



## BLEACH\* FESTIVAL SET TO CAPTURE HEARTS, MINDS AND IMAGINATIONS

The Gold Coast's premier arts and cultural festival, Bleach\* Festival, has unveiled its most ambitious program to date; an 18-day city-wide celebration spanning major musical concerts, large contemporary dance productions, giant outdoor spectacles, travelling shows on kayaks and even an epic beach sleepover.

"2018 is a transformational year for Bleach\*. For three weeks 29 March – 15 April, Bleach\* Festival will bring locals and visitors together to connect and interact through intimate encounters in private homes, as well as large-scale performances on beaches, parks, hotels and gathering places," Bleach\* Festival Artistic Director **Louise Bezzina** said.

The expansive program of 140 genre-defying events and activities includes 10 world premieres, one Australian premiere and two Queensland premieres; with the majority, completely free to the public.

"In this landmark year, we are thrilled to collaborate with Festival 2018, the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games arts and culture program. Bleach\* Festival has commissioned and produced 20 of the 160 works that form part of the Gold Coast artistic program," Bezzina said.

"The opportunity to work with the Festival 2018 organisers was an incredible opportunity for our artists to be seen on the world stage, to engage with artists from throughout the Commonwealth and forge new artistic networks and collaborations."

Bleach\* at Festival 2018 program highlights from 4 to 15 April include the world premiere outdoor music concert **The Spirit of Churaki**, inspired by the incredible true story of the Gold Coast's first surf life saver. Two years in the making, this heroic story, largely unknown, features an extraordinary line-up of legendary Australian musicians under the musical direction of **Brian Ritchie** and cultural collaborator **Kyle Slabb** set to visuals by acclaimed artist **Vernon Ah Kee**.

"The local Indigenous community has put their faith in us to tell this incredible Australian story and we know it will etch itself into the hearts and minds of audiences," Bezzina said.

Rimini Protokoll's boundary-pushing **Home Visit** receives its exclusive Australian premiere, inviting 10 every-day locals to open their private homes to complete strangers for a series of intimate living room performances.

Bleach\* Festival continues its commitment to presenting ground-breaking home-grown contemporary dance and physical theatre works, including the return of two celebrated works by the Gold Coast's internationally-acclaimed contemporary dance company, **The Farm**.

"The Farm's ground-breaking durational work **TIDE** sees two fearless performers put themselves at the mercy of both the tide and the compassion of the community as they set up an office on a sand bar at Currumbin Estuary for 49 consecutive hours," Bezzina said.

"We are also proud to present **The Ninth Wave**; an evolution of The Farm's 2016 Helpmann Award nominated end-of-days work **The Last Blast**, set against the stunning backdrop of Surfers Paradise beach."

Additional dance-theatre highlights include the Queensland premiere of **Restless Dance Company's** promenade work **Intimate Space**; an explosive experience from Fiji's pre-eminent dance company, **VOU**; and **Quiet By Nature**, a moonlit kayak tour with a difference.



### MEDIA CONTACT

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For the more adventurous, **Wave Fields** offers a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to spend the night sleeping on the beach, wrapped in a blanket of sound created by internationally renowned artist **Lawrence English**.

Locals unafraid to take centre-stage will relish the opportunity to perform in **Yes, We Dance!** – a joyous participatory performance experience that pairs 10 everyday Gold Coasters with professional choreographers and an ensemble of hundreds of community dancers.

“Bleach\* Festival welcomes participation and exchange, inviting you to feel challenged, inspired, connected and proud,” Bezzina said.

“As the world focuses its attention on the Gold Coast in April, this is our chance to say to the world, ‘THIS is our Gold Coast!’”

The three-week festival kicks off Thursday 29 March with a free all-ages opening night party at Bond University, headlined by musical juggernaut and masters of fun, **Melbourne Ska Orchestra**.

For full program details, visit [www.bleachfestival.com.au](http://www.bleachfestival.com.au)

## ENDS

*Bleach\* Festival is proudly supported by the City of Gold Coast; the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland, part of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet; and Tourism and Events Queensland.*

## ABOUT BLEACH\* FESTIVAL [WWW.BLEACHFESTIVAL.COM.AU](http://WWW.BLEACHFESTIVAL.COM.AU)

- Since its inception in 2012, Bleach\* Festival has become one of Australia's largest arts and cultural events.
- Bleach\* Festival runs 29 March – 15 April and offers an expansive program of genre-defying events and activities, spanning intimate gatherings alongside some of the Festival's largest and most ambitious projects to date.
- In 2018, Bleach\* Festival presents 140 productions and events including 10 world premieres, one Australian premiere and two Queensland premieres. Bleach\* will present 20 works within the Festival 2018 artistic program.
- 90 per cent of Bleach\* Festival productions and events are free to the public, to continue widespread access and participation.
- Bleach\* Festival is helmed by founding Artistic Director Louise Bezzina and General Manager Matt Wilson.



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# THE SPIRIT OF CHURAKI A HEROIC MUSICAL PRODUCTION INSPIRED BY GOLD COAST'S FIRST SURF LIFESAVER

Inspired by the true story of Churaki, an Indigenous man heralded as the Gold Coast's first surf lifesaver, Bleach\* at Festival 2018 proudly presents the world premiere of outdoor musical concert ***The Spirit of Churaki***.

Two years in the making, this heroic story, largely unknown, brings together an extraordinary line up of Australian artists, including **Fred Leone, Leah Flanagan** and **Veronique Serret**, with visuals by acclaimed artist **Vernon Ah Kee** and music direction by American rock legend **Brian Ritchie** (Violent Femmes).

Presented as a full night of entertainment on Thursday 12 April at Festival 2018's Main Stage at Surfers Paradise beach, *The Spirit of Churaki* rides the perfect wave between traditional ceremony, the ancient sounds of Aboriginal language and compelling music theatre, closing with a cyclonic set by Australian surf rock legends, **The Break** (starring Rob Hirst, Jim Moginie, Martin Rotsey of Midnight Oil, Jack Howard of Hunters & Collectors and Brian Ritchie).

Lead artistic collaborator and cultural advisor **Kyle Slabb** said *The Spirit of Churaki* was an invitation for people far and wide to develop a deeper appreciation and understanding of Indigenous Australian culture.

"*The Spirit of Churaki* is not about a mythical superhero or fantastical story; he was a real person who lived in our community and who's an ancestor of a lot of the people in our community," Slabb said.

"I'm excited that people will get to see there's a good contribution our people have been making for a long time, and are still making to society today, that's probably gone largely unrecognised for years."

Bleach\* Festival Artistic Director **Louise Bezzina** said this year's festival program sought to unite everyday people through artistic experiences as the world focuses its attention on the Gold Coast for GC2018.

"This year, Bleach\* Festival has joined forces with Festival 2018, the GC2018 arts and culture festival, to create artistic experiences that bring locals and visitors together to connect and interact through grand spectacle and intimate experiences," Bezzina said.

"*The Spirit of Churaki* honours a rich lineage of saltwater people, a spirit of generosity, and a deep connection to country and cultural obligation.

"The local Indigenous community has put their faith in us to tell this incredible Australian story and we know it will etch itself into the hearts and minds of audiences in April."

*The Spirit of Churaki* is one of 10 world premieres on the program for this year's 7th annual Bleach\* Festival – a genre-defying program of more than 140 live music, theatre, dance and free family entertainment events at 31 Gold Coast locations from 29 March – 15 April. Bleach\* Festival will present 20 works within the Festival 2018 artistic program from 4 – 15 April.

*The Spirit of Churaki* premieres one-night-only at Bleach\* at Festival 2018 on Thursday 12 April on the Surfers Paradise Main Stage. For more information, visit [www.bleachfestival.com.au](http://www.bleachfestival.com.au)

## ENDS

*The Spirit of Churaki is commissioned and produced by Bleach\* Festival, presented by Festival 2018. Bleach\* Festival is proudly supported by the City of Gold Coast; the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland, part of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet; and Tourism and Events Queensland.*



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# THE SPIRIT OF CHURAKI

## FACT SHEET

### PRODUCTION OVERVIEW

Season Dates	Thursday 12 April 2018
Venue	Festival 2018 Main Stage Surfers Paradise Beach
Tickets	Free Event
Lead Artistic Collaborator & Cultural Advisor	Kyle Slabb
Musical Director	Brian Ritchie
Visual Artist	Vernon Ah Kee
Dramaturg and Rehearsal Director	Rhoda Roberts AO
Researcher	Tim Baker
Sound Design	Lawrence English
Costume Design	Libby McDonnell
Lighting Design	Dan Black
Photography & Film	Claudio Kirac

Featuring Colin Usher, Fred Leone, Greg Sheehan, Josh Slabb, Jurrulah Slabb, Kaleb Slabb, Kyle Slabb, Leah Flanagan, Sam Pankhurst, Veronique Serrett

