



**Media release**

**\*\*STRICTLY EMBARGOED UNTIL 10AM SATURDAY 5 NOVEMBER, 2016\*\***

## **THE ENCOUNTER**

**COMPLICITE (UK) / SIMON MCBURNEY**

**INSPIRED BY THE BOOK *AMAZON BEAMING* BY PETRU POPESCU**

**DIRECTOR: SIMON MCBURNEY**

**PERFORMER: RICHARD KATZ**

**CO-DIRECTOR: KIRSTY HOUSLEY**

**DESIGN: MICHAEL LEVINE**

**SOUND: GARETH FRY WITH PETE MALKIN**

**LIGHTING: PAUL ANDERSON**

**PROJECTION: WILL DUKE**

**ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR: JEMIMA JAMES**

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*Someone is blowing in your ear, and it isn't anybody in your immediate vicinity. You can feel this distant person's breath (hot) and his urgency (hotter), and the sound of him is all over the place – behind you, before you, to either side of you, close and distant, shouting and whispering, sometimes in several voices at once.*

- The New York Times

One of the hottest international theatre works, direct from London, Edinburgh and Broadway, is coming to Auckland Arts Festival 2017.

Created by award-winning British theatre company, Complicite, *The Encounter* is the true story of National Geographic photographer Loren McIntyre who, in 1969, found himself lost in the remote Javari Valley of the Brazilian Amazon. It was an encounter that was to change his life and bring the limits of human consciousness into startling focus.

Through the use of cutting-edge binaural technology and virtuosic storytelling, *The Encounter* creates an intimate and shifting world of sound for each and every audience member, plunging them unswervingly into McIntyre's mesmerising and visceral inner voyage.

Directed by actor and Complicite Artistic Director Simon McBurney, with a spellbinding solo performance by Richard Katz, *The Encounter* is a visually beautiful and highly technical piece of storytelling which traces McIntyre's journey into the depths of the Amazon rainforest.

Along with climate change, deforestation and the plight of tribal peoples, *The Encounter* explores questions around the nature of time, human consciousness and material reality. As such, a number of eminent scientists, climate change campaigners, anthropologists and indigenous Amazonian people were involved in the making of the production.



The sound design by award-winning designer Gareth Fry uses new technology to create an unparalleled sense of intimacy, as sound is recorded as if through two ears and then transmitted directly to the audience through headphones. Pre-recorded voices, music and the sound of the rainforest are all woven into the performance alongside a series of ingenious live effects, and Katz's lyrical telling of the story.

Complicite was founded in 1983 and has since toured all over the world and won over 50 major theatre awards.

*...this production from the genre-bending Complicite company is one of the most fully immersive theater pieces ever created.* The New York Times

*The Encounter is a tour de force that shows contemporary theatre at its most immersive and thought provoking... an aural and visual delight.* Financial Times ★★★★★

*A five-star hallucinogenic trip with Complicite ... who are incapable of remaining within known theatrical boundaries. A must-see – or perhaps I should say, a must-hear* Independent ★★★★★

*It is a sensuous, immersive foray into sound, and an experiment in time-bending and mind-melding. It's also a ripping yarn.* Sunday Times ★★★★★

*The show of the year, hands down.* WhatsOnStage

*On a good night, theatre can make you see the world through new eyes. And, in the case of this revelatory new one-man show from...Complicite, can make you hear the world through new ears too...truly thrilling.* Times ★★★★★

## PERFORMANCE DETAILS

<b>TICKETS</b>	A Res \$89   A Res Conc \$82   B Res \$75   B Res Conc \$69
<b>WHEN</b>	Wed 15 Mar 7.30pm, Thur 16 Mar 7.30pm, Fri 17 Mar 7.30pm, Sat 18 Mar 1.30pm & 7.30pm, Sun 19 Mar 2.30pm Talk: Thurs 16 March
<b>WHERE</b>	ASB Theatre, Aotea Centre
<b>BOOKINGS</b>	ticketmaster.co.nz   09 951 2501
<b>DURATION</b>	1hr 50mins no interval
<b>IMPORTANT INFO</b>	Recommended for ages 12+  Headphones are supplied and will need to be worn by the audience throughout the performance.  <i>The Encounter</i> is can be enjoyed by blind and low vision patrons. Written introductory notes are available on request. Touch Tour - Sunday 19th March at 1pm.  For notes on accessibility for hearing impaired, deaf, blind and low vision patrons, please visit <a href="http://www.aaf.co.nz">www.aaf.co.nz</a> .
<b>MORE INFO</b>	Complicite website: <a href="http://www.complicite.org">www.complicite.org</a> Facebook: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/TheatredeComplicite">www.facebook.com/TheatredeComplicite</a> Twitter: @Complicite YouTube: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/user/CompliciteCompany">https://www.youtube.com/user/CompliciteCompany</a> Visit the resource website for more information on the making of <i>The Encounter</i> .



**AUCKLAND  
ARTS  
FESTIVAL**  
8 - 26 March 2017

	<p>A Complicite co-production with Edinburgh International Festival, the Barbican, London, Onassis Cultural Centre – Athens, Schaubühne Berlin, Théâtre Vidy-Lausanne and Warwick Arts Centre. Supported by Sennheiser and The Wellcome Trust.</p> <p>With support from Platinum patrons Andrew and Jenny Smith, Peter Tatham and Adrian Burr</p>
<b>FOLLOW THE FEST</b>	<p>Facebook / Twitter / Instagram: @AKLFestival #aklfest</p>
<b>ABOUT THE AAF</b>	<p>Taking place annually in March, the Auckland Arts Festival is a globally recognised event that celebrates people and culture, and showcases the unrivalled location, cultural diversity and vibrant energy of New Zealand’s largest city.</p> <p>Over 1.6 million people have attended the Festivals to date.</p> <p>Auckland Arts Festival is governed by the Auckland Festival Trust. Trustees are John Judge (Chair), Rick Carlyon, Evan Davies, Sarah Judkins, Tarun Kanji, Margaret Kāwharu MNZM, Jim Moser, Ben Taufua and Fred Ward.</p> <p>The Trust receives core funding from Auckland Council through the Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Act, and Creative New Zealand through the Toi Tōtara Haemata programme.</p> <p>Significant support for AAF 2017 is received from Foundation North, Pub Charity, NZ Community Trust and The Lion Foundation.</p>
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