

MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE USE

DANCENORTH
AUSTRALIA

Dancenorth to present *RED* at the inaugural Australian Dance Biennale

Dancenorth Australia will present *RED* – touted by one critic as “the best thing to come out of Townsville since the North Queensland Cowboys” – for the inaugural Australian Dance Biennale at RISING Festival, Naarm (Melbourne), next week (3-7 June).

RED premiered in 2021 and was commissioned by a consortium of Major Australian International Arts Festivals, enjoying rave reviews in Gurambilbarra (Townsville), RISING Festival and Brisbane Festival in 2021; and Ten Days on the Island (TAS) and Queensland Performing Arts Centre in 2023.

The work is a breathtaking duet set inside a large transparent dome, performed by Sabine Crompton-Ward and Michael Smith, members of Dancenorth’s Townsville-based Ensemble. As the show progresses, air is slowly removed from the dome with the dancers still inside.

Dancenorth’s co-Artistic Director Amber Haines said it was an honour to be invited to share *RED* at the landmark Australian Dance Biennale.

“*RED* is a deeply intimate piece that feels as resonant and as critical as it did when we made it in a world emerging from the pandemic. An uncompromising duet set inside a transparent dome, the work interrogates our place within an ever-changing and intricately woven web, and the systems and constructs that no longer serve but stifle us,” said Haines.

“It’s a deep privilege to be invited to revisit this work for the Australian Dance Biennale – an event that represents a significant and collaborative effort to elevate dance within Australia’s cultural landscape.”

Dancenorth will present five performances of *RED* at the Australian Dance Biennale on 3-7 June 2026. The work will be performed by Dancenorth Ensemble members Sabine Crompton-Ward and Michael Smith.

For more information and tickets, visit <https://2026.rising.melbourne/program/red>

Acknowledgement of Funding:

RED has been assisted by the Australian Government’s Major Festivals Initiative, managed by Creative Australia, its principal arts investment and advisory body, in association with the Confederation of Australian International Arts Festivals Inc., commissioned by RISING, Brisbane Festival, Darwin Festival, Ten Days on the Island, and the Queensland Performing Arts Centre.

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

City Council. Dancenorth is supported by the Tim Fairfax Family Foundation and receives funding from Creative Australia through the Australian Cultural Fund.

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MEDIA MATERIALS:

High-resolution images and b-roll video are [available here](#).