### The Break

Starring Rob Hirst, Jim Moginie, Martin Rotsey (Midnight Oil), and Jack Howard (Hunters & Collectors), Brian Ritchie (Violent Femmes)

### ABOUT THE SPIRIT OF CHURAKI

- The centrepiece of this year's Bleach\* Festival and its most ambitious commission to date.
- An epic music production inspired by the story of Churaki; an Aboriginal man heralded as the Gold Coast's first surf lifesaver.
- Churaki, a Coodjimburra man, performed the first documented act of lifesaving on the Gold Coast in 1911. This was one of many daring rescues he carried out in the early 1900s as the surf bathing craze took hold. A heroic story, largely unknown, *The Spirit of Churaki* honours a rich lineage of saltwater people, a spirit of generosity, a deep connection to country and cultural obligation.
- Celebrates Bleach\* Festival's work with the local Indigenous community over the years and commitment to the authentic, accurate, and respectful retelling of our First Nations stories.
- Created in very close consultation and collaboration with the local Indigenous community.
- Starring an extraordinary line-up of Australian Indigenous and non-Indigenous musicians and International guest artists.
- Evocative visuals by renowned artist Vernon Ah Kee.
- Presented as a full night of entertainment on the main stage at Surfers Paradise, climaxing with a cyclonic set by Australian surf rock legends The Break.
- Presented by Festival 2018.

### ABOUT KYLE SLABB

### (LEAD ARTISTIC COLLABORATOR & CULTURAL ADVISOR)

- Kyle is from the Bundjalung tribe; the original custodians of the northern coastal areas of New South Wales. This area includes Fingal Head, where Kyle has lived all his life.
- Kyle is a co-founder of Banaam; a consultancy business that assists businesses to better understand their Indigenous employees and applies Indigenous principles such as relationship-building, communication, mutual responsibility and non-hierarchical management structures to their business. Banaam is a Bundjalung word that means "strong, younger brother".
- Kyle also co-founded Yaru Water; the first Indigenous-owned bottled water. The water is sourced from the base of Mount Warning, or Wollumbin to the Bundjalung people. Yaru Water sale proceeds help support cultural education and training programs for indigenous youth.
- Kyle and his brothers have worked in land management for National Parks and in cultural tourism and found applying their cultural principles worked well in helping other Indigenous staff adapt to the work force.



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#### ABOUT BRIAN RITCHIE

(MUSIC DIRECTOR)

- Brian is best known as a founding member of the critically acclaimed band Violent Femmes.
- Brian has lived in Tasmania since 2008.
- In 2010, Brian joined surf rock band The Break with members of Midnight Oil and Hunters & Collectors. The Break's debut album, *Church of the Open Sky*, was released in 2010 and was followed up by *Space Farm* in 2013.
- Brian curates MONA FOMA (Museum of Old and New Art: Festival of Music and Art); billed as Tasmania's largest annual contemporary music festival.

#### ABOUT VERNON AH KEE

(VISUAL ARTIST)

- Vernon is a Brisbane-based artist and is a descendant of the Kuku Yalanji, Yidinyji and Guugu Yimithirr people of North Queensland and has kinship connections to the Waanyi people of central western Queensland.
- Vernon Ah Kee's conceptual text pieces, videos, photographs and drawings form a critique of Australian culture from the perspective of the Aboriginal experience of contemporary life.
- Recent solo exhibitions include *Brutalities*, Milani Gallery, Brisbane (2014); *Hallmarks of the Hungry*, Milani Gallery, Brisbane (2012); *Barack*, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne (2011); *Tall Man*, Gertrude Contemporary Art Spaces, Melbourne (2011); *Vernon Ah Kee*, City Gallery Wellington, New Zealand (2010); *belief suspension*, Artspace, Sydney (2008); and *can't chant*, Institute of Modern Art, Brisbane (2007).

#### ABOUT LOUISE BEZZINA

(ARTISTIC DIRECTOR – BLEACH\* FESTIVAL)

- Louise Bezzina is the inaugural director and creator of Bleach\* Festival; the largest arts and cultural festival on the Gold Coast. Louise has produced and commissioned over 30 new contemporary site-specific works as part of Bleach\* Festival across all art forms and scales.
- In her role as Artistic Director for Bleach\*, Louise collaborated with the Co-Creative Leads for Festival 2018, part of the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games arts and cultural program.
- In 2016 Louise was awarded Business Woman of the Year for Arts and Culture for the Gold Coast Women in Business Awards and Cultural Achievement award for International Women's Day.
- Louise held the following arts positions prior to life on the Gold Coast: Producer at Brisbane Festival, Program Manager for the Judith Wright Centre of Contemporary Arts, Managing Producer for MAPS, Director of the Mackay Festival of Arts and Producer for Queensland Music Festival.

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- 90 per cent of Bleach\* Festival productions and events are free to the public, to continue widespread access and participation.
- Bleach\* Festival is helmed by founding Artistic Director Louise Bezzina and General Manager Matt Wilson.
- Bleach\* Festival is proudly supported by the City of Gold Coast; the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland, part of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet; and Tourism and Events Queensland.



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## EVERYDAY GOLD COASTERS LOSE THEIR INHIBITIONS AND BUST A MOVE WITH YES, WE DANCE!

Can a Gold Coast local resident start the next global dance craze? We're about to find out!

**Yes, We Dance!** sees 10 everyday Gold Coasters, each with extraordinary ways of expressing themselves through dance, matched with two professional choreographers and an ensemble of hundreds of community dancers. Together they create dance sensations which say to the world, *"We are the everyday people of the Gold Coast and yes, we dance!"*

Premiering 12 – 15 April 2018 as part of Bleach\* at Festival 2018, **Yes, We Dance!** invites audiences to lose themselves in a humorous, revealing, uplifting and ecstatic production as their neighbour, bricklayer, barista and local school teacher become dancing greats and Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games (GC2018) heroes.

An anthemic pop soundtrack created by members of Queensland indie pop group and triple j favourite **The John Steel Singers** will lay the beats, performed live for these unsuspecting dancing queens and kings to take the party to the streets.

Bleach\* Festival Artistic Director **Louise Bezzina** said this year's festival program sought to unite everyday people through artistic experiences as the world focuses its attention on the Gold Coast for GC2018.

"This year, Bleach\* Festival has joined forces with Festival 2018, the GC2018 arts and culture program, to create artistic experiences that bring locals and visitors together to connect and interact through grand spectacle and intimate experiences," Bezzina said.

Created by Australian performance collective **Everybody NOW**, **Yes, We Dance!** is a truly unique project that explores what it means to be truly free in your body.

Dance Captain and Choreographer, **Bec Reid** said **Yes, We Dance!** was a celebration of human expression, diversity and inclusion.

"At its heart, **Yes, We Dance!** celebrates people's very personal and individualised dance signatures; their dance DNA."

**Yes, We Dance!** is one of 10 world premieres on the program for this year's 7th annual Bleach\* Festival – a genre-defying program of more than 140 live music, theatre, dance and free family entertainment events at 31 Gold Coast locations from 29 March – 15 April. Bleach\* Festival will present 20 works within the Festival 2018 artistic program from 4 – 15 April.

**Yes, We Dance!** moves and grooves at Bleach\* at Festival 2018, 12 – 15 April at the Festival 2018 Roundabout Stage, Surf Parade Broadbeach.

For more information, visit [www.bleachfestival.com.au](http://www.bleachfestival.com.au)

### ENDS

*Yes, We Dance!* is co-commissioned by Bleach\* Festival, Festival 2018 and City of Gold Coast, produced by Bleach\* Festival.

*Bleach\* Festival is proudly supported by the City of Gold Coast; the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland, part of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet; and Tourism and Events Queensland.*



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# YES, WE DANCE!

