

## Barangaroo Delivery Authority Media Release 14 May 2018



Artist impression of *The Liminal Hour*; Image courtesy and copyright Erth Visual and Physical Inc.

### Barangaroo Lights Up at Vivid Sydney:

#### Six-metre tall puppet comes to life as the sun sets on Barangaroo

**Sydney, Australia: Barangaroo Delivery Authority and Destination NSW are pleased to unveil details of *The Liminal Hour* performance presented at Barangaroo for Vivid Sydney, the world's largest festival of light, music and ideas. A world-premiere Sydney-exclusive, *The Liminal Hour* will transform Barangaroo's Wulugul Walk into a magical bushland that the audience explores every night of the festival led by the beautiful female creature named Marri Dyin - "Great Woman".**

An exciting feast of colour and light in Sydney's waterfront precinct, the installation will focus on a magnificent puppet, which stands six metres high. Inspired by the cycle of regeneration through fire and water, *The Liminal Hour* features layers of sound and light that will fill Barangaroo with a lush landscape evocative of the Australian bush. During the performance, *Marri Dyin* (pronounced "Muhr-ee Djin") calls upon the natural forces, transforming peaceful bushland, into a raging bush fire, then a torrential storm - a cycle of regeneration which assures new life and prosperity for future generations. While the storm calms and returns to a peaceful bush state,

*Marri Dyin* sits to take counsel with children and visitors, inviting them to share with her their secrets, hopes and desires for the future. This is a touching moment, as children are asked to share a moment on their own, with the Great Woman.

This six-metre high and visually-spectacular character will be operated by a team of puppeteers, acting as a conduit between *Marri Dyin* and the audience. The artists will bring the breathtaking puppet to life from 6-9pm each night of the festival, cycling twice through her epic journey of fire, rain and regeneration.

*Marri Dyin* is not a traditional spirit, rather she is a contemporary concept; an elemental spirit intrinsically connected to the land. Her existence seeks to recognise the influence and importance of the First Nations women, including Barangaroo, who lived in Sydney prior to settlement. *Marri Dyin* represents their strength and spirit, and their role as providers for their people through a connection to the land and its waterways.

The artistic collaboration brings together the talents of **Erth Visual & Physical Inc.**, **Jacob Nash**, **James Brown**, and **Mandylights**. Combining world-class puppetry mechanics, sound and light, the artwork and performance will be a spectacular showcase of Australian artistic innovation and creativity.

**Barangaroo Executive Director, Activation and Precinct Manager, Sandra Bender, said:**

"The Liminal Hour artwork is part of our ongoing ambition to deliver a distinct and unique creative program sharing the stories of the Barangaroo precinct and celebrating the 'femininity' of the site's namesake with our audience. We are delighted to be working with this highly talented collective of artists, creative partners and community members to experience a world-class showcase of light, innovation and artistry along our spectacular foreshore location during Vivid Sydney."

**Scott Wright, Artistic Director of Erth, said:**

"Marri Dyin is a spirit of immense power, but she takes counsel from those of us with the smallest voices. It is my hope that through this work we convey the desire for a future where all are equal regardless of gender, race or beliefs. When you experience this work, you'll see a mixed group of people, whose combined voice affirms and honours the fact that together we stand on the land of the oldest continuously living culture. Therefore a process of ongoing consultation continues with members of the First Nations community because valuing this in everything we do, is the key to our future."

**VIVID SYDNEY BARANGAROO INSTALLATION DETAILS:**

**Date: 25 May – 16 June**

**Time: 6 – 9PM *The Liminal Hour* show, Lighting and soundscape continues until 11PM**

**Location: Wulugul Walk, Barangaroo**

**Cost: FREE**

**Information:** <http://www.barangaroo.com/see-and-do/whats-on/vivid-at-barangaroo/>

**Food and drinks:** A huge variety of food options will be on offer every evening during the festival. Visitors to *The Liminal Hour* at Barangaroo can enjoy fabulous dining with family-friendly menus and exciting light-inspired dishes.

