

## APAM 2016 PLACES BRISBANE FIRMLY ON THE GLOBAL STAGE

**Brisbane City Council Lord Mayor Graham Quirk** today officially opened the Australian Performing Arts Market (APAM) 2016 at Brisbane Powerhouse, declaring the event would bring an influx of visitors to the city and shine a light on Australian arts and culture.

APAM is an industry event for contemporary performing arts and will be held from 22 to 26 February. More than 630 delegates from around 30 countries will be warmly welcomed on to country through song, story and dance, and celebrating Australia's oldest living culture. They will witness extraordinary contemporary performing artists and companies present 43 Australian and New Zealand showcases and pitches.

"The Australian Performing Arts Market 2016 will showcase the strength of Brisbane's creative economy and will further build on Brisbane's reputation as Australia's New World City," Cr Quirk said.

"APAM will give our international visitors an opportunity to see why Brisbane is a top destination for arts and culture and create more leisure and lifestyle opportunities for Brisbane residents."

APAM will host over 250 Australian and New Zealand artists and companies across the range of performing arts genres, who will present or pitch their work to festival directors, venue managers and program executives from around the world to find touring partners and investors to take their shows to audiences in Australia and overseas.

This will include **Opera Australia's *The Rabbits*, with Kate Miller-Heidke** performing the lead role alongside Indigenous performers and opera singers. Brisbane company **Circa**, who are leading the way with outstanding international success, will present ***Carnival of the Animals***, and **Marrugeku's *Cut the Sky*** will showcase innovative intercultural dance theatre from northwest Australia.

*At the opening media event guests were treated to a performance from dance sensations Djuki Mala. The group, who hail from North East Arnhem Land, fuse traditional Yolngu and contemporary pop culture, dance and storytelling to create work that is a marvel of timing, comedy and clowning.*

**Australia Council Executive Director Strategic Development and Advocacy Wendy Were** said she was particularly excited about the First Nations Exchange and "boot camp" skills development program, which are part of a highly productive partnership between the Australia Council, the Canada Council and Creative New Zealand.

"First Nations arts leaders attending APAM from three countries will focus on sharing knowledge and ideas, as well as building their capacity to access new international markets and audiences. This will strengthen collaboration and partnerships which are vital for new projects between Australian and international artists and arts organisations."

**Minister for Tourism and Major Events Kate Jones** said APAM's celebrated contemporary arts experience was a fantastic addition to Brisbane's cultural scene.

"The Palaszczuk Government recognises the importance of events such as APAM in supporting Brisbane's \$6.3 billion tourism industry and inspiring the world to experience the best address on earth."

In addition to providing the premier platform for Australian and New Zealand contemporary performing arts companies and artists to build international and national tours, APAM champions the ongoing exchange of ideas and dialogue. It is through this philosophy a focused program of conversation, dialogue, networking opportunities and engagement with our diverse global sector will begin with Welcoming Words, APAM's Keynote Event hosted by **Wesley Enoch, Sydney Festival Director**.

Enoch will lead discussions with our keynote speakers **Kee Hong Low (Head of Artistic Development, West Kowloon Cultural District Authority, Hong Kong)**, **Darren O'Donnell (Artistic and Research Director of Mammalian Diving Reflex Canada)**, winner of the **ANTI International Live Art Prize Willoh S. Welland and Gamillaro/Torres Strait Islander writer and actor Nakkiah Lui**. Each leader will address the ways in which they define themselves in relation to personal identity, community and artistic vision, reflecting on provocations surrounding legacy and social imprint.

Brisbane Powerhouse will be the home for APAM 2016 activities and performances, with the support of a network of local partner venues including the Queensland Performing Arts Centre (QPAC), the Judith Wright Centre of Contemporary Arts (JWCOCA) and Sofitel Brisbane Central.

Representatives from **Performance Space 122 (USA)**, **Singapore International Festival of Arts (SING)**, **Tiger Dublin Fringe (IRE)** and **Internationale Tanzmesse NRW (GER)** will join Brisbane Powerhouse **Artistic Director Kris Stewart** at one of the most popular activities at the market. The Round Tables give participants the chance to uncover exciting and up-to-date information about topics and regions relevant to their interests and touring objectives.

Mr Stewart said, "the scale of this event and the value it brings to these companies and artists would not be possible without the tri-partisan level of investment by Federal, State and Local Government."

APAM 2016 is presented by the Australia Council in partnership with Brisbane Powerhouse and coincides with WTF, Brisbane Powerhouse's contemporary performance event.

Brisbane City Council is the principal supporter of APAM. The Queensland Government, through Arts Queensland and Tourism and Events Queensland, proudly supports APAM 2016 and 2018.

For more information on APAM, visit [www.performingartsmarket.com.au](http://www.performingartsmarket.com.au). You can also keep up to date with APAM through our social channels - [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#) #APAM2016.

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