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PERFORMER 'DATES' 100 MEN IN 24-HOUR MARATHON

The Second Woman (Australia)

'The Second Woman is not only remarkable for the endurance of its lead performer. It's also a . . . stunning creative feat, from concept to execution. One of the finest examples of independent Australian theatre in years.' - The Guardian

Like an addictive TV binge drama, *The Second Woman* is a compelling 24-hour performance in which Sydney artist **Nat Randall** repeats the same short scene 100 times with a revolving door of Perth men volunteering as her co-stars.

Part theatre, live art film and social experiment, *The Second Woman's* single, repeated scene is inspired by *Opening Night*, a 1977 film by director John Cassavetes and starring his wife Gena Rowlands.

Written and directed by Randall and Anna Breckon, *The Second Woman* places Randall in a neon-lit box on stage as an aging, blonde actress waiting for her lover Marty. Played each time by a different man, Marty has two choices in his parting words to his co-star.

Randall never drops character for the entire marathon, pausing only for a short break to reset the scene, which is filmed by all-female camera operators to give a cinematic close-up live feed for the audience.

Viewers become obsessive voyeurs, watching for shifts in Randall's performance as she reacts to each different 'Marty', the level of fatigue and the shifting mood of the audience.



'This performance is utterly-engaging, like watching the most compelling box-set TV,' Perth Festival Artistic Director **Wendy Martin** says. 'You'll struggle to leave, and once you have, you'll be fighting to get back in.'

'*The Second Woman* is a fascinating study of intimacy and human vulnerability, fashioning new meanings as each new man plays his role differently and blurring the lines between reality and fiction. It is a psychological boxing bout with 100 sparring partners.'

WHAT: THE SECOND WOMAN

WHERE: PICA Performance Space

WHEN: 3 Mar from 3pm (duration 24 hours)

TICKETS: \$10 at the venue. Entry at any time during the 24-hour performance, subject to capacity

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.

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