



**RELEASE EMBARGOED UNTIL 7PM THURSDAY 8<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2020**

**BLEACH\* REVEALS AN IMPRESSIVE &  
REIMAGINED FESTIVAL PROGRAM.  
214 PERFORMANCES, 34 EVENTS, 11 DAYS!  
12-22 NOVEMBER 2020**

Following the challenges that COVID-19 presented to communities all around the world, the team at Placemakers\* Gold Coast are extremely thankful that they are able to announce their 2020 program today for this year's BLEACH\* Festival. The Gold Coast's signature annual arts and cultural celebration was originally slated to be hosted in August this year, however they have been able to adapt by moving the festival from the original dates to commencing on 12<sup>th</sup> November, just over a month away.

At a time which has challenged all of us, the necessity of art, culture, connectiveness, compassion and inclusion has never been so crucial. The human spirit always shines in the face of adversity and BLEACH\* has a passion to deliver a little reprieve from our daily challenges with an extensive and diverse program across three precincts during the 11-day festival.

*"In a year where disruption and uncertainty has hovered over the entire world...keeping us all in limbo; stopping and starting our rhythms; separating us from family, friends and loved ones; forcing us to reconsider how we live; opening the door for us to change; a festival of any kind seemed an impossibility."* said CEO of Placemakers\* and Artistic Director for BLEACH\*.

*"With the support of the City of Gold Coast, I'm thrilled that we've been able to do just that, to bring this year's festival to you, in real life, across three unique hubs – Burleigh Heads, Chevron Island and the Botanic Gardens to tell the stories of this place, in this time."*

Bleach\* 2020 invites audiences to experience the coast through great storytelling, contemporary art, music, cabaret and dance. Whether that be watching an artwork unfold on the edge of the shoreline or in backyards and balconies of soon-to-be demolished houses. In 2020, Bleach\* is unashamedly local, celebrating the city's best artists, showcasing renowned Queensland musicians and one-of-a-kind contemporary arts experiences.

The first festival precinct to open will be at **Burleigh Heads**. Locals and visitors are invited to meet on the Burleigh shore for live performances, music, installation and events with a dedicated First Nations focus and some of South East QLD's most celebrated artists and cultural leaders.

Mark the first day of Bleach\* with a 5am ceremony by Luther Cora & Yugambah Dancers and on the last day of the festival, a special sunset performance. The Burleigh Bora and Speaking Circle at Justin Park is a hive of activity every day and night during the festival with the program highlight and celebrating traditional culture with a range of performances, storytelling, song, workshops, forums, dance, dusk recitals and nightly light installations by Indigenous lighting designer Chloe Ogilvie.

Done & Dappered featuring Joe Tongi (The Godbarber) and students from Arcadia College will be ready to give you a polished hairdo at the pop-up barber shop and bop in the sunshine with slick tunes by an all teenage DJ crew from the Audio-G project.

A highlight of the Burleigh program will be a one-day only 'Block Party': a diverse celebration of the local music scene and exciting First Nations artists including poetic riffing by *Jesswar* and heavy beats by *Wildheart* staged over five hours featuring local *Siala* – runner up from *The Voice*.

The Bleach\* Club is the ideal place to meet and mingle with old and new friends during the festival. Enjoy a chilled beverage and a bite to eat at the oceanside oasis with local DJ's spinning out slick tunes open every day of the festival from 12pm until 9pm.

**Chevron Island** will be converted into the festival's second major hub. Art and music lovers are invited to venture into **Chez Nous** – an abandoned block of houses, slated for demolition, transformed into the Bleach\* theatre. The team has cleverly crafted nine unique experience all for one small ticket price staged from backyards and balconies. Chevron Island is about to get a jab of cultural adrenaline.

Be mesmerised by Intermezzo, a performance by The 7 Soprano's which will fill the air with melodic harmonies. View DNA, a giant artwork by Gold Coast artist Glennys Briggs on the exterior of an abandoned house. Like a little jazz music? Be entertained by Bartz's Brew, featuring Martha Baartz. J'Aimime known as the Bubble Girl will deliver an acrobatic performance which is certain to make an impression. Not for the faint hearted, Shannen Jones will display a mind-boggling contortion act combined with feats of archery not to be missed. House Party by Mint Art House Collective will also create an immersive installation amongst the derelict house. This and much more at Chez Nous. One ticket, Nine experiences from \$45 per person.

