle. In stark contrast, **The Peony Pavilion & The Jade Hairpin** are two classic Chinese

operas from **The Northern Kunqu Opera Theatre**, while **Opera Australia** joins with **La Fura dels Baus** to present an innovative feast for the senses with **A Masked Ball**.

On a quieter note, music and verse are brought together seamlessly for **Royal Shakespeare Company's The Rape of Lucrece**, performed by Irish chanteuse **Camille O'Sullivan** with live piano on stage by her long time collaborator **Feargal Murray**.

## THEATRE

Festival favourite **Heiner Goebbels** brings his seminal work **Eraritjaritjaka** to the Theatre Royal, a spellbinding production about the potency of language and imagination accompanied by a live performance from Amsterdam's **Mondriaan String Quartet**, while **The Conch Theatre's Masi** weaves together photography, Fijian dance and illusion to tell a real life love story from the 1950s.

At Sydney Theatre Company, Kate Grenville's haunting Australian tale **The Secret River** comes to life under the direction of **Neil Armfield**, while high school tropes are celebrated in the cheesy and hilarious **School Dance**.

Celebrated Kuwaiti writer and director **Sulayman Al-Bassam** explores violence and freedom with a series of eight short scenes about the Arab Spring entitled **In The Eruptive Mode**; Sydney's **Erth** presents the gruesomely beautiful **Murder** (most definitely not for children) inspired by Nick Cave's *Murder Ballads*; and **Bojana Novakovic** meets a new blind date every night in front of audiences for **The Blind Date Project**, an improvised show where no two nights are the same.

## DANCE

The 2013 program features three very different dance pieces from around the world. Ireland's **Fabulous Beast** return to Sydney with **Rian**, a colourful, energetic celebration of Irish dance infused with West African culture, with live music from Musical Director **Liam Ó Maonláí** (Hothouse Flowers) and five of Ireland's top musicians.

Over in Dulwich Hill Skate Park, audiences are treated to a unique fusion of theatre, dance and urban street sport as the highly acclaimed Australian theatre company **Branch Nebula** present **Concrete and Bone Sessions**; featuring professional skaters, parkourists and dancers flirting with risk and danger as the sun goes down.

For an intimate, moving piece, German writer-turned-choreographer **Raimund Hoghe's Sacre – The Rite Of Spring** pays tribute to Stravinsky's composition with an intriguing fusion of theatre and dance, joined on stage by the athletic dancer **Lorenzo de Brabandere** and two adventurous pianists **Alain Franco** and **Guy Vandromme** who also appear in a separate Satie concert later in the festival.

## ABOUT AN HOUR

Over a long weekend at Carriageworks, Sydney Festival's popular **About an Hour** series is back, with 45 performances of nine diverse works spanning theatre, storytelling, movement and music programmed so you can see up to five performances within the one day.

Australia's **Legs On The Wall** celebrate Beethoven's 7<sup>th</sup> Symphony with **Symphony**, fusing physical performance, music and video and featuring celebrated guitarist Stefan Gregory (Faker); UK's quirky performance troupe **Curious** involve audiences in a highly original and haunting performance installation **The Moment I Saw You I Knew I Could Love You** featuring a real life local couple of 80-somethings who are still madly in love; and Spain's experimental **Sleepwalk Collective** bring to Sydney a one-woman tragicomedy exploring B-Grade movies, vintage cinema and pop culture clichés.

**Ensemble Offspring** bring musical experimentation into About An Hour, with **Ligeti Morphed**, while celebrated composer **Jon Rose** transforms a rusting car wreck from the Australian outback into a dynamic multimedia experience.

Meanwhile, the creators behind *The Adventures of Alvin Sputnik: Deep Sea Explorer* return with **It's Dark Outside**, a heartfelt story of an old man wandering into the wild; the lively two-hander **Othello c'est qui** exploring the legendary role of Othello in a different light; and the irresistible rock 'n' roll cabaret act **Die Roten Punkte** who are set to blitz Sydney with their show **Kunst Rock**.

And for something free and different, Performance Space joins forces with Sydney Festival for **Micro Parks**, a walking-based exploration of the puzzlingly small single house-sized parks dotted around Sydney's Inner West, featuring installations, dance pieces and durational performances from artists including **Martin del Amo**, **Kate Mitchell** and **Sarah Goffman**.

## MUSIC

Sydney Festival celebrates Stanley Kubrick with a live soundtrack accompanying the screening of celebrated film **2001: A Space Odyssey** performed by **The Sydney Symphony** and **Sydney Philharmonia Choirs** in the Concert Hall at Sydney Opera House, and again (for free!) at **Symphony In The Domain** with music from Kubrick's films including *A Clockwork Orange* and *Eyes Wide Shut*.

**David Byrne & St. Vincent** come to Sydney following the release of their highly acclaimed collaborative album *Love This Giant*, Malian superstar **Rokia Traoré** will wow audiences with her versatility and voice at three very different performances in different venues around Sydney and Australia's much-loved storyteller **Archie Roach** returns to Sydney Festival with **Into The Bloodstream**, backed by a 10-voice gospel choir led by Black Arm Band's **Lou Bennett**.

