



to a simple, rock 'n' roll... song.

MICHAEL CLARK COMPANY
UNITED KINGDOM

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

*"This latest programme from the choreographer Michael Clark is a triptych of abstract dances that look fantastic, sound terrific and knocked me sideways. Clark has always been a huge talent, but here his artistry reaches a zenith in which being chic and being smart are allied to a real passion for pure dance." ******
Debra Craine, The Times, October 2016

The show

See the latest work by Britain's wild child of dance, Michael Clark acclaimed by audiences and critics alike.

Described by London's Evening Standard as 'an adrenaline shot that sends you away buzzing, *to a simple, rock 'n' roll...song* is a potent cocktail of dance, iconic music and stunning visuals.

At first, a reflection on Erik Satie and his influence on Clark's mentors past and present - the dance meticulous and coolly refined. Next, commanding choreography pulsating with a propulsive force to the punk rock of Patti Smith's landmark album, *Horses*. Then, an iridescent tribute to David Bowie, intricate, sublime, the mood moves from elegiac to joyously rebellious.

Enjoying its world premiere at the Barbican, London in 2016, the Olivier Award nominated *to a simple, rock 'n' roll . . . song*. comprises a triple bill of gorgeously arresting choreography. Performances by a company of fearless and otherworldly dancers are complemented by Charles Atlas's scintillating lighting design, which

features a stage adaptation of his multi-channel video installation 'Painting by Numbers'.

A heart-stopping 80 minutes that will leave you wanting more.

Michael Clark Company

Hailed as “British dance’s true iconoclast”, Michael Clark is a defining cultural figure. Since emerging in the 1980s as a prodigy at London’s Royal Ballet School, he has remained at the forefront of innovation in dance, collaborating with such compelling artists as Sarah Lucas, Leigh Bowery, Peter Doig, Charles Atlas, Jarvis Cocker and The Fall – among many others – winning rave reviews and countless awards.

From the outset, Michael Clark’s performances have been marked by a mixture of technical rigour and experimentation, intense and fine-tuned choreography intersecting with elements of punk, Dada, pop and rock. His productions repeatedly break new ground, provoking and electrifying audiences. As The Guardian noted of a recent performance at the Barbican: “throughout the evening, the dancers’ prodigious command and affectless efficiency make them look superhuman.”

Michael Clark founded his own company in 1984. It has since toured worldwide to perform at leading houses in Europe, North America, South America, Asia and Australia, as well as on its home stage at the Barbican in London, where it has been a resident company since 2005. Michael Clark Company has introduced dance to new audiences by performing at unorthodox venues such as the Glastonbury Festival, the legendary Barrowland Ballroom in Glasgow and contemporary art museums, including Tate Modern in London and the Whitney Museum in New York, as well as through its collaborations with leading artists, fashion designers, musicians and filmmakers.

Michael Clark

Michael Clark was born in Scotland and trained at the Royal Ballet School in London (1975 -1979). In 1979 joined Ballet Rambert, working primarily with Richard Alston. Later, attending a summer school with Merce Cunningham and John Cage led him to work with Karole Armitage, through whom he met Charles Atlas.

The first concert of his own choreography was in 1982 at London’s Riverside Studios, where he became resident choreographer. By 1984 Clark had made 16 original pieces.

Michael Clark and Company was launched in 1984. The company was an immediate success and toured internationally. During this time Clark collaborated with fashion designers Bodymap, artists Leigh Bowery and Trojan, as well as The Fall, Laibach, and Wire.

Clark’s commissions for major dance companies include the G.R.C.O.P., The Paris Opera, Scottish Ballet, London Festival Ballet, Ballet Rambert, Phoenix Dance Company and the Deutsche Oper Berlin. Clark has produced considerable work for film and video, including Hail the New Puritan (1984) and Because We Must (1989) with Charles Atlas. He also choreographed and danced the role of Caliban in Peter Greenaway’s Prospero’s Books (1991).

