



ACMI, Federation Square

Sunday 18 October at 4PM

3 hrs

FREE

#melbfest

INTERNATIONAL // Sound Art

Australian Exclusive

Melbourne Festival and ACMI present

AURAL CONTRACT: The Voice Before the Law

Curator LIQUID ARCHITECTURE

Artist LAWRENCE ABU HAMDAN

As part of a series of events responding to the exclusive season of Headlong's *1984* at part of the 2015 Festival program, ***Aural Contract: The Voice Before the Law*** invites audiences to immerse themselves in a series of audio documentaries.

Lawrence Abu Hamdan's (b. 1985, Amman, Jordan) works examine the contemporary politics of listening—its relationship to power, borders, human rights, testimony and truth.

In 2010 he began development on ***Aural Contract***, an umbrella for works investigating the role of the voice in law and the changing nature of testimony in the face of new regimes of border control, algorithmic technology, medical science and surveillance.

Aural Contract works take varied forms—audio, essays, installations, performance—but all draw from an evolving sound archive comprising political and court recordings, police evidence, films, literature and more.

At Melbourne Festival, Hamdan will present a series of audio documentaries from the ***Aural Contract*** as a 'live listening event' in the immersive environment of the dark cinema. These will be followed by discussion with the artist moderated by sound art organisation Liquid Architecture—an Australian organisation for events, exhibitions, performances and situations of the world's leading artists working with sound.

Headlong's critically acclaimed production of ***1984*** is at Arts Centre Melbourne, Playhouse from 16-25 October. Special events responding to this production including: with University of Melbourne ***Language, Performance and Power: Reflecting on 1984 in 2015*** at Clemenger Auditorium on 21 October; ***George Orwell's 1984: A Live Reading*** at the Legislative Assembly Chamber in Victoria's Parliament House on 17 October co-presented with the Wheeler Centre; and ***Eyes Without a Face: Surveillance in Cinema*** program at ACMI from 8-25 October.

MEDIA CONTACT

TATIA SLOLEY M 0403 305 395
tatia@tspublicity.com.au

EMMA COSTELLO M 0421 201 344
emma@tspublicity.com.au