## FACT SHEET

A production by **Everybody NOW!**

### PRODUCTION OVERVIEW

Season Dates  
Venue

Thursday 12 – Sunday 15 April 2018  
Roundabout Stage  
Victoria Ave and Surf Parade  
Broadbeach  
Free Event

Tickets

Creators  
Creative Producer  
Director and Emcee  
Choreographers and Lead Dancers  
Musical Direction, Composition and Live Band

Everybody NOW!  
Kate McDonald  
Ian Pidd  
Bec Reid and Luke Smiles  
Luke McDonald, Tim Morrissey, Scott Bromiley and Pete Bernoth of  
The John Steel Singers  
Michelle Xen  
Dan Black  
Claudio Kirac

Art Direction  
Lighting Designer  
Photography

### ABOUT YES, WE DANCE!

- 10 everyday Gold Coasters, each with 10 extraordinary ways of expressing themselves through dance, are matched with two choreographers and an ensemble of hundreds of community dancers. Together they will create 10 of the newest dance sensations which say to the world, 'We are the everyday people of the Gold Coast and yes, we dance!'
- *Yes, We Dance!* is a large-scale participatory performance experience.
- A free event performed with a live band taking place across four nights on the Festival 2018 Roundabout Stage, Broadbeach, which is presented by The Star Gold Coast.
- *Yes, We Dance!* is commissioned by Bleach\* Festival, Festival 2018 and City of Gold Coast, produced by Bleach\* Festival

### ABOUT EVERYBODY NOW!

[WWW.EVERYBODYNOW.COM.AU](http://WWW.EVERYBODYNOW.COM.AU)

- **Everybody NOW!** led by **Ian Pidd, Kate McDonald** and **Bec Reid** along with a cohort of talented collaborators, is a collective of performance makers and producers who create participatory and large-scale experiences that are celebratory and playful, propelled by passion and curiosity.
- **Everybody NOW!** is dedicated to the creation of high quality, community engaged, participation-based, performance and art experiences created on and from the Gold Coast, Australia, that reach out to collaborators nationally and internationally.
- **Everybody NOW!** work with real stories and real people.
- *Yes, We Dance!* is the newest in a series of large scale social dance projects which include; Bleach Festival's 2015 sell out show and now nationally toured *The Inaugural Annual Dance Affair* and *You Should Be Dancing* commissioned by Brisbane Festival and toured to Darwin Festival.
- Everybody NOW is supported by the City of Gold Coast through the ACCELERATE Triennial Grant Program as part of the growing professional arts sector on the Gold Coast.

### ABOUT IAN PIDD (DIRECTOR & EMCEE)

[WWW.IANPIDD.COM.AU](http://WWW.IANPIDD.COM.AU)

- Ian is a freelance director of theatre and festivals and is based in Melbourne.
- He has a particular interest in creating works that are highly participatory and feature professional and vernacular artists working side by side.
- His work tends to be musical, accessible, playful and genre-hopping, and are regularly seen throughout Australia and in Europe and Asia.
- Ian has directed Moomba, chaired Melbourne Fringe and founded Junction Arts Festival and The Village to name a few. He is currently Artistic Director of new family music and arts festival, The Lost Lands.



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#### **ABOUT KATE McDONALD**

**(CREATIVE PRODUCER)**

- Kate McDonald is a Gold Coast based producer of festivals, community cultural development projects and multi-art events.
- She is currently the Associate Director of Bleach\* Festival.
- Kate has worked across Australia for leading arts organisations and festivals such as Salamanca Arts Centre, MONA FOMA Festival, Nayri Niara and Woodford Folk Festival.

#### **ABOUT BEC REID**

**(CHOREOGRAPHER & LEAD DANCER)**

- Bec Reid is an Australian-based performer, producer, director, choreographer and engagement specialist.
- She encourages people to see their world in new ways through highly physical, participatory, practical, collaborative and celebratory actions.
- Bec has produced and performed for major arts festivals and organisations nationwide including; Melbourne, Sydney, Darwin, Brisbane and Next Wave Festivals, Footscray Community Arts Centre, Dance House, Arts Centre Melbourne and City of Melbourne's Arts and Participation Program.
- In 2017-18, Bec is a Fellowship recipient from the Australia Council for the Arts.

#### **ABOUT LOUISE BEZZINA**

**(ARTISTIC DIRECTOR – BLEACH\* FESTIVAL)**

- Louise Bezzina is the inaugural director and creator of Bleach\* Festival; the largest arts and cultural festival on the Gold Coast. Louise has produced and commissioned over 30 new contemporary site-specific works as part of Bleach\* Festival across all art forms and scales.
- In her role as Artistic Director for Bleach\*, Louise collaborated with the Co-Creative Leads for Festival 2018, part of the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games arts and cultural program.
- In 2016 Louise was awarded Business Woman of the Year for Arts and Culture for the Gold Coast Women in Business Awards and Cultural Achievement award for International Women's Day.
- Louise held the following arts positions prior to life on the Gold Coast: Producer at Brisbane Festival, Program Manager for the Judith Wright Centre of Contemporary Arts, Managing Producer for MAPS, Director of the Mackay Festival of Arts and Producer for Queensland Music Festival.

#### **ABOUT BLEACH\* FESTIVAL**

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- Bleach\* Festival is helmed by founding Artistic Director Louise Bezzina and General Manager Matt Wilson.
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## BLEACH\* FESTIVAL'S PARTY TO END ALL PARTIES

**The Farm's** celebrated Helpmann Award nominated *The Last Blast* receives a reimagining in 2018, returning to the Gold Coast in April as ***The Ninth Wave***; a highlight of this year's genre-defying Bleach\* Festival program as part of Bleach\* at Festival 2018.

Against the stunning backdrop of the Surfers Paradise main beach, *The Ninth Wave* is the first half of an apocalyptic narrative by internationally-acclaimed Queensland dance company **The Farm**, taking the ideas from the 2016 Helpmann Award nominated *The Last Blast* to their fullest and most ominous end.

Beginning at a party bubbling over with champagne-drinking fools who willfully ignore the warning signs of the end of the world, *The Ninth Wave* unfolds as a journey of consequences and the young hope that always grows from it.

Bleach\* Festival Artistic Director **Louise Bezzina** said the 2018 program continued to challenge perceptions about where and how art should be performed and presented.

"*The Ninth Wave* immerses the audience in a breathtaking sensory experience set on the most iconic strip of sand on the Gold Coast," Bezzina said.

"Employing The Farm's trademark fusion of contemporary dance, physical theatre and wicked humour, coupled with a powerful original score composed and performed live by **Ben Ely** [Regurgitator], *The Ninth Wave* is guaranteed to leave audiences breathless."

Based on the Gold Coast, The Farm is an international network of highly respected artists led by co-directors **Gavin Webber** and **Grayson Millward**. Together they create contemporary performances that transcend expectations of what dance can be and highlight the fragility and strength of the human condition.

Co-director Gavin Webber said it was a thrill to return to Bleach\* Festival for the fourth consecutive year.

"Bleach\* Festival celebrates a really interesting intersection between the culture and life of the Gold Coast and arts, and how they mix together. There's a real sense of excitement that's been built here," Webber said.

"It's a privilege to revisit this Helpmann Award nominated work to remake and reimagine the production for new audiences as part of Bleach\* at Festival 2018."

*The Ninth Wave* is one of many free events on the program for this year's 7th annual Bleach\* Festival – a genre-defying program of more than 140 live music, theatre, dance and free family entertainment events at 31 Gold Coast locations from 29 March – 15 April. Bleach\* Festival will present 20 works within the Festival 2018 artistic program from 4 – 15 April.

*The Ninth Wave* crashes Bleach\* at Festival 2018 on Surfers Paradise Beach Thursday 5 – Saturday 7 April 2018.

For more information, visit [www.bleachfestival.com.au](http://www.bleachfestival.com.au)

### ENDS

*The Ninth Wave* is produced and commissioned by Bleach\* Festival supported by City of Gold Coast and Festival 2018. Bleach\* Festival is proudly supported by the City of Gold Coast; the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland, part of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet; and Tourism and Events Queensland.



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# THE NINTH WAVE

## FACT SHEET

A production by The Farm

### PRODUCTION OVERVIEW

Season Dates Thursday 5 – Saturday 7 April 2018  
Venue Surfers Paradise Beach  
Tickets Free Event

Created and Performed by Charles Ball, Craig Bary, Gabriel Comerford, Hsin-Ju (Raw) Ely, Kate Harman, Essie Horn, Gabrielle Nankivell, Michael Smith with the Green House Youth Ensemble

Directors Grayson Millwood and Gavin Webber  
Lighting Design Mark Howett  
Original Music Ben Ely  
Sound Design Luke Smiles  
Costume Design Vilma Mattila  
Associate Artist Joshua Thomson  
Production Manager Chloe Ogilby

### ABOUT THE NINTH WAVE

- An evolution of The Farm's 2016 Helpmann Award nominated *The Last Blast* (nominated Best Visual or Physical Theatre Production) and commissioned by Bleach\* Festival.
- Against the stunning backdrop of the iconic beach at Surfers Paradise, *The Ninth Wave* is the first half of an apocalyptic narrative by internationally acclaimed Gold Coast based dance theatre company The Farm.
- Features an original score composed and performed live by Ben Ely (Regurgitator).
- Presented during Festival 2018, part of the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games arts and culture program.

### ABOUT THE FARM

[WWW.THEFARM.COMPANY](http://WWW.THEFARM.COMPANY)

- Based on the Gold Coast with roots in Berlin, The Farm is an international network of highly respected artists, ranging from choreographers and independent dancers to musicians and designers who share principles of collaboration as a means to create great art.
- The Farm create contemporary performances that transcend expectations of what dance can be and how and where it should be viewed.
- The artistic direction of the company is led by Gavin Webber and Grayson Millwood who have been working together for the past 15 years across four continents.
- Touring highlights include Venice Biennale, Tanzplattform (Germany), Barbican Theatre, Europe, Canada and Australia.
- The Farm is a long-time Bleach\* collaborator, having contributed work for every festival since 2015.
- 2018 is a landmark year for The Farm, with mainstage performance seasons at Bleach\* Festival, La Boite Theatre Company and a national tour of their production *Cockfight*.

