

## MEDIA RELEASE

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**DANCENORTH**  
AUSTRALIA

# Australian-first dance work to Premiere at Brisbane Festival

A groundbreaking new dance work by internationally-acclaimed contemporary dance company Dancenorth Australia will premiere at Brisbane Festival net week (12-14 September).

*Lighting the Dark* will be the first time in Australia – potentially, the world – that an artist living with Down Syndrome has been commissioned to Direct a mainstage work for a professional company.

Director Chris Dyke, has been making work with Dancenorth's Artistic Directors Amber Haines and Kyle Page annually for more than a decade, with this show marking the first time he has directed Dancenorth's full ensemble.

Dyke said his goal for *Lighting the Dark* was to create a show that takes inspiration from blockbuster superheroes and global rock stars and leaves the audience feeling a sense of happiness, love and connection with one another.

"My heroes – Batman, Superman, Queen and the street artist Banksy – all operate in the dark, so others can enjoy the light," said Dyke.

"These heroes reflect my own power back to me, and I hope everyone who sees the show will feel empowered by it, too."

Page said it's been a joy for Dancenorth's Ensemble and creative team to work alongside Chris to bring his vision to life.

"Chris is such a creative force, and he has brought such incredible clarity and instinct to what he wanted to achieve with his first full-length, ensemble piece," said Page.

"The creative team has just been tasked with stewarding that vision to the stage, and the result is nothing short of epic. Throughout the Work's development, Chris has challenged us to break from our 'typical' methods for creating work and embrace radically divergent creative process.

"What's unfolded is a deeply moving and authentic dance work that embraces colour, chaos and connection, and invites audiences to engage in a way that is very rare for contemporary dance," Page said.

The World Premiere of *Lighting the Dark* will be held at the Thomas Dixon Centre, Meanjin (Brisbane) on 12-14 September 2024, as part of the Brisbane Festival.

**Acknowledgement of Funding:** *Lighting the Dark* was commissioned by Brisbane Festival and is supported by the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland, and the Ian Potter Foundation.

Dancenorth Australia is assisted by both the Australian Government through Creative Australia, its principal arts investment and advisory body, and the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland.

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#### **MEDIA MATERIALS:**

High resolution images and video, and artist bios are available here:

[https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/a65u4xotajt9mgtquzhgz/AKg6ltnT7x9UdeQcK0Y1Q\\_Q?rlkey=ggp8i3nakl5jise65nuiq66rb&st=yq53n4ws&dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/a65u4xotajt9mgtquzhgz/AKg6ltnT7x9UdeQcK0Y1Q_Q?rlkey=ggp8i3nakl5jise65nuiq66rb&st=yq53n4ws&dl=0)