

– Media Release –

the perception experiment: an exploration of time and space through an experiential live dance performance

A trickle of salt becomes a torrent
becomes a cloud
becomes a pattern
capturing breath and heartbeat before slipping away

Touring nationally this February and March *the perception experiment* invites theatregoers to engage with some of the country's most innovative contemporary dance. The performance conceptually breaks boundaries of what dance is and how the audience experiences it.

Through provocative sensorial immersion, choreographers Frankie Snowdon and Madeleine Krenek, GUTS Dance || Central Australia offer an alternative view of how the experiential live dance performance, *the perception experiment* is navigated.

"We always strive to break or reframe the expectations of audience. Both in the way they interact with the dance and in challenging expectations of the 'contract' you subconsciously enter into when you attend a live dance work" said Snowdon.

Shoes off, participants are led one-by-one by a dancer into the space. Standing together, facing the same direction, the dimmed lights go out. What follows is a sensory experience of moving pulsating sound. The performers wind silently and wistfully between audience figures in the darkened theatre.

"It was really another world of performance for me. Every individual escorted in was a reflection of the continual 'arrival' that took place throughout the experiment" said Tara Samaya, dancer and collaborator from the original season.

After the sound installation builds to a crescendo, audience members are then invited to sit, surrounding the dance floor. An exploration of mind and movement is entered into, with the white cocoon-like figures interweaving in mesmerising circles of salt.

"The salt assisted physical endurance and mental concentration by showing the passing and impermanence of physical form and mental formation. It also created an exceptionally intense sensory experience of the dance" said Samaya.





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This boundary pushing emerging dance company based in Alice Springs have several works in their repertoire. *the perception experiment* is the first work Snowdon and Krenek made in Central Australia and has received wide acclaim. Premiering at Araluen Arts Centre in 2017 it became one of only two Contemporary Australian Dance works to perform at the *Festival Cultural de Mayo* in Mexico, 2019 alongside Dancenorth. The production also joined the innovative programming in Melbourne with Dance Massive in 2019, a festival that champions independent artists' practice and develops contemporary, experimental and participatory work that engages audiences.

"We have never made work in proscenium arch context because we are interested in bodies being present or meeting other bodies and concepts within the frame of a "dance work". We want our work to be more experiential and slightly more demanding of people" said Snowdon.

Louise Partos, Executive Officer, Artback NT said "Frankie and Maddie are passionate about being part of a movement and conversation that sees support for and interest in work that is borne of places less well known. To showcase *the perception experiment* on a national platform enables this innovative contemporary dance company the capacity to present a unique immersive work to Australian audiences."

Frankie Snowdon and Madeleine Krenek, GUTS Dance || Central Australia; Louise Partos, Executive Officer, Artback NT are available for interview upon request.

Publicity images are available to download at: <http://bit.ly/2uDlabU>

Itinerary:

Supercell Festival, Qld, Brisbane, Sunday 23 February, 6.30pm

Goldfields Arts Centre, WA, Kalgoorlie Boulder, Thursday 27 February, 10am and 1.30pm and Friday 28 February, 6.30pm

Lighthouse Theatre, Vic, Wednesday 4 March, 7.30pm

Jetty Memorial Theatre, NSW, Friday 6 March, 7pm and Saturday 7 March, 7pm

Dancenorth, QLD, Wednesday 11 March, 7pm and Thursday 12 March, 7pm

Godinymayin, NT, Saturday 14 March, 7.30pm and Sunday 15 March, 1pm

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