

TUESDAY 5 JULY, 2011

BRISBANE FESTIVAL LAUNCHES ITS MOST AMBITIOUS PROGRAMME YET

Brisbane Festival today launched its 2011 programme, announcing more than 70 productions and 400 performances, four world premieres and five Australian premieres will fill the city day and night from 3 – 24 September.

The world's greatest pianist, Russia's Evgeny Kissin, plus artists from Finland, Belgium, Argentina, the USA, Japan, China and Israel will be joining a huge line-up of outstanding Australian talent to pack the three weeks of Brisbane Festival with music, theatre, dance, comedy, circus and art.

From 12noon on Saturday 3 September, the fun will start with free live music and other activities at the Roma Street Parklands, South Bank, West End, and Queen Street Mall.

At dusk the city will light up with installations before *Sunsuper Riverfire* takes over the skies, followed by a banging dancehall-style opening night party in The Courier-Mail Spiegeltent and an alternative dress-up party with *Clown Cult* at Metro Arts.

That night the Brisbane Powerhouse will also host the amazing *Out of Context – for Pina* by acclaimed Belgian dance company les ballets C de la B, which has been hailed as the 'show of the year' across Europe.

Sunday night of the opening weekend sees the start of the Brisbane Festival spectacular new laser light show *Santos City of Lights*, an ambitious new event created by internationally acclaimed Australian lighting designer John Rayment and creative director Tony Assness.

Santos City of Lights will fill the river precinct with moving light sculptures and dramatic music every night to deliver a festival atmosphere the like of which Brisbane has never seen before.

In a truly special night for the city and a celebration of the resilience of its residents, Brisbane Festival has commissioned a new symphony from Australia's pre-eminent composer Elena Kats-Chernin.

Symphonia Eluvium (Symphony of the Floods) will be performed by the Queensland Symphony Orchestra for the first time on Sunday 11 September under the baton of internationally renowned Israeli conductor Asher Fisch.

The 2011 programme will also feature a number of unique collaborations, thanks to Brisbane Festival bringing companies together to help create a new artistic vibrancy for the city.

Brisbane Festival Artistic Director Noel Staunton said 2011 had been a big year for Brisbane and would prove to be a landmark year for Brisbane Festival.

"Today we are launching an ambitious programme, full of new work and big statements," Mr Staunton said.

"In September, this programme will leave no-one in any doubt that there is a major arts festival in town.

"For three weeks, more than 70 productions and 400 performances, plus art installations, conversations and talks, bars and other hang-outs, across four major festival hubs will create a unique, exciting and special atmosphere in the city.

"We believe we have programmed the best of Brisbane, the best of Australia and the best of the world and can't wait to share it with everyone."

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BRISBANE FESTIVAL LAUNCHES ITS MOST AMBITIOUS PROGRAMME YET (CONTINUED)

Other highlights of Brisbane Festival 2011 include:

