**Performing Climates**

**Copy and Event details**

Arts House partners with the University of Melbourne to host *Performing Climates* – an arts program designed and curated for the public by Arts House for the 2016 Performance Studies International (PSi) conference.

COP15 marked a tipping point: at the very least, a global acknowledgment of the impacts of climate change; and perhaps the beginning of real plans to limit future damage. In this context, artists, activists, scientists and citizens are collaborating to radically re-imagine, reconfigure and research how and where art intersects with climate change; and our capacity to respond to, prepare for and mitigate it.

*Performing Climates* explores these themes with five major projects, along with a series of discussions, dinners and dancing – because even as we face global climate catastrophe, we can and must experience joy, connectedness and sustenance.

**Cut the Sky**

**Marrugeko  
Wed 6 – Sat 10 July**Wed – Fri 7:30pmSat 2pm& 7:30pm

Sun 2pm  
90 mins.

Post Show Q&A Thurs. 7 July  
Full $45 / Conc. $35 / Student $30

<http://sa2.seatadvisor.com/sabo/servlets/EventSearch?&presenter=AUARTSHOUSE&event=cuthesky>

Dance, video, poetry and song are breathtakingly combined in a major new work from intercultural and interdisciplinary company, Marrugeku.

In a burnt landscape a group of climate change refugees faces yet another extreme weather event. Propelled back and forward in time, they revisit conflict with mining companies, the destruction of fauna and the relegation of the marginalised, while contemplating the gift of life and the life-giving force of the sun. Butterflies swarm searching for water; dancers disintegrate into the light. A song is sung, calling for rain.

Like climate change itself, *Cut the Sky* is both local and international –bringing together artists fromEurope, Asia, Africa and remote andurban Australia. An ambitious andpoignant meditation on humanity’sfrailty in the face of our own actions, *Cut the Sky* showcases Marrugeku’sunique contemporary vision –restless, taut and unwavering.

Artist Credits:

***Cut the Sky* is**

**collaboratively created by:**

**Concept:**

**Dalisa Pigram &**

**Rachael Swain**

**Poems:**

**Edwin Lee Mulligan**

**Director:**

**Rachael Swain**

**Choreographers:**

**Dalisa Pigram & Serge**

**Aimé Coulibaly**

**Dramaturgy:**

**Hildegard de Vuyst**

**Musical Director:**

**Matthew Fargher**

**Media Designers &**

**Visual Concept:**

**Sonal Jain & Mriganka**

**Madhukaillya (Desire**

**Machine Collective)**

**Set & Costume Designer:**

**Stephen Curtis**

**Lighting Designer:**

**Damien Cooper**

**Cultural Adviser:**

**Patrick Dodson**

**Co-created & Performed by:**

**Miranda Wheen**

**Ngaire Pigram**

**Eric Avery**

**Josh Mu**

**Dalisa Pigram**

**Edwin Lee Mulligan**

**Enfold**

**Ria Soemardjo and Jade Dewi  
Wed 6 – Sun 10 July**

$10  
Various locations

Program announced 31 March

The rising waters of the Pacific and increased displacement of Pacific Islanders provide the impetus for *Enfold* – a poetic contemplation of water and our relationship to it. An installation and ritual performance from the deeply experienced and richly talented team of Jade Dewi Tyas Tunggal, Ria Soemardjo and Paula van Beek, *Enfold* explores themes of tidal shorelines, relocation and shelter. It invokes an ancient way of seeing, in which deep interconnections are revealed between the microcosmic realms of the human body and the macrocosmic, mystical universe.

**and the earth sighed**

**Josephine Starrs and Leon Cmielewski  
Wed 6 – Sun 10 July**

$10  
Meat Market

Program announced 31 March

In an immersive audiovisual installation that re-imagines the relationship between nature and culture, Starrs & Cmielewski configure the land itself as active, not neutral, and able to speak about our human impacts upon it. Using imagery captured by drones, detailed aerial views of Australian landscapes and waterways are dynamically manipulated in ways that reveal their underlying fragility; while Alex Davies’ surround soundscape invites contemplation of the impact of climate change on natural ecologies.

**Best Festival Ever: How to Manage a Disaster  
Wed 6 – Sun 10 July**

Full $20 / Conc. $15 / Local $15  
North Melbourne Town Hall

Program announced 31 March

We are surrounded by and embedded in systems, both natural and human-made – from climate and the ecosystem to the economy or even society itself. Many of today’s significant issues emerge from the interplay between such systems. Taking systems science as its basis, *Best Festival Ever* is both interactive and performative – part theatre show, part performance lecture and part board game. Its audience gathers around a table, working together to deliver a unique music festival, from planning to execution, and doing their best to prevent the system from collapsing into chaos.

**Refuge**

**Sat 9 July**

Free

North Melbourne Town Hall

Program announced 31 March

How should cultural spaces respond to catastrophic emergencies? How can we ensure that we and our communities are prepared, and that we understand and fulfil our role as a local resource? What role should the arts, and artists, play in planning for such events?

Central to the *Performing Climates* program is *Refuge*: a research–action event in which artists and disaster management professionals work with the North Melbourne community to devise responses to a climactic disaster. It configures North Melbourne Town Hall, home of Arts House, as a place of community refuge.

At a time when communities around the world are affected by unprecedented natural and human-induced disasters, and as we stare the long emergency of climate change in the face, a conversation around preparedness, resilience and recovery could not be more pertinent. From wildfires to hurricanes to rising sea levels, the future looks increasingly uncertain.

Involving artists in the months leading up to *Performing Climates*, as well as a range of disaster management services and organisations across the city, *Refuge* is both a rehearsal in preparedness and a shoring-up of our all-important connections.