

MELBOURNE
FESTIVAL

08—25
OCTOBER
2015

MEDIA
RELEASE



8—25 October 2015

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#melbfest

In 2015, Melbourne Festival pays special attention to the independent artist. The work that they create and their determination to create it are enriching strengths that feed into the whole performing arts scene in this city and across Australia. Elsewhere in this program you will find presentations by Anthony Hamilton, Speak Percussion, Urban Chamber, Fraught Outfit, the artists of Igniting Your Imagination and others.

Melbourne Festival and Arts Centre Melbourne, Asian Performing Arts Program in association with Playking Foundation present

SPECIAL COMBINATION

Special Combination—an invitation-only choreographic and performance workshop—will bring together a cohort of artists from Asia and Australia to explore working processes and exchange first-hand experiences with special guest choreographers and directors.

Arts Centre Melbourne's Asian Arts Program and Melbourne Festival have invited choreographer Gideon Obarzanek to facilitate **Special Combination**, which will also focus on connections: connecting participants and workshop artists with each other and with the Festival's invited artists, producers and presenters.

Theatre Works in association with the University of Melbourne and Melbourne Festival presents

DIRECTORS LAB: MELBOURNE

Directors Lab: Melbourne will enable professional directors to take part in an intensive creative laboratory.

Since 1995, the Lincoln Center (NY) Theater's Directors Lab has been nurturing the development of theatre directors from across the world.

In an Australian first, under the leadership of Daniel Clarke, Melbourne's visionary independent theatre venue and long time Festival partner Theatre Works has developed and will facilitate the inaugural **Directors Lab: Melbourne** to be held during Melbourne Festival.

Like its New York counterpart, **Directors Lab: Melbourne** will invite participating directors to share their skills, methodologies and learnings within a community of peers through masterclasses, workshops and explorations.

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Both *Special Combination* and *Directors Lab: Melbourne* will also provide an opportunity for audiences to engage.

The Festival performances of *Right&Left* will provide audiences an opportunity to enjoy the work of featured participants as part of *Special Combination*. *Right&Left* is the latest work from prodigal multidisciplinary choreographer Gu Jiani, and fuses a dance language of incredible precision with a visually arresting mix of projection and light—offering an elegant and entrancing perspective on our oldest questions: why do we love, and how do we stop it from destroying who we are?

With *Directors Lab: Melbourne*, audiences are invited to join creator of the Lincoln Center Directors Lab Anne Cattaneo and Artistic Director of New York’s PS122 Vallejo Gantner as they discuss the origins, dynamics and future of the arts landscape in New York during Melbourne Festival’s *Artists in Conversation* program.

Melbourne Festival Artistic Director, Josephine Ridge said: “With these events, we continue the thread of the New York Narratives project by doing what an international arts festival like Melbourne Festival can do very well. We provide opportunities for local artists and international artists to see each other’s work and to see each other at work; we create opportunities for professional development, discussion and collaboration.

“In this vein, International arts festivals are as much about facilitating artistic development and creative collaborations across the industry as they are about connecting artists with audience and Melbourne Festival is very proud to actively supporting two important laboratories that will take place during this year’s festival.”