



"...a magnetic performer." - *New York Times*

Arts House

North Melbourne Town Hall

Thursday 08 – Monday 12 October

Thu — Sat at 7.30pm

Sun at 5pm

Mon at 6.30pm

1 hr 30 mins, no interval

\$39 / \$25

Students \$15

Transaction fees may apply

www.festival.melbourne

Arts House 03 9322 3713

Ticketmaster 136 100

Post Show Talk - Friday 09 October

FREE

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Melbourne Festival and Arts House in association with Performance Space 122 (New York), as part of PS122 GLOBAL present

BRONX GOTHIC

Part of the New York Narratives program

Writer, Performer and Sound Designer Okwui Okpokwasili
Director, Visual and Sound Designer Peter Born

Orchard Beach, Nathan's hot dogs and Whitney Houston's hair are all part of the landscape in **Okwui Okpokwasili's *Bronx Gothic***.

A solo creation at the intersection of theatre, dance and visual art installation, ***Bronx Gothic*** gives palpable force to the charged relationship between two girls on the verge of adolescence in 1980s outer-borough New York City – where Newport cigarettes are bought in singles at the corner bodega and sex-saturated notes are passed in class.

Raw, honest and precocious, the two 11-year-old girls trade barbed insults, nasty gossip and a heated intimacy entangling their bodies and their minds.

In an intensely physical reflection on adolescence, Okpokwasili summons the spirits of her youth and transforms them into a hypnotic and joyfully irreverent blend of song, sinuous dance and eye-opening confession, played out with caustic wit and raw emotion.

Collecting a prestigious Bessie award For Outstanding Production during its New York run as part of PS122's Coil Festival, this powerhouse work takes an unflinching look into the exquisite turbulence of one woman's memory, drawing inspiration from both Victorian-era novels and West African *griot* storytelling.

Having built a reputation alongside cutting-edge New York directors and choreographers including Julie Taymor, Ralph Lemon, Dean Moss and Young Jean Lee (*WE'RE GONNA DIE*, Melbourne Festival 2012), Okpokwasili delivers a command performance.

Bronx Gothic is part of Melbourne Festival's ***New York Narratives***, a showcase of the historic and contemporary influences of artists and audiences.

**MELBOURNE
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2015**

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Melbourne and New York's independent theatre practitioners on local, national and international

In addition to staging works from two of PS122's distinguished alumni—Andrew Schneider's *YOUARENOWHERE* as well as Okpokwasili's *Bronx Gothic*—the program will also include video installations and films that chronicle artists and productions presented at PS122 over the past three decades; a hands-on interactive performance with Melburnians and Andrew Schneider; a multi-faceted exhibition of Arts House's first decade; and pre/post show talks with the creative artists behind the shows.

Press contact:

Ben Starick - Starling Communications

E ben@starling.com.au M 0411 029 393 W starling.com.au

Or **Melbourne Festival publicity contacts**

MEDIA CONTACT

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

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

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