From Lithuania, **Sandglasses** is a mesmerising fusion of four amplified cellists with light, video and electronics; France's **Orchestre National de Jazz** pays homage to the venerable sage of British art rock with **Around Robert Wyatt**; and Brooklyn's indie rock band of the moment **Dirty Projectors** fills the Sydney Opera House Concert Hall with their extensively rehearsed, jaw-dropping live interplay.

**Mike Scott and The Waterboys** make their long-awaited debut in Australia with their tribute to the poetry of W.B Yeats, Indonesian grunge band **Navicula** tread the well-worn stage at Sydney University's Manning Bar, and Berlin's **Solistenensemble Kaleidoskop** (also performing in **Semele Walk**) transform the traditional concert-going experience at City Recital Hall Angel Place, walking the fine lines between contemporary and classical, the experimental and the orthodox.

Meanwhile, a unique musical experience for those who dare will take place for one night only with **Satie Vexations**, when pianists **Guy Vandromme** and **Alain Franco** take on one-tenth of the eccentric composers' wish to hear his 80-second composition *Vexations* played 840 times in a row (that would take 18 hours - ours is just two and a half, with an interval and free wine tasting included, to deliberately alter your perception on second hearing!).

The unstoppable voices of **Angélique Kidjo**, **Dianne Reeves** and **Lizz Wright** combine in **Sing The Truth**, a dazzling night of passionate song honouring the music and spirit of some of the great women of music, including Nina Simone, Billie Holiday and Joni Mitchell, at the State Theatre. **Sing The Truth** will also be performed for free at **Summer Sounds in The Domain**, perfect for a night of soulful music with friends and family under the stars in Sydney's favourite outdoor venue.

And for the early risers, Russian alphornist **Arkady Shilkloper** will perform for free at sunrise at various locations around Sydney (including beaches, parks and maybe even a ferry), to be announced via the website and social media closer to the Festival.

## PARADISO AT TOWN HALL

The Festival Bar moves inside into the opulent surrounds of Sydney's Town Hall with Paradiso at Town Hall, a tribute to Amsterdam's iconic rock venue, featuring a diverse range of artists from January 18-27.

Sydney Festival brings you ten back-to-back nights of international and national bands and DJs, featuring Japanese funk greats **Osaka Monaurail** supported by Melbourne's **Saskwatch**, original members of the **Kashmere Stage Band** with a rare screening of the **Thunder Soul Documentary**, and Sydney's **Dappled Cities** presenting their ten-year back catalogue in a baroque context.

Australia's best indie bands will pay tribute to Lenny Kaye's seminal garage rock anthology with **Nuggets: Antipodean Interpolations**, **Richard Hawley** (Pulp) makes his first visit to Sydney to showcase his solo work, and Norwegian pioneer of space disco **Lindstrøm** will have audiences at the Paradiso up on the dancefloor for the Future Classic club night.

After two sold-out nights last year, **So Frenchy So Chic** is back with a live showcase of France's eclectic and vibrant music scene, Metro Area's **Darshan Jesrani** and Balihu's **Daniel Wang** offer a night of disco and deep house and New York electronic wunderkind **Nicolas Jaar** brings genre-defying electronic music into Sydney's Town Hall.

Following the headline ticketed performance audiences can keep on dancing into the small hours with Paradiso at Town Hall's late night after parties. A new addition is the Paradiso Bar on the Terrace, a free entry bar from 5.30pm which is the perfect place to meet friends for an after-work or pre-show drink.

## HONDA FESTIVAL GARDEN

Back for its seventh year, **Honda Festival Garden's The Famous Spiegeltent** is home to two house shows; the world premiere of **Frank Woodley** and **Simon Yates'** physical theatre and silent comedy **INSIDE** about two chalk-and-cheese inmates attempting to break out of prison, and **Strut & Fret Production House's Cantina**, a dark and sexy variety act which comes to Sydney for the first time following hugely successful seasons in the UK, Belgium, France, Germany and The Netherlands.

Earlier in the evening, the Spiegeltent plays host to a range of musicians, including Brooklyn's latest indie darling **Sharon Van Etten**, the Spanish/Mexican/Californian inspired surf rock band **Los Coronas** and Mercury Prize nominated UK crooner **Lianne La Havas**. Banter and showmanship combine with **Norman Blake** and **Joe Pernice**'s new collaboration **The New Mendicants**; the confessional **Perfume Genius** finds the perfect intimate venue for his beautiful piano-led tunes; and New York's **yMusic** demonstrate why they are the go-to ensemble for bands including **Bon Iver**, **Grizzly Bear** and Sydney Festival 2013 favourites **Dirty Projectors**.

Late at night The Famous Spiegeltent becomes the **SpiegelCLUB**, with free access to DJ Tom Loud's international hit **Hot Dub Time Machine** every Saturday, a time travelling dance party which plays the best songs and video from 1954 'til the present day. Californian punk cabaret act **Hunx and His Punx** get loud and raucous, Nicolas Jaar's side project **DARKSIDE** presents a moody blend of electronic music and guitar-based sound, and **Nite Jewel** and **Peanut Butter Wolf** perform Kraftwerk's 1981 LP **Computer World**.