## **BIOGRAPHIES:**

### **ABOUT BARANGAROO DELIVERY AUTHORITY**

Barangaroo Delivery Authority is responsible for the development of Barangaroo on behalf of the NSW Government, and for the delivery of high quality urban design and public spaces. As part of this remit, the Authority oversees the delivery of public art, cultural activities and public programs within the precinct. Responses to the form, geography, rich history and future of the Barangaroo site are integral to the design and delivery of the program. The **Barangaroo Public Art and Cultural Plan** covers 11 hectares of public domain and represents one of Australia's largest suites of public art and cultural activity. The Plan outlines nine priority public art and cultural programs for delivery by 2020, including a series of cultural activities and civic events. In recent years, this has included: **Barangaroo Ngangamay**, an immersive multimedia artwork by Amanda Jane Reynolds and Genevieve Grieves; **Aurora Eora**, a beautiful collaboration with the Gondwana Choirs and acclaimed contemporary artists, which brought Barangaroo to life through song and art; **Four Thousand Fish**, a free Sydney Festival installation curated by Emily McDaniel that invited visitors to return frozen fish-shaped sculptures to the water surrounding Barangaroo Reserve; and **Papillon**, a large-scale temporary artwork by leading Australian artist, Nike Savvas, that suspended dramatic coloured ribbons above Exchange Place.

### **ABOUT VIVID SYDNEY**

Vivid Sydney is the world's largest festival of light, music and ideas and now the largest event in Australia. For 23 days - from 25 May to 16 June 2018 – the event places a spotlight on Sydney and reinforces its position as the home of light, creativity, cutting edge music, engaging conversations and the exchange of new ideas. The festival is owned, managed and produced by Destination NSW, the NSW Government's tourism and major events agency. In 2017 Vivid Sydney attracted a record 2.33 million attendees and injected over \$143 million into NSW's visitor economy. For more information visit [www.vividsydney.com](http://www.vividsydney.com).

### **ABOUT EARTH**

ERTH is a company fueled by beautiful accidents; a team of creators, makers and performers pushing the limits of design, content and experience. For over twenty five years EARTH's puppetry-based theatrical productions and innovative community projects have challenged and inspired audiences across the world, driven by a special interest in natural history, indigenous folklore, sociology and urban mythology. Today the company is recognised internationally as an innovator of physical and visual theatre, and a creator of brave, unbridled work for children. In 2018 Erth's ongoing push to explore boundaries and devise new work includes collaborations with renowned film director Samantha Lang, Chiara Guidi –

founder of seminal Italian avant garde theatre company Societas Raffaello Sanzio - and the Barangaroo Delivery Authority.

### **ABOUT JACOB NASH**

Jacob is currently the Head Designer at Bangarra Dance Theatre and has been working with the company since 2010. He has designed the sets for all of their productions since that time, some of these works include; OUR: land people stories, PATYEGARANG, INFINITY/WARAMUK IN THE DARK NIGHT and OF EARTH AND SKY. He has co-directed along with Stephen Page all of Bangarra's digital content for the Vivid Festival, which has been projected onto the pylon of the Harbour Bridge annually since 2014. Jacob has also production designed Stephen Page's feature film SPEAR and short film SAND and also designed Stephen's Bangarra production BENNELONG in 2017. In 2016 Jacob was the Production Designer for ABC's sci-fi drama series CLEVERMAN, Jacob is currently working on the show's second season.

### **ABOUT MANDYLIGHTS**

Mandylights is a lighting and visual design company with offices in Australia and the United Kingdom. Since 2006, the company has designed, built, toured and executed outstanding designs in over fifty countries around the world across live event, experiential, broadcast and festival markets. Previous works include world tour designs for Ricky Martin, the Backstreet Boys and James Bay, the lighting of the Auckland Harbour Bridge and Dubai's Burj Khalifa and lighting festivals from Alice Springs to Singapore and beyond. As the first dedicated lighting design firm in the region, Mandylights is globally known as a talented, enthusiastic and highly experienced collective of designers who live to blur the lines between performance, installation, light art and production design.

### **ABOUT JAMES BROWN**

James Brown is a Sydney based composer who has worked collaboratively with companies both locally and internationally to produce soundtracks for performance, film, animation and games. He holds a Visual Arts degree from Sydney College of the Arts, and a Masters Degree in Acoustic Physics from Sydney University. James has extensive experience working in collaborative, multi-artform processes and has formed ongoing artistic relationships collaborations with artists and companies including: Bethesda, Victoria Hunt, Jane Campion, Adult Swim, The Australian Ballet, Sydney Dance Company, William Yang, George Khut, Matthew Day, Hans Van Den Broeck (SOIT), POST, and Urban Theatre Projects.

For more information, please visit [www.barangaroo.com](http://www.barangaroo.com)

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