### ABOUT BEN ELY

(ORIGINAL MUSIC)

- Ben is a Brisbane-based musician and artist best known for his work with multi-ARIA award winning band Regurgitator.
- Aside from Regurgitator, he has been involved in a vast multitude of projects including a solo music career, music production, sound design collaborations and visual art.
- Ben has worked on sound design collaborations for some of Australia's leading performance companies and artists, including Gavin Webber, Emma Serjeant, The Farm, Dance Integrated Australia, and Tasdance.
- Ely co-wrote (together with Decoder Ring), the music for the 2004 Australian film *Somersault*. The soundtrack won an AFI Award for Best Original Music Score and the song *Somersault* won the 2004 Best Original Song Composed for a Feature Film, Telemovie, TV Series or Mini-Series Award at the Australian Screen Music Awards.

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#### **ABOUT BLEACH\* FESTIVAL**

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- Since its inception in 2012, Bleach\* Festival has become one of Australia's largest arts and cultural events.
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- 90 per cent of Bleach\* Festival productions and events are free to the public, to continue widespread access and participation.
- Bleach\* Festival is helmed by founding Artistic Director Louise Bezzina and General Manager Matt Wilson.
- Bleach\* Festival is proudly supported by the City of Gold Coast; the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland, part of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet; and Tourism and Events Queensland.



#### **MEDIA CONTACT**

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## INTERRUPTING THE EVERY DAY WITH EVOCATIVE CALLS TO COUNTRY

Visitors to the Gold Coast for the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games will receive special insight into First Nations culture via Bleach\* at Festival 2018's ***Yargeh Wadjeleh – The Language of the Wind***; a series of powerful calls to country that will ring out across the southern Gold Coast 6 – 8 April 2018.

Exploring the concept of multi-layered cultural planes, *Yargeh Wadjeleh – The Language of the Wind* combines a series of rich and moving soundscapes of local songlines, correlating to traditional Indigenous notions of place and time.

Created by emerging Indigenous leader **Kyle Slabb** and renowned sound artist **Lawrence English**, with Elders from South East Queensland and North West New South Wales, *The Language of the Wind* will envelope the Gold Coast community in a sound-ocean of ancient knowledge and language.

Bleach\* Festival Artistic Director **Louise Bezzina** said these evocative calls to country were intended to interrupt the every day.

"2018 is a landmark year for the Gold Coast with Festival 2018, the arts and culture program of the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games, taking place right here in our own backyard," Bezzina said.

"This powerful and important sound installation will permeate the natural landscape sunrise to sunset, paying respect to the First Nations peoples of this region and providing visitors to the Gold Coast with special insights into our rich cultural heritage."

Creator Kyle Slabb said *Yargeh Wadjeleh – The Language of the Wind* was created to provoke visitors to pause, listen and absorb.

"Through *The Language of the Wind*, we can take people to the place where we come from and share our philosophies and ideas," Slabb said.

"We want people to respond to the sounds in whatever way moves them."

*The Language of the Wind* is one of countless free events on the program for this year's 7th annual Bleach\* Festival – a genre-defying program of more than 140 live music, theatre, dance and free family entertainment events at 31 Gold Coast locations from 29 March – 15 April. Bleach\* Festival will present 20 works within the Festival 2018 artistic program from 4 – 15 April.

*The Language of the Wind* premieres at Bleach\* at Festival 2018 Friday 6 – Sunday 8 April at Greenmount Headland.

For more information, visit [www.bleachfestival.com.au](http://www.bleachfestival.com.au)

### ENDS

*The Language of the Wind* is co-commissioned by City of Gold Coast, Bleach Festival\* and the Queensland Government through the Regional Arts Development Fund and the Office of the Commonwealth Games.

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# YARGEH WADJELEH

## THE LANGUAGE OF THE WIND FACT SHEET

### PRODUCTION OVERVIEW

Season Dates Friday 6 – Sunday 8 April 2018  
Venue Greenmount Headland  
Tickets Free Event

Creators Kyle Slabb and Lawrence English  
with Elders from South East Queensland and North West New South Wales

### ABOUT THE LANGUAGE OF THE WIND

- A sound installation created by emerging Indigenous leader Kyle Slabb (**The Spirit of Churaki**), with Elders from South East Queensland and North West New South Wales.
- Sounding at intervals throughout the day, *The Language of the Wind* combines a series of rich and moving soundscapes of local songlines; evocative calls-to-country to interrupt and permeate the natural landscape.
- Bleach\* at Festival 2018 presents the world premiere of this event.

### ABOUT KYLE SLABB

(CREATOR)

- Kyle is from the Bundjalung tribe; the original custodians of the northern coastal areas of New South Wales. This area includes Fingal Head, where Kyle has lived all his life.
- Kyle is a co-founder of Banaam; a consultancy business that assists businesses to better understand their Indigenous employees and applies Indigenous principles such as relationship-building, communication, mutual responsibility and non-hierarchical management structures to their business. Banaam is a Bundjalung word that means “strong, younger brother”.
- Kyle also co-founded Yaru Water; the first Indigenous-owned bottled water. The water is sourced from the base of Mount Warning, or Wollumbin to the Bundjalung people. Yaru Water sale proceeds help support cultural education and training programs for indigenous youth.
- Kyle and his brothers have worked in land management for National Parks and in cultural tourism and found applying their cultural principles worked well in helping other Indigenous staff adapt to the work force.

### ABOUT LAWRENCE ENGLISH (SOUND ARTIST)

[WWW.LAWRENCEENGLISH.COM](http://WWW.LAWRENCEENGLISH.COM)

- Lawrence English is a composer, media artist and curator based in Brisbane.
- He is one of ambient music’s modern masters and has captured a series of mind-bending field recordings.
- He makes field recordings to capture local environmental sounds that are normally beyond unassisted hearing or exist on the periphery of attention.
- English utilises a variety of approaches including visceral live performance and installation to create works that ask audiences to consider the relationship to space, place and experiential embodiment and to become aware of that which exists at the edge of perception.
- English is also the founder of Australian record label Room40.

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#### **ABOUT LOUISE BEZZINA**

#### **(ARTISTIC DIRECTOR – BLEACH\* FESTIVAL)**

- Louise Bezzina is the inaugural director and creator of Bleach\* Festival; the largest arts and cultural festival on the Gold Coast. Louise has produced and commissioned over 30 new contemporary site-specific works as part of Bleach\* Festival across all art forms and scales.
- In her role as Artistic Director for Bleach\*, Louise collaborated with the Co-Creative Leads for Festival 2018, part of the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games arts and cultural program.
- In 2016 Louise was awarded Business Woman of the Year for Arts and Culture for the Gold Coast Women in Business Awards and Cultural Achievement award for International Women's Day.
- Louise held the following arts positions prior to life on the Gold Coast: Producer at Brisbane Festival, Program Manager for the Judith Wright Centre of Contemporary Arts, Managing Producer for MAPS, Director of the Mackay Festival of Arts and Producer for Queensland Music Festival.

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## THE TIDE IS RISING

One of the Gold Coast's most talked-about events in recent years returns in April, with the epic 49hr performance experience **TIDE** returning to Bleach\* at Festival 2018.

The brainchild of internationally acclaimed Gold Coast-based dance company The Farm, *TIDE* is equal parts installation, interactive theatre work, dance performance and endurance test.

Two office workers (**Gavin Webber** and **Joshua Thomson**) carry on their duties in a furnished office on a sandbar in the middle of Currumbin Estuary. During low tide, they stand safely on sand, but as the tide rises, water submerges their office completely.

For 49 hours, without food or supplies, the two put themselves at the mercy of both the tide and the compassion of the community to survive.

Audiences can watch the action from vantage points in and around Currumbin Estuary, or swim out to the sandbar to lend a hand, deliver supplies, schedule a meeting or interact with the beached businessmen.

Bleach\* Festival Artistic Director **Louise Bezzina** said she jumped at the opportunity for a return season of *TIDE*, the "undisputed hit" of Bleach\* Festival in 2015.

"*TIDE* remains one of my most cherished memories ever as Bleach\* Festival Artistic Director," Bezzina said.

"Rain, hail or shine, shifting sands or rising seas, these two fearless performers committed themselves fully to the old adage 'the show must go on'.

"I'll never forget standing on the sand at Currumbin and witnessing everyday locals paddling out with red wine, blankets, food supplies – you name it – to assist these two unlikely heroes make it through."

Co-creator and performer Gavin Webber said the work was "a visceral marathon" that pushed improvisation to its limits.