And for kids aged 5-85, Sydney Festival favourites **The Listies** have re-dubbed The Famous Spiegeltent **The Seagulltent**, for their hilarious live podcast **EARWORMS**.

## VISUAL ARTS & INSTALLATIONS

This year, major visual arts exhibitions and intimate installation experiences offer Sydney Festival audiences new and interesting ways to experience the Festival. In the public space of Carriageworks, contemporary Chinese artist **Song Dong** recreates the contents of his parents' house, with over 10,000 objects reflecting on his mother's grieving process and lifetime commitment to the ethos "waste not".

At the Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney is treated to the first major exhibition of outstanding figurative painter **Francis Bacon's** work, part of the Sydney International Art Series. Our **Music in the Void** series brings Sydney Festival artists **Arkady Shilkloper** and members of **Solistenensemble Kaleidoskop**, **yMusic** and **Orchestre National de Jazz** inside the Bacon exhibition to perform (free with a ticket to the exhibition).

Free in Mosman, the smartphone app based site-specific work **Notes for Walking** by Megan Heywood will show a new side to the beautiful Middle Head Reserve, while Sir Harrison Birtwistle's rarely heard piece of multi-channel electronic music **Chronometer** can be experienced while lounging on a beanbag and taking in the stunning view from Georges Heights Lookout. At the State Library of NSW, **The Quiet Volume** is a whispered, 'automatic' performance for two people at a time, a hush-hush treasure hunt of the imagination in the hallowed venue of the public library.

And who can forget **Florentijn Hofman's Rubber Duck at Darling Harbour**, the 15-metre (that's four storeys high!) yellow rubber duck who will bob along in Darling Harbour for the duration of the Festival, with little other purpose than to make Sydney smile.

## SYDNEY FESTIVAL PARRAMATTA

The jaw-dropping acrobatics, brazen attitude and high-voltage energy of Circolombia takes over Parramatta Riverside Theatre with **URBAN**, fresh from sell-out seasons at London's Roundhouse and performances in Paris and Broadway. Sexy and gritty, **URBAN** is a no holds barred autobiographical tale of life on the streets in Colombia.

Last year's hit **Parramatta Opening Party (POP)** is back, with the heart of Parramatta transformed for a day of free entertainment. The Riverside Theatres and Salon Perdu Spiegeltent will look after the kids with music and activities; **The Megaphone Project** turns Church Street into a participatory musical installation for all; **Matthew Timmis' Car-Cophony** creates a symphony of car stereos; **Tokyo Love-In's Tablatronics** fuses classical music with electronic beats; and the world's largest **Pyrophone** explodes with flames and irresistible beats! POP will wrap with a free performance from funk all-stars **Kashmere Stage Band** and Malian superstar **Rokia Traoré**.

In the **Parramatta Festival Garden**, the new Salon Perdu Spiegeltent will host Melbourne nine-piece funk band **Saskwatch** and Sydney-based singer-songwriter **Leah Flanagan**, along with **Lianne La Havas**, **yMusic** and **Norman Blake and Joe Pernice**, fresh from their performances in Hyde Park.

All male cabaret **Briefs** returns to Parramatta after whooping up a storm across Europe, ready to tantalise and tease with a contortion of vaudeville, burlesque, dance, clowning and *that* meat tray raffle scene.

**Sydney Festival Parramatta** comes to a close on Australia Day, with a free performance from **Archie Roach** in the evening, alongside Parramatta City Council's Australia Day celebrations (including fireworks!) and **Lah-Lah's Big Live Band** for the kids.

## TALKS

Director of **Eraritjaritjaka Heiner Goebbels** will join **Robyn Archer** for a conversation about his distinguished career. Recipient of the International Ibsen Award, Goebbels is at the forefront of contemporary performance making, and returns to Sydney Festival after his appearance at Sydney Festival 2004 with the much-loved *Hashirigaki*.

Dutch visual artist **Florentijn Hofman** will speak at the Powerhouse Museum about **Rubber Duck at Darling Harbour** and his inventive, bold and cartoonish work which has astonished people around the world.

Sydney Festival is also proud to include the launch of **Yellamundie**, the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Playwriting Festival, in this year's program. Yellamundie will bring together Aboriginal and Torres Strait

## MEDIA RELEASE October 23, 2012

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# SYDNEY FESTIVAL 2013

Islander writers, directors, dramaturgs, and actors in the first Indigenous national playwriting gathering in over 10 years.

### FERRYTHON

Last but not least, the hugely popular event that's been with the Festival since the first year in 1977 is the ***Ferrython***. Taking place on Australia Day, Sydney's trademark ferries get dressed to the nines and race across the spectacular harbour. Pack a picnic, gather on the foreshore and barrack for your favourite!

**As always, it's a lot to take in! But there is lots more information, images, videos, links to social media and so much more at [www.sydneyfestival.org.au](http://www.sydneyfestival.org.au).**

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