

MEDIA RELEASE: 9 November 2017

JOIN IN OUR FESTIVAL TRANCE DANCE

Lucy Gideon Inc./Gideon Obarzanek/Dancenorth/Senyawa (Australia/Indonesia)

ATTRACTOR

‘Attractor is primal, electrifying, contemporary dance at its best.’ Sydney Morning Herald

Surrender yourself to an unforgettable ritual of dance with two of Australia’s greatest choreographers **Lucy Guerin** and **Gideon Obarzanek** and sensational Indonesian music duo **Senyawa**.

Audience members are invited to sign up for the experience of lifetime by joining in the unique music/dance odyssey **Attractor**. Immerse yourself as Senyawa reinterprets the Javanese tradition of entering trance through dance and music as a powerful, contemporary cross-cultural shared ritual.

In each performance, dancers are joined on stage by 20 unrehearsed audience members, guided by direction to dissolve the distinction between dancer and non-dancer.

Attractor unfolds into an unusual fusion of hand-made electrified stringed instruments with operatic melodies and heavy metal vocals that slowly build to a euphoric pitch while the dancers are propelled into ecstatic physical abandonment.



Attractor’s sound borrows from metal bands – Black Sabbath, Metallica and Iron Maiden – incorporated into Indonesian ritual and folk music.

Choreographer **Gideon Obarzanek** says: ‘Senyawa and I discussed our seemingly contradictory interest in traditional and ceremonial music and dance. We concluded that it was the desire for individuals to become a part of something bigger than themselves. Making *Attractor* comes from a shared interest to construct rituals for non-believers.’

Perth Festival Artistic Director **Wendy Martin** says: ‘*Attractor* is the best expression of audience participation I have seen. It will leave many audience members who choose not to opt in with pangs of regret as well as feeling incredible admiration for this communal dance event. I love the way people emerge from the audience and become one with the other dancers in such a fantastic way.’

Attractor won the 2017 Helpmann Awards for Best Choreography in a Ballet, Dance or Physical Theatre and Best Dance Production.

This highly successful collaboration between Australian and international artists is a visceral, empathic experience for Festival audiences.

Visit perthfestival.com.au to get involved in *Attractor*.

PERTH FESTIVAL

9 FEBRUARY –
4 MARCH 2018

Founder



Principal Partner



WHAT: ATTRACTOR

WHERE: Heath Ledger Theatre

WHEN: Thu 8 Feb – Sat 10 Feb

TICKETS: \$36

BOOKINGS AND FESTIVAL INFO: 08 6488 5555 – perthfestival.com.au

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Perth Festival

Founded in 1953 by The University of Western Australia, Perth Festival is the longest running international arts festival in Australia and Western Australia's premier cultural event. The Festival has developed a worldwide reputation for excellence in its international program, the presentation of new works and the highest quality artistic experiences for its audience. For 65 years the Festival has welcomed to Perth some of the world's greatest living artists and now connects with hundreds of thousands of people each year.

Wendy Martin is the Artistic Director 2016 – 19.

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