- To open the QUT Festival Theatre, a purpose-built amphitheatre for Brisbane Festival at the Brisbane Powerhouse, Raw Dance Company and Legs on The Wall have joined forces to create a world premiere – **Beautiful Noise** – an aerodynamic dance, music and acrobatic spectacular.
- Beijing Dance/LDTX has collaborated with Brisbane's Expressions Dance Company to create a new three part dance work **First Ritual** that premiered in Beijing after starting life as a 'Work in Progress' at last year's Brisbane Festival.
- Another 'Work in Progress' from last year's Brisbane Festival – **Die Winterreise (The Winter Journey)** with the amazing Paul Capsis – is also part of the 2011 programme.
- Other Brisbane premieres include **Maria de Buenos Aires** – a "tango operita", which was first performed in Argentina in 1968 and still moves audiences with its sexy Latin rhythms and music.
- **Mortal Engine**, an incredible dance-video-music-laser performance from Australian dance company Chunky Move, has toured the world, won awards and now, at last, will come to Brisbane.
- From a triumphant opening season in London, the Australian premiere of Sydney Dance Company's **The Land of Yes and The Land of No** will also feature as a highlight of Brisbane Festival.
- Indigenous icon Jack Charles will bring his personal tale of redemption **Jack Charles v the Crown** to the Brisbane Powerhouse.
- The National Theatre of China's **Rhinoceros in Love**, the most successful avant garde play in Chinese history by revered Director Meng Jinghui, will open audiences' eyes to the best of contemporary Chinese culture and theatre.
- Continuing Brisbane Festival's Shakespeare program, which started with the success of *Macbeth* last year, Bell Shakespeare will perform the timeless tragedy *Romeo and Juliet* at QUT Festival Theatre.
- Also livening up QUT Festival Theatre is Finnish contemporary circus troupe Race Horse Company with the Australian premiere of its groundbreaking and action-packed show **Petit Mal**.
- Classical music lovers are in for a treat this year with five concerts: At QPAC, **Evgeny Kissin** will make his Australian debut and **Symphonia Eluvium (Symphony of the Floods)** will make its world premiere. At Eagle Farm Racecourse there will be two free concerts **Symphony under the Stars**, and the opera **La traviata** and on opening day, at Roma Street Parklands Amphitheatre there will be the free **Lunchtime Symphony**.
- The Courier-Mail Spiegeltent at King George Square has the biggest line-up yet of more than 50 performers including soul legend **Syl Johnson**, indie goddess **Kimbra** and Japanese acoustic pop virtuoso **Shugo Tokumaru**.
- After the runaway success of last year's late night show Cantina, which is now touring Europe, Brisbane Festival has again commissioned Strut and Fret to create a new work for The Courier-Mail Spiegeltent, called **The Dream Menagerie**, based on A Midsummer Night's Dream... but not for children.
- Metro Arts will be the central hub of activity for Under the Radar, Brisbane Festival's experimental programme, which will showcase 24 young artist collectives in 100 performances.

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BRISBANE FESTIVAL LAUNCHES ITS MOST AMBITIOUS PROGRAMME YET (CONTINUED)

Brisbane Festival 2011 highlights at a glance:

4 world premieres (including 3 exclusive commissions* by Brisbane Festival):

- *Symphonia Eluvium (Symphony of the Floods)*, by composer Elena Kats-Chernin*
- *The Dream Menagerie*, Strut & Fret Production House*
- *Beautiful Noise*, Raw Dance Company and Legs On The Wall*
- *I feel Awful*, The Black Lung Theatre and Whaling Firm

5 Australian premieres:

- *Rhinoceros in Love*, National Theatre of China
- Evgeny Kissin, Liszt program
- *The Land of Yes and The Land of No*, Sydney Dance Company
- *Petit Mal*, Race Horse Company in collaboration with Circo Aereo
- *First Ritual*, Beijing Dance Company/LDTX and EDC

6 international productions:

- *Rhinoceros in Love* by the National Theatre of China (China)
- Evgeny Kissin, Liszt program (Russia)
- *Out of Context – for Pina* by les ballets C de la B (Belgium)
- *Petit Mal*, Race Horse Company in collaboration with Circo Aereo (Finland)
- *First Ritual*, Beijing Dance Company/LDTX (China) and EDC (Australia)
- *Peepdance Brisbane Tel-Aviv*, Tami Dance Company (Israel)

3 unique collaborations:

- *Beautiful Noise*, Raw Dance Company and Legs On The Wall
- *First Ritual*, Beijing Dance Company/LDTX and EDC
- *Maria de Buenos Aires*, State Opera of South Australia and Leigh Warren & Dancers

4 Brisbane Festival hubs of activity:

- South Bank and QPAC, 9 in-theatre productions plus nightly laser light show and three week long light installations, free live music, movie screenings, meeting places and activities
- King George Square, The Courier-Mail Spiegeltent, more than 50 musicians covering indie, jazz, soul and other genres, comedy, cabaret and conversations
- Metro Arts, the home of Under The Radar, experimental arts programme with 24 artist collectives and 100 performances, and bar and performance space 'Out the Back'
- Brisbane Powerhouse and QUT Festival Theatre, 46 performances including 7 theatrical productions, a pop festival and a day of Indonesian culture

EVENT DETAILS

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BRISBANE CITY