

AF
ADELAIDE
FESTIVAL
1 - 17 MARCH 2019



THEATRE / UK & FRANCE

PALMYRA

Bertrand Lesca and Nasi Voutsas
AUSTRALIAN EXCLUSIVE

Image: Alex Brenner

1 - 5 Mar / AC Arts Main Theatre

Duration 1hr 10mins, no interval

Co-creators & performers Bertrand Lesca and Nasi Voutsas
Dramaturgy Louise Stephens
Lighting design Jo Palmer
Touring technician Ruth Green
Producers Edward Fortes & Jo Mackie

"They are superb clowns, but out of the clowning wells something much darker about power, ego and conflict..."

by the end you watch appalled and fascinated by our capacity to inflict cruelty and violence on each other...

Viciously funny"

The Guardian

Research and development of *PALMYRA* was supported by the National Lottery through Arts Council England.

The Australian Premiere of *PALMYRA* at the Adelaide Festival is supported by British Council.



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Palmyra

The ancient city of Palmyra was one of the best preserved in the world. Tourists flocked from around the world to look at the iconic temples of Bel and Baalshamin, as well as the Arch of Triumph. Until 2015, when ISIS gained control of the city, destroyed its temples, looted its graves and used its amphitheatre to stage executions.

A year later, after ISIS had been removed from the city, a concert entitled *With a Prayer from Palmyra: Music Revives the Ancient Walls* was staged on the site.

In his opening statement prior to the concert the former Chief Conductor of the London Symphony Orchestra, Valery Gergiev, said:

"Here on this great stage, our concert in Palmyra is our appeal for everyone to come to peace and unity, to unite and work against this evil, against terrorism. (...) We protest against barbarians who destroyed wonderful monuments of world culture. We protest against the execution of people here on this great stage."

This is where the piece started.



Bertrand Lesca and Nasi Voutsas

met in 2015 and have been working together ever since. They are the creators of *EUROHOUSE* (2016) and *PALMYRA* (2017). *PALMYRA* was a hit at the 2017 Edinburgh Festival, won the Grand Prix at the 2017 Stockholm Fringe Festival, and was listed in the Top 10 Shows of 2017 by The Guardian and What's on Stage. Bert and Nasi are Associate Artists of MAYK and International Associates of Farnham Maltings. Their new piece, *ONE*, will premiere in Autumn 2019.

"The couple have a terrific knack for allowing experimental wackiness to descend into the deeply sinister."

The Independent

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