

# Concrete Echoes

24-27  
february



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Program



STRUT recognises Australian First Nations people as Australia's first dancers and acknowledges that all dance in Australia sits within the context of the continuum of First Nations and Torres Strait Islander culture. We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land upon which we create and work, the Whadjuk people of the Noongar nation, who continue to nurture a deep and respectful relationship to land and sea. It is a great privilege and honour to create with them on their country.

We also respectfully acknowledge neighbouring groups throughout WA and honour their Elders across time.

Concrete Echoes is the split in time that beckons together people in their ceremony, rupturing the concrete of Forrest Place, becoming arable in the cracks, moving as both fracture and bloom.

An offering in the heart of Boorloo where stone and dance meet, beneath the weight of the city, the ground softens for gathering.



Brought together by Ta'alili and STRUT Dance, performers converge to find their way as one in the stories and dances that have carried them through times of significance, rupture, and unease.

They bring with them the soil of other landscapes, the heat of other suns, and languages of many tides. Each stride presses open a seam between what has been and what yet lives, and begins the voyage together toward a

reimagined dream



We are a group of many cultures, languages that revel in each other's stories and histories. On our first week of creating Concrete Echoes, we attended the Invasion day rally right here in Forrest Place where an attempted act of terror was made towards Australian First Nation elders and those present to recognise that this land always has been and always will be aboriginal land; the gathering brought us together to celebrate their existence in a time where their erasure is capitalized and politicized.

We have learnt that Forrest Place, before being the concrete that surrounds us, was once a place of gathering for local mob, a source of water and life. A place of unique memory and ecology- much like the whole of Australia.

**Filling in land with concrete, building towards the sky may change the silhouette of the landscape but never the real history.**

We assert our co-existence and champion the reimagining of Forrest Place to be a place of echoed dreams and life from the nature beneath the concrete, and casting the dreams of our friends and artists we've collaborated with to re-condition spectators to listen, and play close attention to the dances and stories of others, to celebrate each other.

Thank you to our incredible collaborating designers, artists and choreographers Izzy, Cam, Angie, Ian, Bridgette, Gabi, Seb, Mani, Peni, Samara, Benny, Hannah, Chloe, Kate and Fale- it is a true honour being in the company and timeline of greats. Thank you to our family, particularly our mum Liz, without whom we couldn't have had our three children with us on this project and without whom we couldn't move through the world as artists like we do. Thank you James and Sof and the wider STRUT team for your alofa and support over the past three years. Thank you to the Performing Lines team, Perth Festival and all those involved in creating Concrete Echoes.

# Ta'alili

Ta'alili is a performance group led by Aloali'i Tapu and Tori Manley-Tapu, grounded in movement, design, and cultural narrative. Ta'alili refers to the deep rumbling or quake-like echo of thunder in Sāmoan language and is a nod to the intentions and footsteps of the group. Their work is deeply relational, interdisciplinary, and set in the belief of people/artists as an archive, memory, and future.

Ta'alili is both an arts group and a collective home, where artistic contributions and the alofa of its collaborators together with the directors can breathe and live. Ta'alili is a space where ideas shift physical state, transforming from the unembodied into material forms through dance, design, and storytelling.

Based in Aotearoa, Ta'alili holds a strong presence in the independent arts scene. Since 2019, they've created stage works, exhibitions, and films including LEECHES, ETENA, Faces of Nature, Concrete Bloom, and MANU MALO. In 2022-2023, they were resident choreographers at K3 Zentrum für Choreographie (Hamburg), and continue to develop and deliver their long-running movement workshop series, Lofty Lab, most recently through STRUT Dance PERTH MOVES 2024 and 2025 as well as performing excerpts of MANU MALO during STRUT Dance Restore program.

Ta'alili's wider kaupapa includes running Etena Fest, an artist-led platform in Titirangi, Tāmaki Makaurau and co-leading pop up training school Undaground Fono with CONJAH. Two initiatives that create space for artists to train, recalibrate, and be in critical conversation.

Choreographers

Ta'alili (Aloali'i Tapu & Tori Manley-Tapu) ●

Performers

Angie Boladeras ● Bridgette Davies ● Ian 'H.O.O.D' de Mello

● Peni Fakaua ● Sebastian Geilings ● Cameron Park ●

Gabriela Quinsacara ● Isabella Stone ● Mani Tuaga ●

Lighting Designer

Chloe Ogilvie

Costume Designer

Kate Butterworth

Composers

Samara Alofa, Benny Jennings, Hannah Lynch

Production Manager

Peter Young

Stage Manager

Shannen Moulton

Sound Operator

Ben Nelson

Produced by Performing Lines  
and STRUT Dance

Makers &  
Creators



**STRUT  
DANCE**

A local, national and global network of dynamic dance artists whose work reflects and contributes to our understanding of the world and celebrates dance as a driver of human connection.

A choreographic centre based in Boorloo, Western Australia, STRUT nurtures and sustains a thriving community of diverse dance artists and connects them with audiences to share their work.

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**PERFORMING  
LINES WA**

Performing Lines produces provocative contemporary performance by Australia's most audacious independent artists.

We curate a portfolio of work that is propelled by pressing questions and new ways of seeing the world. We champion the unconventional, the marginal, the rebellious and the new.

Our purpose is to champion risk and to ensure that the breadth and plurality of Australia's creative potential is represented and celebrated.

Performing Lines is led by Executive Producer Simon Wellington, and manages teams in Sydney, Perth, Melbourne and Hobart, with a network of producers and presenters around the country and the world.



Keep up with the latest



Perth Moves is presented by STRUT Dance with Perth Festival, in partnership with Performing Lines, Boris Charmatz |Terrain, Ta'alili and VSQD and has been assisted by the Australian Government through Creative Australia – its arts funding and advisory body, the WA Government, Lotterywest, Feilman Foundation, J P Stratton Trust, Ungar Family Foundation and STRUT Movers who are our generous and supportive donors.

All images by Thomas Earnshaw.