

The Weta Digital Season of

THE BRIEF AND FRIGHTENING REIGN OF PHIL



New
Zealand
Festival

OF THE ARTS

21 Feb - 15 Mar 2020
Pōneke | Wellington

Curated by
Bret McKenzie

rnzb

ROYAL NEW ZEALAND BALLET

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR: PATRICIA BARKER

Touring nationally
29 MAY - 5 JUL 2020

Venus Rising



CHOREOGRAPHY BY:
TWYLA THARP
ALICE TOPP
ANDREA SCHERMOLY
SARAH FOSTER-SPROULL

Four celestial ballets, by internationally renowned choreographers, capture the spirit and power of *Venus Rising* – brightest of stars, herald of the dusk and of the dawn. Don't miss the Royal New Zealand Ballet's powerful new programme of dance at the Opera House this Winter.

Dancer / Kirby Selchow
Photography / Ross Brown



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The Weta Digital Season of

The Brief and Frightening Reign of Phil

A 'work in progress' showing of a new musical based on the novella by **George Saunders**.
Book by **Tim Price**. Music and lyrics by **Bret McKenzie**. Directed by **Lyndsey Turner**.

Venue

Shed 6

Dates

Tue 10–Wed 11 Mar, 7.30pm

Thu 12–Fri 14 Mar, 6.30pm

Sat 14 Mar, 4pm

Artist Talk

Post-show, Wed 11 Mar, Shed 6

Facilitated by Eleanor Bishop

A message from the New Zealand Festival of the Arts

Nau mai haere mai ki Te Taurima o Aotearoa. In 2020, artists are taking over the New Zealand Festival of the Arts bringing more creative voices into the conversation. We invited internationally renowned artists Lemi Ponifasio, Laurie Anderson and Bret McKenzie to select a signature series of arts experiences for each week of the Festival. Meet our Guest Curators and the many artists who will join them, for a Festival of the Arts that celebrates honesty, bravery and splendour, and art that inspires conversation.

The Weta Digital Season of *The Brief and Frightening Reign of Phil* is the only opportunity to witness this new musical version of the George Saunders novella commissioned by the National Theatre in London, in the making. Bret McKenzie has been brought on board by the National to write the music and lyrics, and is bringing members of the British ensemble together with musicians and performers from Wellington to workshop the script and offer audiences here the chance to see it even before it premieres.

Marnie Karmelita

Artistic Director

A message from Weta Digital

As a team of artists and innovators, Weta Digital is delighted to be associated with the National Theatre's *The Brief and Frightening Reign of Phil*, and Guest Curator Bret McKenzie. This brilliant collaboration of New Zealand and international talent gives Wellingtonians the rare opportunity to be behind the scenes as an international musical theatre show is developed. This year marks a decade of partnership between Weta Digital and the New Zealand Festival of the Arts and we are proud to be involved again in 2020.

David Wright

Chief Operating Officer

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The Brief and Frightening Reign of Phil is under commission to the National Theatre of Great Britain and is presented in association with the National Theatre of Great Britain.

Please make sure your mobile phone is turned off. Latecomers will only be seated during an appropriate break. Taking photographs and using a recording device at any Festival performance are strictly forbidden. Ticket holders consent to be filmed as part of the audience. The information in this programme is correct at the time of publication. The Festival reserves the right to alter, without notice, events, programmes and artists.

Tell us what you think of the show

🐦 📺 📷 @NZFestivaloftheArts #NZFEST festival.nz

Credits

A 'work in progress' showing of a new musical based on the novella by **George Saunders**

Book by **Tim Price**

Music and lyrics by **Bret McKenzie**

Directed by **Lyndsey Turner**

Cast

Phil

Daniel Rigby

Carol

Naana Agyei-Ampadu

Leon

Devon Neiman

Gertrude

Caitlin Drake

Vance

Andrew Paterson

President / Gus

Jeffrey Kingsford Brown

Wanda / Edna

Moana Ete

Jimmy / Phil's Dad

Tom Knowles

Freda

Vanessa Stacey

Cal

Nigel Collins

Andy

Zechariah Julius Donnelly

Melvyn

Jeremy Randerson

Other parts played by the company

Musicians

Justin Clarke

Ben Lemi

Jacqui Nyman

Drew Erickson

Crew

Co-designer

Camilla Clarke

Co-designer

Chloe Lamford

Musical Director

Tarek Merchant

Assistant Director

Eleanor Bishop

Stage Management

Ashley Mardon

Production Management

Elliott Harris

Bridget Carpenter

Biographies



Image: Sara Tansy

George Saunders

George Saunders is the author of nine books, including *Lincoln in the Bardo* winner of the 2017 Man Booker Prize. *Tenth of December* was a finalist for the National Book Award and won the inaugural Folio Prize. He has received MacArthur and Guggenheim fellowships and the PEN/Malamud Prize for excellence in the short story, and is an elected member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. In 2013, he was named one of the world's 100 most influential people by *Time* magazine. George Saunders teaches in the creative writing programme at Syracuse University.



Tim Price

Tim Price is a Welsh screenwriter and playwright. His theatre experience includes *Praxis Makes Perfect* (National Theatre Wales/Barbican tour), *The Radicalisation of Bradley Manning* (National Theatre Wales – winner James Tait Black Prize), *Salt Root* and *Roe* (Donmar Warehouse), *Demos* (Traverse Theatre), *For Once* (Pentabus Theatre/Hampstead theatre). His TV experience includes *Eastenders*, *Casualty*, *Secret Diary of a Call Girl*, *The Smoke*, and *Sherman*. His film experience includes *How to fake a war*.



Bret McKenzie

One of Wellington's most successful artistic exports, Bret McKenzie is half of Grammy Award-winning duo Flight of the Conchords and an Oscar-winner for his original songwriting on *The Muppets* movie.



Lyndsey Turner

Lyndsey Turner is an Associate of the National Theatre. Her work includes *Top Girls*, *Light Shining in Buckinghamshire*, *There is a War* and *Edgar and Annabel* at the National; *Faith Healer*, *Fathers and Sons* and *Philadelphia*, *Here I Come!* at the Donmar Warehouse; *Hamlet* at the Barbican; *The Treatment* and *Chimerica* at the Almeida; *Girls and Boys*, *Posh* and *Contractions* at the Royal Court.

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SELLING FAST

12 - 15 March

TSB Arena, Wellington

Focus & Chaliwaté

Dimanche



Image: Alice Piemme

“A jewel of creativity and humour”

– LE SURICATE MAGAZINE

Written and directed by **Julie Tenret, Sicaire Durieux, Sandrine Heyraud**

BOOK FAST

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Festival**

OF THE ARTS

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