

MEDIA RELEASE

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DANCENORTH
AUSTRALIA

Dancenorth's record-breaking tour to visit Naarm (Melbourne)

Dancenorth Australia will continue its record-breaking tour of contemporary dance work *Wayfinder*, presenting two performances in Naarm (Melbourne) this October.

The renowned North Queensland-based dance company began its *Wayfinder* tour – the most extensive in Australian contemporary dance history – in January and will take the work to 19 locations across the country before the end of this year.

Wayfinder owes its resounding success to its unique fusion of dance, music and visual arts. The work is a joyful, exuberant and richly textured piece that weaves Dancenorth's professional Ensemble with the jazz/funk sound of three-time Grammy Award nominees Hiatus Kaiyote and more than 100km of recycled wool spun into enchanting artwork by visual artist Hiromi Tango.

Dancenorth's Artistic Director Kyle Page said he and Associate Artistic Director, Amber Haines, had created *Wayfinder* as an offering that champions optimism, connectivity and joy.

"When we set out to make a new work, the world was shouldering so much polarisation, anxiety, and disconnection, amplified by our shared experience of Covid. Amber and I sensed that our next work needed to be a gift – an offering to remind people of the innate goodness and the capacity for connection, hope and love that remains in the world," said Page.

"A dear friend and collaborator, Naomi Jean, introduced us to the music of Hiatus Kaiyote and we very quickly fell in love with their eclectic sound world. Their music captures the essence of what we wanted *Wayfinder* to be – a joyful expression of optimism; and when we reached out to the band they were really excited about collaborating.

"I'd met Hiromi Tango a few years earlier and when Amber and I discussed the incredibly rich and vibrant aesthetic we imagined for the show, we knew we wanted Hiromi on board. She has created an incredible visual arena in which our Dancers interact, create, play and perform," Page said.

To date, more than 8,500 Australians have seen *Wayfinder* across Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, Western Australia and South Australia; with a sold out show at Perth Festival and a sold out season at Adelaide Festival. By the end of the year, *Wayfinder* audiences are expected to reach a combined 17,000.

Page said it has been a deep joy to share this work with so many people across the country.

"There's an electricity in the way that people meet this work," said Page.

"Whether we were in the Pilbara or Perth, Hobart or Townsville, audiences universally respond with the same level of enthusiasm, openness, and vitality. This exchange of energy is a gift for both performers and audience members – we love sharing this work with audiences around the country and can not wait to do the same in Naarm / Melbourne."

Dancenorth Australia will perform Wayfinder at the Alexander Theatre, Monash Performing Arts Centre on 25 – 26 October 2024. For more information and tickets, go to www.dancenorth.com.au/works/wayfinder

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