During the festival, Chevron Island will also feature a veritable feast of additional events including Queerstories by Maeve Marsden, AVANT YARD by Queensland Poetry Festival, Shock Therapy Productions, The G.O.A.T Show, Strings and Beat by super septet *Nonsemble* supported by *DENNIS*. and Honky Tonk Town by Joan Preston. Gather around the Hills Hoist for a movie screening of *Brother* (PG), then settle in for *Swinging Safari* (M) at the Chevron Island hub.

Closing the Festival in 2020, will be an afternoon of live music from the grounds of the Gold Coast's **Botanic Gardens** by Southern Cross Soloists. This free signature community event invites you to bring friends and family to meet at the lush surrounds of the spectacular gardens for a free sundowner event under the wide Gold Coast sky. Kick back on the grass, BYO a picnic and visit our festival bar and be serenaded by the Southern Cross Soloists under a canopy of stars. Celebrate the spectacular outdoor setting that epitomises the Gold Coast lifestyles. Guests are invited to register online to secure their complimentary tickets.

The 2020 festival will be the first presented by new CEO and Artistic Director Rosie Dennis. Confronted with the challenges of presenting art in this time of immense uncertainty, programming has not been without its challenges. However, Dennis was always determined to bring a reimagined Bleach\* to the coast, and use the opportunity to showcase the extraordinary calibre of artists and musicians living on the coast and the rich diversity of First Nations history.

*“The Gold Coast has come of age as a cultural capital and nothing demonstrates this better than BLEACH\* Festival. With its amazing array of events and experiences – all tailored to specific Gold Coast indoor and outdoor sites – this is the beating heart of this city’s arts and culture scene.”* said Mayor Tom Tate, City of Gold Coast.

*“I absolutely love it because it entertains us, it celebrates our way of life, it challenges us to think about our world and our relationships. More than anything else, it makes us laugh and smile. A perfect antidote to challenging times. If you love Gold Coast, you will adore BLEACH\*.”*

#### **EVENT DETAILS:**

**Bleach\* runs 12 – 22 November 2020**

**2020 Venues: Burleigh Heads, Botanic Gardens, and Chevron Island**

**Sign up for latest festival news, special offers and 2020 program announcement at [www.bleachfestival.com.au](http://www.bleachfestival.com.au)**

**FULL PROGRAM LINK:** [www.bleachfestival.com.au](http://www.bleachfestival.com.au)

**IMAGE LINK:** <https://bleach.egnyte.com/fl/c4YmZyMZOO>

#### **About Bleach\***

BLEACH\* is the Gold Coast’s annual contemporary arts festival. The festival has a growing national and international reputation for creating experiences and telling stories that are out of the box, authentic and uniquely connected to place. Bleach\* is proudly local, celebrating the city’s best artists, welcoming renowned Australian and international artists through a range of art experiences. In Bleach’s 9-year history, the festival has premiered more than 50 commissions, and played a pivotal role in curating and delivering the ambitious 2018 Commonwealth Games Cultural program. We’ve collaborated with Opera Australia to stage the ambitious Opera on the Beach at Coolangatta, with QT Hotel Gold Coast and Peppers Soul on the immersive arts experience, Hotelling. We’ve delivered the Jewell International Kite Festival for the Yuhu Group, curated programs for Tourism Australia conferences, officially opened and programmed entertainment for major shopping precincts and the 2018 Commonwealth Games Athletes Welcoming Ceremony. Our productions have won the Sydney Myer Group Award in 2019 and the Helpmann Award in 2018 for Tide in collaboration with The Farm.

#### **MEDIA ENQUIRIES**

**For images, interviews and latest Bleach\* festival media announcements, please contact:**

**Andrew Meadowcroft, Squirrel House & gcVIP**

**[andrew@squirrelhouse.com.au](mailto:andrew@squirrelhouse.com.au)**

**Mobile 0428 724 420**

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*in Queensland*