"I remember the worst part, the first night, a storm came through about four hours in, it started raining and it was really windy. I was huddled under the table and Josh was under a tarpaulin behind the door, also huddled. It was dark in every direction" Webber said.

"Then we heard this bicycle bell, and it was a guy on his kayak who'd come out with a bottle of red wine and his own deck chair. He laid down his deck chair and poured us all glasses of wine and we had a toast together. He saved us."

*TIDE* is one of countless free events on the program for this year's 7th annual Bleach\* Festival – a genre-defying program of more than 140 live music, theatre, dance and free family entertainment events at 31 Gold Coast locations from 29 March – 15 April. Bleach\* Festival will present 20 works within the Festival 2018 artistic program from 4 – 15 April.

*TIDE* takes place at Currumbin Estuary from 9am Sunday 8 April until 10am Tuesday 10 April as part of Bleach\* at Festival 2018.

For more information, visit [www.bleachfestival.com.au](http://www.bleachfestival.com.au)

### ENDS

*TIDE* is produced and commissioned by Bleach\* Festival, supported by City of Gold Coast and Connecting Southern Gold Coast. Bleach\* Festival is proudly supported by the City of Gold Coast; the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland, part of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet; and Tourism and Events Queensland.



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## TIDE

### FACT SHEET

Made by The Farm

#### PRODUCTION OVERVIEW

Season Dates	Sunday 8 – Tuesday 10 April 49hr performance commencing 9am Sunday 8 April
Venue	Currumbin Estuary Entry from Palm Beach Parklands 945 Gold Coast Highway Palm Beach
Tickets	Free Event
Performed By	Joshua Thomson, Gavin Webber
Music created and performed by	Ben Ely

Made by Ben Ely, Kate Harman, Joshua Thomson, Gavin Webber, Grayson Millwood with Mark Howett, Vilma Mattilam and Chloe Ogilvie.

#### ABOUT TIDE

- For 49 hours, without food or supplies, two fearless performers put themselves at the mercy of both the tide and the compassion of the community.
- Two office workers carry out their duties in an office built on a sandbar at Currumbin Estuary. During low tide, they stand safely on sand, but as the tide rises, water submerges the desk and its contents.
- Audiences are encouraged to swim out and provide support/aid to the performers throughout the 49hr experience. Without the goodwill of the general population, these intrepid office workers might not make it home from work.
- Rain, hail or shine, shifting sands or rising seas, bull sharks or dolphins, their show will go on.
- Premiered at Bleach\* Festival in 2015 as a 48 hour experience. In 2018 The Farm are making it “better, wetter, longer” as part of Bleach\*.

#### ABOUT THE FARM

[WWW.THEFARM.COMPANY](http://WWW.THEFARM.COMPANY)

- Based on the Gold Coast with roots in Berlin, The Farm is an international network of highly respected artists, ranging from choreographers and independent dancers to musicians and designers who share principles of collaboration as a means to create great art.
- The Farm create contemporary performances that transcend expectations of what dance can be and how and where it should be viewed.
- The artistic direction of the company is led by Gavin Webber and Grayson Millwood who have been working together for the past 15 years across four continents.
- Touring highlights include Venice Biennale, Tanzplattform (Germany), Barbican Theatre, Europe, Canada and Australia.
- The Farm is a long-time Bleach\* collaborator, having contributed work for every festival since 2015.
- 2018 is a landmark year for The Farm, with mainstage performance seasons at Bleach\* Festival, La Boite Theatre Company and a national tour of their production, *Cockfight*.

#### ABOUT BLEACH\* FESTIVAL

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## NATURE SINGS IN A FOREST OF DREAMS

Queensland's Palm Beach Parklands will transform into an enchanting forest of musicians this April for beguiling ***Song to the Earth***; a highlight of Bleach\* at Festival 2018 cultural celebrations.

Composed by contemporary classical composer **Dr Corrina Bonshek** and featuring awe-inspiring light installations, this euphoric musical trek under the night sky is brought to life by acclaimed Australian string ensemble **DeepBlue**, master percussionist **Dr Michael Askill**, and 50 remarkable young musicians from the Gold Coast.

"*Song to the Earth* leads visitors through a magical and spiritual journey inspired by the patterns and cycles from nature, inviting them to discover the interconnectedness of the natural wonder of the Gold Coast and the arts," Bleach\* Festival Artistic Director **Louise Bezzina** said.

Composer Dr Corrina Bonshek said she was thrilled to be returning to Bleach\* Festival following her inclusion in last year's *Inherit the Wind* outdoor concert.

"Bleach\* Festival has been instrumental in fostering unique and large-scale outdoor performances which highlight the unique beauty of the Gold Coast's natural landscape," Bonshek said.

"I am particularly excited to see these tremendous Queensland musicians bring this original score to life for this special event as part of Festival 2018, the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games arts and cultural program."

*Song to the Earth* is one of countless free events on the program for this year's 7th annual Bleach\* Festival – a genre-defying program of more than 140 live music, theatre, dance and free family entertainment events at 31 Gold Coast locations from 29 March – 15 April. Bleach\* Festival will present 20 works within the Festival 2018 artistic program from 4 – 15 April.

*Song to the Earth* ignites Palm Beach Parklands Saturday 7 and Sunday 8 April 2018.

For more information, visit [www.bleachfestival.com.au](http://www.bleachfestival.com.au)

### ENDS

*Song to the Earth* is co-commissioned by Bleach\* Festival, City of Gold Coast and the Queensland Government through the Regional Arts Development Fund and the Office of the Commonwealth Games and Arts Queensland, produced by Bleach\* Festival.

Bleach\* Festival is proudly supported by the City of Gold Coast; the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland, part of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet; and Tourism and Events Queensland.

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# SONG TO THE EARTH

## FACT SHEET

### PRODUCTION OVERVIEW

Season Dates	Saturday 7 – Sunday 8 April 2018
Venue	Palm Beach Parklands 945 Gold Coast Highway Palm Beach
Tickets	Free Event
Composer	Dr Corinna Bonshek
Musicians	Dr Michael Askill, DeepBlue Orchestra
Installation Design	Mimi Dennett and Wes Bluff

### ABOUT SONG TO THE EARTH

- 3 x 30-minute immersive, live orchestral event that invites a walking audience to wander through a forest of musicians under the night sky.
- 65 musicians made up of young musicians from the Gold Coast and surrounds (13 – 16yrs) performing alongside professional ensemble DeepBlue and master percussionist Dr Michael Askill.
- An original score by Australian contemporary classical composer Dr Corinna Bonshek, whose compositions draw on her love of nature and birdsong.
- Illuminated by an awe-inspiring light installation by visual artist Mimi Dennett and Wes Bluff
- Dr Bonshek returns to Bleach\* Festival following her 20min outdoor piece as part of *Inherit the Wind* at Bleach\* 2017.

### ABOUT DR CORRINA BON SHEK

(COMPOSER)

- Dr Corinna Bonshek is an Australian composer whose music draws on her love of nature and birdsong.
- Dr Bonshek's music has been described as 'beautifully shaped and contemplative' (Clare MacClean, 2013) and 'deeply spiritual in intent' (Anne Boyd, 2002).
- She graduated with a PhD in Contemporary Arts in 2007 from University of Western Sydney, and has since received mentoring from Grawemeyer award-winning composer Professor Chinary Ung.
- Dr Bonshek has created several music-art collaborative works sometimes in unconventional settings. The most recent of these is *Journey to the Centre* for Centennial Park Sydney's new public labyrinth. This audio work (featuring nature sounds by Wild Ambience) is permanently installed and can be heard by streaming or downloading the audio onto your mobile phone.
- Dr Bonshek has strong ties to Asia, which she visits regularly for residencies, premieres and workshops with young musicians.

### ABOUT DR MICHAEL ASKILL

(MASTER PERCUSSIONIST)

- Dr Michael Askill is a master percussionist, composer, musical director, musical ambassador and educator - an icon of Australian music, known and admired for his enduring contribution to the Australian contemporary music landscape and his original blending of Asian and Western sounds.
- He has held principal positions with the Sydney and Melbourne Symphony Orchestras, the Australian Chamber Orchestra and the A.E.T.T. Sydney Orchestra and has been a featured soloist with the Sydney, Queensland and Adelaide Symphony Orchestras.
- His collaboration with one of Australia's most highly respected choreographers, Graeme Murphy, resulted in a number of ballets including *Free Radicals*, *Salome*, *Air* and *Other Invisible Forces* for Sydney Dance Company, and *Hua Mulan* for Sydney Dance Company and Shanghai Song and Dance Ensemble.
- Dr Askill has composed for the Opening Ceremonies of the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games, 2006 Asian Games and the 2011 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting.
- He is currently a teacher at All Saints Anglican School on the Gold Coast.

