

MEDIA RELEASE: 9 November 2017

SCULPTED BODIES CREATE POETRY IN MOTION

Damien Jalet/ Kohei Nawa (Belgium/ France)

VESSEL

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

'A masterpiece – the perfect balance of radical, over the top themes and minimalistic, understated performance' - Realkyoto

Out of the darkness, a white structure looms above a vast pool of water.

Seven near-naked bodies move on this floating stage, becoming one with the gases, liquids and solids that form all around them.

Japanese sculptor **Kohei Nawa** and celebrated Belgian choreographer **Damien Jalet** have made *Vessel* an experience that looks, feels and sounds out of this world as their dancers' sculpted bodies pulsate to haunting music by renowned composer **Ryuichi Sakamoto and Marikho Hara**.

Using the elasticity of their muscles to emulate flowing fluids and oozing clay, the dancers create a dynamic merger of the cycles of earth and life to create a performance that is part dance, part dream and complete poetry in motion.

Hailed as 'a masterpiece' at its 2017 Japanese premiere, the Perth Festival presentation will be *Vessel's* first international outing.

Perth Festival's Artistic Director Wendy Martin says: 'Damien Jalet and Kohei Nawa have collaborated to create an astoundingly virtuosic, experimental work that will have broad appeal to dance enthusiasts, first time festival-goers and die-hard festival fans.'

'*Vessel* is like nothing else you will have seen before. It has never been seen outside Japan so Perth audiences will be the first to witness this visual and aural spectacle before it tours the great theatres of Europe in 2018. This breathtaking experience will stay with you long after you leave the theatre.'

Nawa is one of Japan's most renowned visual artists and he explores materials and techniques through his sculptures and installations that communicate an organic worldview inspired by Shinto Buddhism.



Jalet, who co-created Bolero with Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui and Marina Abramovic for Paris Opera Ballet in 2013, infuses dance with images of the myths, religions and rituals of the country that he visits.

PERTH FESTIVAL

9 FEBRUARY –
4 MARCH 2018

Founder



Principal Partner



WHAT: VESSEL

WHERE: Heath Ledger Theatre

WHEN: Thu 1 Mar – Sun 4 Mar

TICKETS: Adults \$36 - \$69, Friends \$36 - \$62, Student \$25

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 64 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.

