

Bleach* Festival to premiere full throttle exhilarating performance experience

A live-action horror movie, played out in an abandoned field in the dead of night will thrill a captive audience on the Gold Coast in 2019.

From the creators of award-winning durational dance theatre work TIDE comes *Throttle*; a drive-in thriller staged at Mudgeeraba Showgrounds in the Gold Coast Hinterland this April as part of the annual Festival.

"*Throttle* is a high-octane thrill ride that makes you stare your fears in the eyes," Bleach* Artistic Director and CEO Louise Bezzina said.

"It has elements of stunt, the thrill of surprise, the eeriness of a stage lit by car headlights and incredible sound design that comes through your car stereo so you never quite know where the action's coming from or what's coming next."

The brainchild of theatrical renegades **The Farm**, whose form-pushing 49-hour work TIDE staged on a sandbar scored them a coveted Helpmann Award last year, *Throttle* expands on the ideas first presented in the company's 2009 dance-thriller *roadkill*.

"*roadkill* was the first time we explored the horror genre in a dance context; an outback horror that left some audiences so freaked out they asked to be escorted to their cars at the end of the show," co-creator Gavin Webber said.

"We were proud that we genuinely scared people with contemporary dance in that way. *Throttle* kicks things up a gear."

Throttle uses all the elements of a classic horror tale to lure audiences into the centre of its spine-tingling performance.

The action unfolds in a makeshift drive-in at Mudgeeraba Showgrounds, the headlight beams of audience members' cars cutting through the darkness of the otherwise-abandoned field.

Thrill seekers tune into a dedicated radio station as the unsettling story begins to unfold in front and around them, with car stereos broadcasting eerie instructions and sound effects into the questionable safety of their cars.

Throttle continues Bleach*'s showcase of the Gold Coast's world-famous natural landscapes as unconventional performance venues.

"Bleach* is a response to where theatre sits now – taking it out of traditional venues and placing it in locations people inhabit on a daily basis," Webber said.

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“There’s a place for live theatre, but bringing it out into public places like a sandbar, the beach, the hinterland gives it another content and audience entirely.”

Since its inception in 2012, Bleach* has become one of Australia’s leading and most exciting site-specific contemporary arts festivals, commissioning more than 50 new works in seven years.

The 2019 festival is the eighth and final festival for Bleach* founder and Artistic Director Louise Bezzina, who takes up the top position at Brisbane Festival mid-2019.

For more information about Throttle and the full Bleach* Festival program, visit bleachfestival.com.au

Bleach – The Gold Coast Festival is proudly supported by the City of Gold Coast; the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland, part of the Department of Environment and Science; and Tourism and Events Queensland.*

~ ENDS

THROTTLE

By The Farm

Commissioned and Produced by Bleach* Festival

Supported by Queensland Government through Arts Queensland and Australian Federal Government through Australia Council for the Arts

TICKETS – bleachfestival.com.au

Car Pass - \$60 + booking fee

Tickets are per vehicle, please note the show is best viewed through the front windscreen of your vehicle.

Nightly shows at 7.30pm 24 – 28 April at Mudgeeraba Showgrounds

ABOUT THE FARM | <http://www.thefarm.company/>

The Farm is driven by a desire to connect to anyone, from dance and theatre virgins to aficionados and professionals. Often described as cinematic, our work is based on universal subjects and themes that matter. Based on the Gold Coast with roots in Berlin, we are an international network of like-minded dancers, theatre makers and designers who share principles of collaboration as a way to create great art. We aim to push the boundaries of dance and physical performance and the places it is viewed.

Touring highlights include Venice Biennale, Tanzplattform (Germany), Barbican Theatre, Europe, Canada, UK and Australia. The Farm is a long-time Bleach* collaborator, having contributed work for every festival since 2015. The Farm's *TIDE*, commissioned by Bleach*, won the only Helpmann Award for a Queensland company in 2018.

ABOUT BLEACH* FESTIVAL | <https://www.bleachfestival.com.au>

Bleach* Festival is the Gold Coast Festival, taking place annually across the City in April. The program is one of Australia’s leading and most exciting site-specific contemporary arts programs.

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Quintessentially Gold Coast, Bleach* Festival celebrates the city's most dynamic and adventurous artists, welcomes renowned Australian and international collaborators and engages a broad audience through a range of events.

Utilising the Gold Coast's world-famous natural landscape as unconventional venues, Bleach* Festival aims to deliver incredible arts and cultural experiences that challenge expectations, change perceptions and provide a unique and authentic sense of place, inspiring both locals and visitors alike.

Bleach* Festival has attracted more than 470,000 people since its inaugural year in 2012. The program features work across all genres including dance, theatre, contemporary music, opera, installations, circus and major public events.

"The city's largest cultural event [Bleach Festival] reflects the growth in the glitter strip's arts and culture scene..."* – The Australian

"Bigger and more spectacular than ever..." – mygc.com.au

"Bezzina has made the annual Bleach Festival the heart and soul of the party, and this year's program is the best yet..."* – The Courier-Mail

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