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#### **ABOUT LOUISE BEZZINA**

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- In her role as Artistic Director for Bleach\*, Louise collaborated with the Co-Creative Leads for Festival 2018, part of the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games arts and cultural program.
- In 2016 Louise was awarded Business Woman of the Year for Arts and Culture for the Gold Coast Women in Business Awards and Cultural Achievement award for International Women's Day.
- Louise held the following arts positions prior to life on the Gold Coast: Producer at Brisbane Festival, Program Manager for the Judith Wright Centre of Contemporary Arts, Managing Producer for MAPS, Director of the Mackay Festival of Arts and Producer for Queensland Music Festival.

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**MEDIA RELEASE**  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



## **EXPERIENCE AN INTIMATE** EVENING WITH AUSTRALIAN SINGER-SONGWRITER, ARCHIE ROACH

One of Australia's pre-eminent singer-songwriters, **Archie Roach**, will share music and stories from his remarkable career in an intimate one-night-only event in the Gold Coast hinterland this April as part of Bleach\* at Festival 2018.

Surviving a turbulent upbringing to develop into a powerful voice for Indigenous Australians, Archie is known for his lifelong dedication to social justice, evidenced through his politically charged catalogue and deeply personal live concert experiences.

When his debut album *Charcoal Lane* was released in 1990, his song 'Took the Children Away' shone a spotlight on the impact of the forcible removal of Indigenous children from their families and brought it to the attention of the global community.

The album went on to win two ARIAs and Archie received an international Human Rights Achievement Award, making him the first person ever to receive such a prestigious award for songwriting.

Since then, Archie has received countless awards, released nine studio albums and has collaborated with the finest musicians in the country including Paul Kelly, Troy Cassar-Daley, Christina Anu, Vika and Linda Bull, and Dan Sultan.

Bleach\* Festival Artistic Director **Louise Bezzina** said it was "an honour" to feature Archie as part of the Bleach\* at Festival 2018 program.

"Archie is a national treasure known for his remarkable gift and love of storytelling," Bezzina said.

"His music comes from a place of healing and shared humanity, and this intimate concert of his compelling catalogue, collected over 30 years, will be an unforgettable evening with one of Australia's true legends."

The one-night-only event sees Archie supported by Groot Eylant-born, now Gold Coast local songwriter and storyteller, **Emily Wurramara**, who has been wowing audiences across Australia with her deeply engaging music sung in both English and her traditional language, Anindilyakwa,

A night to reflect, connect and be inspired up-close-and-personal with music that matters.

An Evening with Archie Roach is one of more than 140 live music, theatre, dance and free family entertainment events at 31 Gold Coast locations from 29 March – 15 April. Bleach\* Festival will present 20 works within the Festival 2018 artistic program from 4 – 15 April.

*An Evening with Archie Roach* plays Mudgeeraba Memorial Hall Saturday 7 April 2018.

For more information, visit [www.bleachfestival.com.au](http://www.bleachfestival.com.au)

### **ENDS**

Presented by Bleach\* Festival and City of Gold Coast.

Bleach\* Festival is proudly supported by the City of Gold Coast; the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland, part of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet; and Tourism and Events Queensland.



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# AN EVENING WITH ARCHIE ROACH

## FACT SHEET

### PRODUCTION OVERVIEW

Season Dates	Saturday 7 April 2018
Venue	Mudgeeraba Memorial Hall 62 Railway Street Mudgeeraba
Tickets	\$15 including booking fee

### ABOUT ARCHIE ROACH

- Archie is one of Australia's pre-eminent Indigenous singer-songwriters and storytellers.
- A member of the stolen generations, Archie is known for his deeply personal story-telling and politically charged songs including, 'Took the Children Away', a song that has become the unofficial anthem for the Stolen Generations.
- Archie was the first person ever to receive an international Human Rights Achievement Award for his song 'Took the Children Away', from his debut album Charcoal Lane (released 1990).
- Archie has collaborated with some of Australia's finest musicians, including Paul Kelly, Troy Cassar-Daley, Christine Anu and Dan Sultan. He has toured with some of the biggest names in music, including Leonard Cohen, Rodriguez, Bob Dylan, Tracy Chapman, Paul Simon and Patti Smith.
- Archie is a powerful voice for Indigenous welfare and social justice and is passionate about educating Australians about its First Nations history. He recently performed in Canberra for the 10th anniversary of the national apology.
- Three decades after the release of Archie's debut album, his work continues to reflect the struggles and issues facing Indigenous Australians as well as exploring universal themes of love, friendship, family and community.

### ABOUT EMILY WURRAMARA

- Emily sings in both English and Anindilyakwa, the traditional language of her home on Groote Eylandt in the Northern Territory.
- She has become a seasoned performer who has taken her music around the country and abroad with show and festival appearances in Sweden and France. Closer to home, she has performed at Gaarma Festival, Island Vibes, Woodford Folk Festival, Clancestry and numerous other events; performing alongside respected artists like Shellie Morris, Troy Cassar Daley and Impossible Odds.
- She was selected to write with Powderfinger's Bernard Fanning as part of a special collaboration through the 2014 Clancestry Event. It was this collaboration that led to her first single, 'Ngerraberrakernama' and sets the tone for her debut EP.
- Her music ranges from traditional stories and nursery rhymes, to songs that address the ever-present challenges to her community and to simply growing up.

### ABOUT LOUISE BEZZINA

### (ARTISTIC DIRECTOR – BLEACH\* FESTIVAL)

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## A MULTI-DIMENSIONAL SOUNDSCAPE UNDER THE STARS

Visitors to the Gold Coast in April can take part in a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to spend the night sleeping on the beach when Bleach\* at Festival 2018 presents the world premiere durational sound performance **Wave Fields**.

Created by internationally renowned artist **Lawrence English**, *Wave Fields* merges music, environmental recordings and live sound from the performance location itself, allowing audiences to experience the ways in which sound creeps in to and out of our dreams and how incidental atmospheres complement, interrupt and augment our sleep.

Bleach\* Festival Artistic Director **Louise Bezzina** said that this year's city-wide cultural celebration showcased the beauty that the Gold Coast has to offer.

"*Wave Fields* invites attendees to be captivated by the stunning landscape of the Gold Coast and enjoy a unique local experience while sleeping under the stars on the shores of the beautiful Burleigh beach," Bezzina said.

"You won't be left out in the cold either, with the best local providers offering delicious food and drink before you slip into sleep, and again when the sun stirs you in the morning."

*Wave Fields* will be presented as part of Bleach\* at Festival 2018, the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games arts and culture program. Bleach\* Festival will present 20 of the 160 works within the Festival 2018 artistic program from 4 – 15 April 2018.

Queensland artist Lawrence English is an eminent composer, artist and curator who is synonymous with visceral and mind-bending field recordings. Utilising a variety of complex approaches, his live performances invite listeners to discover what is at the very periphery of their perception.

"It's a thrill to present the world premiere of *Wave Fields* at Bleach\* at Festival 2018," English said.

"Louise is a loyal supporter and long-term collaborator and has been instrumental in providing a unique platform to stage my multidimensional performance works. This year we take it up a notch as we entice Commonwealth Games visitors and other artists coming for Festival 2018 to immerse themselves in my work in an unforgettable and unique location."

With maximum capacity strictly set at 200 people per performance, early bookings are encouraged.

*Wave Fields* is one of 10 world premieres in the program for this year's 7th annual Bleach\* Festival – a genre-defying program of more than 140 live music, theatre, dance and free family entertainment events at 31 Gold Coast locations from 29 March – 15 April.

*Wave Fields* takes place Friday 6 and Saturday 7 April at Mick Schamburg Park, The Esplanade, Burleigh Heads.

For information and tickets, visit [www.bleachfestival.com.au](http://www.bleachfestival.com.au)

### ENDS

*Wave Fields* is produced and commissioned by Bleach\* Festival. The project has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Australian Council, its arts funding and advisory body. Bleach\* Festival is proudly supported by the City of Gold Coast; the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland, part of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet; and Tourism and Events Queensland.



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# WAVE FIELDS

## FACT SHEET

A production by Lawrence English

### PRODUCTION OVERVIEW

Season Dates	Friday 6 – Saturday 7 April 2018 Saturday 7 April – Sunday 8 April 2018
Location	Mick Schamburg Park, The Esplanade, Burleigh Heads
Tickets	\$30 including booking fees
Bookings	<a href="http://www.bleachfestival.com.au">www.bleachfestival.com.au</a>

Composer & Sound Designer    Lawrence English

### ABOUT WAVE FIELDS

- *Wave Fields* presents a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to spend an entire evening under the stars sleeping on the beach, immersed in a unique durational sound performance created by internationally renowned artist Lawrence English.
- World Premiere of *Wave Fields* at Bleach\* at Festival 2018.
- Merges original composition, environmental recordings and live sound from the performance location.
- Experience includes light supper, late night warm drink and morning breakfast and coffee from the Gold Coast's best local providores (night and morning).
- Maximum capacity of 200 people per performance.

