

SAT
26
JUNE
6.30PM

WHEN WATER FALLS



NEW WORK CELEBRATING RAIN PREMIERES IN TASMANIA

On Saturday 26th June in Sheffield, Lutrawita (Tasmania), **Big hART** will premiere its fourth new work this year – **When Water Falls** - a divine and immersive sensory work celebrating life-giving rain.

When Water Falls is a stunning poetic and enthralling performance piece exploring our relationship with rain – the way the sky cries, how our thirst is quenched, why we kiss under umbrellas and stomp in puddles. It weaves together song, text, video, animated image and a feast of delicious Tasmanian produce across multiple spaces to articulate how rain is the life of our forests, our farms, our rivers, our dams, and the power in our homes.

When Water Falls brings together young people from North West Tasmania with Tasmanian musicians, digital artists and filmmakers, under the direction of **Scott Rankin**, Indigenous musical director **Jay Bushby** and associate director **Rachel Small**. One of the stand-out moments of the evening is a first time collaboration with Big hART and the University of Tasmania's Conservatorium of Music which will see an ensemble of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander singers and musicians from nations all over Australia lift their voices to the night air. This group of stellar young artists will perform together for the first time in When Water Falls.

Coming off the back of three highly acclaimed sold out shows Zinc, Acoustic Life of Boatsheds and Songs for Freedom, When Water Falls demonstrates Big hART as a force to be reckoned with during COVID. This prolific Tasmanian company continues to create original and thrilling genre-defying work against all odds. Collaborating artists include Hobart multi-instrumentalist and vocalist **Sabine Bester**, celebrated Tasmanian Filmmaker **Anna Cadden**, acclaimed North West Tasmanian artist and composer **Aaron Hopper**, prolific digital artist **Leith Alexander** and animation by Sydney new media artist **Jordan East**. Through their mentorship, young people have been exploring the environment in their unique part of the world, developing their connection to place through digital media, music, short films, poetry and text.

When Water Falls not only interrogates the meaning, stories, energy and symbolism of water and rainfall, but also its scientific, environmental and engineering characteristics and potential, through links with Tasmania's renewable energy industry. When Water Falls features young people from Big hART's new **Positive Futures** program, supported by Hydro Tasmania and TasNetworks. This program enables young people to thrive and develop new pathways into the renewable, environment, digital tech and cultural industries through STEM mentoring.

Tasmania's renewable energy industry is a major contributor to the north-west region, and Positive Futures gave Hydro Tasmania and TasNetworks an opportunity to help over 50 young people from Sheffield, Wynyard and Smithton to engage with leading artists, professional mentors and scientists. Workshops and interactions have taken place since March, with young people participating in all levels of the event from the creative concept to production and presentation.

Positive Futures builds on Big hART's award-winning youth work, including the acclaimed **Project O** initiative which began in North West Tasmania, and has been rolled out in five states and territories, supporting approximately 1,000 young women to be changemakers in their community and shift narratives.

Big hART is Australia's leading arts and social change organisation, telling Australia's most invisible stories. Founded in North West Tasmania 29 years ago, Big hART has worked in over 50 communities across Australia, featuring at festivals and events from The Netherlands to London, South Korea to Sydney, winning over 45 awards including Helpmann, Myer and AFI Awards.

When Water Falls is supported by Hydro Tasmania, TasNetworks, UTAS, Tasmanian Government, Tasmanian Community Fund, Telstra, Australian Government Rise Fund, Kentish Council, Kentish House and Sheffield School.

Don't miss this rich visual and sonic exploration of rain through live music, visual projection and animation, at the Sheffield Town Hall on Saturday 26th June at 6pm.



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