### ABOUT LAWRENCE ENGLISH

(CREATOR)

- Lawrence English is a composer, artist and curator based in Brisbane.
- He is one of ambient music's modern masters and has captured a series of mind-bending field recordings.
- English is also the founder of Australian record label Room40.
- He makes field recordings to capture local environmental sounds that are normally beyond unassisted hearing or exist on the periphery of attention.
- English utilises a variety of approaches including visceral live performance and installation to create works that ask audiences to consider the relationship to space, place and experiential embodiment and to become aware of that which exists at the edge of perception.

### ABOUT LOUISE BEZZINA

(ARTISTIC DIRECTOR – BLEACH\* FESTIVAL)

- Louise Bezzina is the inaugural director and creator of Bleach\* Festival; the largest arts and cultural festival on the Gold Coast. Louise has produced and commissioned over 30 new contemporary site-specific works as part of Bleach\* Festival across all art forms and scales.
- In her role as Artistic Director for Bleach\*, Louise collaborated with the Co-Creative Leads for Festival 2018, part of the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games arts and cultural program.
- In 2016 Louise was awarded Business Woman of the Year for Arts and Culture for the Gold Coast Women in Business Awards and Cultural Achievement award for International Women's Day.
- Louise held the following arts positions prior to life on the Gold Coast: Producer at Brisbane Festival, Program Manager for the Judith Wright Centre of Contemporary Arts, Managing Producer for MAPS, Director of the Mackay Festival of Arts and Producer for Queensland Music Festival.

### ABOUT BLEACH\* FESTIVAL

[WWW.BLEACHFESTIVAL.COM.AU](http://WWW.BLEACHFESTIVAL.COM.AU)

- Since its inception in 2012, Bleach\* Festival has become one of Australia's largest arts and cultural events.
- Bleach\* Festival runs 29 March – 15 April and offers an expansive program of genre-defying events and activities, spanning intimate gatherings alongside some of the Festival's largest and most ambitious projects to date.
- In 2018, Bleach\* Festival presents 140 productions and events including 10 world premieres, one Australian premiere and two Queensland premieres. Bleach\* will present 20 works within the Festival 2018 artistic program.
- 90 per cent of Bleach\* Festival productions and events are free to the public, to continue widespread access and participation.
- Bleach\* Festival is helmed by founding Artistic Director Louise Bezzina and General Manager Matt Wilson.
- Bleach\* Festival is proudly supported by the City of Gold Coast; the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland, part of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet; and Tourism and Events Queensland.



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## TEN EVERYDAY LOCALS OPEN THEIR HOMES TO COMPLETE STRANGERS FOR UNIQUE BLEACH\* FESTIVAL PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE

It has been said over and over that the Gold Coast is a transient tourism town, but exactly who are the half-a-million locals who call this city home? In this extraordinary performance experience from acclaimed Berlin-based theatre company **Rimini Protokoll**, you're invited to meet them.

Receiving its exclusive Australian premiere at Bleach\* Festival, *Home Visit Australia* sees 10 every day locals open their private residences to complete strangers, inviting an intimate audience of just 15 people to become part of a living room performance that interweaves personal stories and the big issues affecting modern day Australians.

Originating in Europe, each *Home Visit Australia* performance takes place in a different home and, in turn, invites audiences to become part of an ongoing conversation and growing global legacy of *Home Visit* across the world.

Bleach\* Festival Artistic Director **Louise Bezzina** said the unique performance piece encapsulated the festival's desire to issue a personal invitation to all, welcoming participation and exchange.

"*Home Visit* has captivated audiences across the world and this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for locals to play host to Gold Coast's most intriguing and intimate performance piece to date as we break social barriers and get people talking," Bezzina said.

Co-founder of Rimini Protokoll, **Helgard Haug** said *Home Visit Australia* was created with the intention of gathering 15 strangers a private setting in order to play a game in a conversational atmosphere where they talk about the ever-changing ideas of what defines their lives.

"We believe theatre doesn't always have to happen in a theatre building. It can be in an office, a parliament, or a living room." Helgard said.

"*Home Visit Australia* is a broader investigation of the tectonics of integration. What is Australia? And is there such a thing as an Australian Cultural identity?"

*Home Visit Australia* is one of nine world and Australian premieres on the program for this year's 7th annual Bleach\* Festival – a genre-defying program of more than 140 live music, theatre, dance and free family entertainment events at 31 Gold Coast locations from 29 March – 15 April.

*Home Visit Australia* comes to a living room near you 29 March – 6 April 2018.

For more information, visit [www.bleachfestival.com.au](http://www.bleachfestival.com.au)

### ENDS

*Presented by Bleach\* Festival.*

*Bleach\* Festival is proudly supported by the City of Gold Coast; the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland, part of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet; and Tourism and Events Queensland.*

**Bleach\***  
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# HOME VISIT AUSTRALIA

## FACT SHEET

A production by Rimini Protokoll

### PRODUCTION OVERVIEW

Season Dates Thursday 29 March – Saturday 7 April 2018  
Venue Various locations city-wide  
Tickets \$10

Creators Rimini Protokoll

Host David Pledger

### ABOUT HOME VISIT AUSTRALIA

- *Home Visit Australia* sees 10 everyday locals open their private residences to complete strangers, inviting an intimate audience of just 15 people to become part of a living room performance and facilitated conversation that interweaves personal stories and the big issues affecting modern day Australians.
- This Bleach\* Festival presentation is the Australian premiere of the internationally acclaimed participatory performance experience from celebrated Berlin-based theatre company Rimini Protokoll.
- Each performance takes place in a different home, and thus becomes part of an ongoing conversation and growing global legacy of *Home Visit* from across the world.

### ABOUT RIMINI PROTOKOLL

[WWW.RIMINI-PROTOKOLL.DE/WEBSITE/EN/](http://WWW.RIMINI-PROTOKOLL.DE/WEBSITE/EN/)

- Rimini Protokoll was established in 2000 by founding artists Helgard Haug, Stefan Kaegi and Daniel Wetzel.
- Rimini Protokoll's work spans theatre, live art, radio plays, film and installation.
- They are recognised as being among the leaders and creators of the theatre movement known as "Reality Trend" (Theater der Zeit), which has exerted a powerful influence on the alternative theatre scene. Each project begins with a concrete situation in a specific place and is then developed through an intense exploratory process.
- They have attracted international attention with their dramatic works, which take place in that grey zone between reality and fiction.

### ABOUT LOUISE BEZZINA

(ARTISTIC DIRECTOR – BLEACH\* FESTIVAL)

- Louise Bezzina is the inaugural director and creator of Bleach\* Festival; the largest arts and cultural festival on the Gold Coast. Louise has produced and commissioned over 30 new contemporary site-specific works as part of Bleach\* Festival across all art forms and scales.
- In her role as Artistic Director for Bleach\*, Louise collaborated with the Co-Creative Leads for Festival 2018, part of the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games arts and cultural program.
- In 2016 Louise was awarded Business Woman of the Year for Arts and Culture for the Gold Coast Women in Business Awards and Cultural Achievement award for International Women's Day.
- Louise held the following arts positions prior to life on the Gold Coast: Producer at Brisbane Festival, Program Manager for the Judith Wright Centre of Contemporary Arts, Managing Producer for MAPS, Director of the Mackay Festival of Arts and Producer for Queensland Music Festival.

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- 90 per cent of Bleach\* Festival productions and events are free to the public, to continue widespread access and participation.
- Bleach\* Festival is helmed by founding Artistic Director Louise Bezzina and General Manager Matt Wilson.

**Bleach\***  
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## IF YOU GO DOWN TO THE PARK TODAY, YOU'RE SURE OF A BIG SURPRISE...

A giant illuminated puppet is suspended within a network of ropes, ready to wake from its slumber. The mysterious sound of a harp is adrift on the autumn breeze. A virtuosic violinist and a dazzling acoustic guitar trio play with abandon. The scene is set for a symphony of strings...

Taking centre stage at Paradise Point Esplanade Park across the Easter long weekend is **String Symphony**, a giant interactive sculptural installation created by **Spare Parts Puppet Theatre**, Australia's flagship puppetry company.

This mesmerising, multi-sensory experience for all ages invites a team of complete strangers to join forces to bring to life a giant handwoven puppet, made from more than a kilometre of rope and 600 LED lights.

*String Symphony* designer and puppet maker **Leon Hendroff** said *String Symphony* aimed to bring strangers together for a unique shared experience.

"In a time when people might feel quite isolated themselves, *String Symphony* provides an opportunity for them to have a tangible connection with other people," Hendroff said.

Bleach\* Festival Artistic Director **Louise Bezzina** described *String Symphony* as an awe-inspiring display of community and collaboration.

"*String Symphony* is a joyful, engaging and visually stunning work for all ages," Bezzina said.

"Spare Parts Puppet Theatre has created a complete crowd-pleaser and we are thrilled to be bringing it to the Gold Coast for the Easter long weekend."

Between shows, audiences can enjoy a specially curated free music program inspired by the puppet's soaring strings, featuring the hypnotic harp-driven beats of **ELSKA**, veteran guitarist **James Diamond**, alongside **Brandan Huxley**, and **Alex Bielby** in **Cadence**, and rising multi-instrumentalist **Emma Beau**.

*String Symphony* is one of countless free events on the program for this year's 7th annual Bleach\* Festival – a genre-defying program of more than 140 live music, theatre, dance and free family entertainment events at 31 Gold Coast locations from 29 March – 15 April. Bleach\* Festival will present 20 works within the Festival 2018 artistic program from 4 – 15 April.

*String Symphony* takes centre stage at Paradise Point Esplanade Park from Saturday 31 March to Wednesday 4 April 2018.

For more information, visit [www.bleachfestival.com.au](http://www.bleachfestival.com.au)

### ENDS

*String Symphony*, created by Spare Parts Puppet Theatre and commissioned by City of Joondalup, is presented by Bleach\* Festival and City of Gold Coast.

Bleach\* Festival is proudly supported by the City of Gold Coast; the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland, part of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet; and Tourism and Events Queensland.

#### MEDIA CONTACT



# STRING SYMPHONY

## FACT SHEET

### PRODUCTION OVERVIEW

Season Dates	Saturday 31 March – Wednesday 4 April 2018
Venue	Esplanade Park The Esplanade Paradise Point
Tickets	Free Event
Creators	Spare Parts Puppet Theatre
Designer and Puppet Maker	Leon Hendroff

### ABOUT STRING SYMPHONY

- *String Symphony* is a large-scale, interactive performance installation that uses puppetry to explore connection, community and collaboration.
- Hand-woven using more than one kilometre of rope and featuring 600 LED lights, the giant illuminated puppet is waiting to be brought to life.
- This mesmerising performance invites 12 audience members to become puppeteers. As the participants manipulate the giant interactive puppet, onlookers marvel at the beauty of this magnificent creation.
- A participatory event created by Australia's flagship puppetry company, Spare Parts Puppet Theatre (Western Australia).
- Originally commissioned and presented by Joondalup Festival (Western Australia).
- Part of Bleach\* Festival's expansive program of free all-ages events.

### ABOUT PHILIP MITCHELL

#### (ARTISTIC DIRECTOR - SPARE PARTS PUPPET THEATRE)

- Philip Mitchell is an award-winning director and puppeteer with more than two decades' experience working in puppetry and visual theatre in Australia. He has been Artistic Director of Spare Parts Puppet Theatre for 14 years.
- Philip's work explores the point at which the visual arts meets the performing arts. Through his work, Philip aims to explore new directions in puppetry development. He is passionate about discovering where the artistic leadership or authorship of a work can be placed.
- Philip is committed to nurturing new artistic leaders in puppetry through Australia's only tertiary education unit at WAAPA and training programs like FirstHand.
- At Spare Parts Puppet Theatre, Philip has directed award-winning shows including *The Arrival*, winner of the WA Equity Guild Awards Best Production, *Spellbound*, nominated for a Helpmann Award for Best Children's Production, and *H2O*, WA Equity Guild Award-winning show commissioned by the Perth International Arts Festival and designed for an Olympic sized swimming pool.
- Most recently, Philip directed the critically acclaimed *Farm*, nominated for six PAWA Awards.

### ABOUT LEON HENDROFF

#### (DESIGNER – SPARE PARTS PUPPET THEATRE)

- Leon is a designer and illustrator with a speciality in puppets. He has worked in the graphic design and illustration industry for a number of years before branching into puppet theatre; a passion since childhood.
- In 2001 Leon graduated from Curtin University, Western Australia, with a degree in design, winning several awards for his work including the inaugural Australian Graphic Design Association Scholarship award.
- Since 2005, Leon has been designing and making puppets for performance, retail, display and festivals, including Spare Parts Puppet Theatre's *Moominpappa At Sea* and *Fox*, award-winning giant illuminated puppets for Joondalup Festival, several Christmas window displays, and puppets nationally for McDonald's Camp Quality.
- He has also been conducting workshops on puppet making and puppet theatre for children and adults, as well as for Spare Parts Puppet Theatre's School of Puppetry; an association which started as a child.

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#### **ABOUT LOUISE BEZZINA**

#### **(ARTISTIC DIRECTOR – BLEACH\* FESTIVAL)**

- Louise Bezzina is the inaugural director and creator of Bleach\* Festival; the largest arts and cultural festival on the Gold Coast. Louise has produced and commissioned over 30 new contemporary site-specific works as part of Bleach\* Festival across all art forms and scales.
- In her role as Artistic Director for Bleach\*, Louise collaborated with the Co-Creative Leads for Festival 2018, part of the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games arts and cultural program.
- In 2016 Louise was awarded Business Woman of the Year for Arts and Culture for the Gold Coast Women in Business Awards and Cultural Achievement award for International Women's Day.
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#### **ABOUT BLEACH\* FESTIVAL**

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- 90 per cent of Bleach\* Festival productions and events are free to the public, to continue widespread access and participation.
- Bleach\* Festival is helmed by founding Artistic Director Louise Bezzina and General Manager Matt Wilson.
- Bleach\* Festival is proudly supported by the City of Gold Coast; the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland, part of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet; and Tourism and Events Queensland.

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## THE ULTIMATE FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT THESE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Burleigh Beach will sparkle with an amazing array of free family-friendly entertainment this Easter as Bleach\* Jnr returns 1 – 3 April 2018.

Set on the picturesque Burleigh Heads foreshore, the young and young-at-heart will be enthralled in a whimsical and captivating program of all-ages activities and events, with workshops and a number of award-winning theatre productions encouraging families to enjoy the great outdoors this Easter long weekend.

Join longboarding pro **Lucas Proudfoot** on a larger-than-life journey as his most vivid childhood memories are shared through Indigenous music and interactive performances at **The Proud Foots Book Show**. With assistance from a magical globe and young friends Pat the wombat, Koolaz the koala and Billy Blue the bluetongue lizard, children will become enamored exploring different cultures around the world.

In **The Whale's Tale**, Dr Walrus sets sail in an underwater playground full of surprises to discover why Manilayo the humpback whale is not feeling well. A highly interactive and playful performance by leading physical theatre ensemble **Born in a Taxi**, this environmental story will thrill with outrageous dance routines and slapstick comedy.

"Bleach\* Jnr has evolved into a mesmerising and enjoyable children's festival and we can't wait to take children on a rollicking environmental journey that will warm the heart," **Born in a Taxi** co-director **Carolyn Hanna** said.

*The Proud Foots Book Show* and *The Whale's Tale* are two of many free events on the program for this year's 7th annual Bleach\* Festival – a genre-defying program of more than 140 live music, theatre, dance and free family entertainment events at 31 Gold Coast locations from 29 March – 15 April.

Bleach\* Jnr takes over Burleigh Heads between Sunday 1 – Tuesday 3 April 2018. *The Whale's Tale* will also run from 9 – 11 April at Kurrawa park, Broadbeach as part of Bleach\* at Festival 2018.

For more information, visit [www.bleachfestival.com.au](http://www.bleachfestival.com.au)

### ENDS

*Bleach\* at Burleigh is proudly presented by NAB.*

*Bleach\* Festival is proudly supported by the City of Gold Coast; the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland, part of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet; and Tourism and Events Queensland.*

#### MEDIA CONTACT



# THE WHALE'S TALE

## FACT SHEET

### ABOUT THE WHALE'S TALE

- A highly interactive, riotous and playful performance by award-winning physical theatre ensemble Born in a Taxi.
- Immerse yourself in *The Whale's Tale*, watch from the shore, or submerge yourself in this underwater playground full of surprises. Ever wondered what it's like to be swallowed whole? Put on your shrimp helmet, take a deep breath, and dive inside the jaws of Manilayo, the humpback whale.
- The centrepiece of Bleach\* Jnr at Burleigh; Bleach\* Festival's 2018 hub for children and families.
- This is an environmental tale to warm the heart, with reflections about the consequences of our actions.

### ABOUT BORN IN A TAXI

[WWW.BORNINATAXI.COM.AU](http://WWW.BORNINATAXI.COM.AU)

- Based in Melbourne, Born in a Taxi is an independent physical theatre ensemble that has been creating dance, physical and visual theatre for over two decades and has continued to practice, develop, create and perform their own original work.
- They create theatrical productions for indoor, outdoor and site-specific environments.
- The backbone of every show is ensemble movement improvisation that appears tightly choreographed.
- Their award-winning street theatre work transforms everyday environments and situations into places of unexpected wonder, playfulness and delight.

### ABOUT BLEACH\* FESTIVAL

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