After three years of commissions and solo work he created the original version of Mmm... (1992) and O (1994). In 1998 he presented a new full-length work, current/SEE, in collaboration with Susan Stenger, Simon

Pearson, Big Bottom, and Hussein Chalayan which became the subject of a BBC documentary directed by Sophie Fiennes, The Late Michael Clark.

Before and After: The Fall (2001) was Clark's first major collaboration with the visual artist Sarah Lucas. In 2003 Clark created the first Satie Stud for William Trevitt of George Piper Dances, produced an evening entitled Would, Should, Can, Did, for the Barbican Theatre in London, and choreographed a solo for Mikhail Baryshnikov. In the same year, OH MY GODDESS opened London Dance Umbrella's 25th anniversary season. In 2004 Rambert Dance Company revived SWAMP, which received the Olivier Award for Best New Dance Production in 2005.

In 2005 Michael Clark became an Artistic Associate of the Barbican Centre, London, and embarked on the Stravinsky Project, a three-year project to produce a trilogy of works to seminal dance scores by Igor Stravinsky. He radically reworked O and Mmm... for this project, and in 2007 he premiered the final part of the trilogy, I Do. The Stravinsky Project had its US premiere at the Lincoln Center, New York in June 2008. In June 2009 Clark premiered come, been and gone at La Biennale di Venezia. This work has toured nationally and internationally to great critical acclaim including to the Edinburgh International Festival, the Barbican, London, Melbourne International Arts Festival and the legendary Pyramid Stage at the Glastonbury Festival in 2015.

In 2010 Michael Clark Company spent the summer in-residence at Tate Modern, London in preparation for a new large-scale performance commission for the Turbine Hall. The production th premiered in June 2011.

In 2011 Robert Gordon University Aberdeen conferred on Michael Clark an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Arts (Hon DArt) in recognition of his distinguished career in the field of choreography and dance, and the first monograph on Michael Clark, celebrating the whole of his career to date, from the late 70s to the present was published by Violette Editions.

In 2012 Michael Clark presented WHO'S ZOO? a specially commissioned piece for the Whitney Biennial in New York, The Barrowlands Project in Glasgow, part of the London 2012 Festival, and a new theatrical work at the Barbican, London amongst other international venues. In 2013 this work was extended into the triple bill animal / vegetable / mineral and has been presented at The Lowry, the Barbican, and Norfolk & Norwich Festival in England. The show has also toured to, Scotland, France, Germany, Belgium, Finland, Italy and Brazil.

In 2014 Clark collaborated with artist Duncan Campbell on his Turner Prize-winning film It For Others, and in June that year Clark was awarded a CBE for services to Dance in the Queen's birthday honours.

In 2016 Clark was awarded an Honorary Fellowship by Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music & Dance. That autumn he presented a major new work at the Barbican, to a simple, rock 'n' roll . . . song., which is currently touring internationally.

Quotes

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reaches a zenith in which being chic and being smart are allied to a real passion for pure dance” – Debra Craine, The Times

“Raw, dynamic and witty ... mixing the sacred and profane, the classical and the raw, to sophisticated and often hypnotic effect.” – Judith Mackrell, The Guardian

"Michael Clark has perhaps the most useful attribute that any artist of any kind can have: he is incapable of being boring.” – Mark Monahan, The Telegraph

"It flowers into moments of warmth - particularly in its tribute to David Bowie” – Zoe Anderson, Independent

Website: www.michaelclarkcompany.com

Facebook: facebook.com/michaelclarkco

Twitter: twitter.com/michaelclarkco

Instagram: instagram.com/michaelclarkco

Hashtags: #michaelclarkcompany #toasimplerocknrollsong

Spotify: <https://play.spotify.com/user/michaelclarkcompany>

Vimeo:

<https://vimeo.com/189805456%20%20%20>

<https://vimeo.com/189917549%20>

<https://vimeo.com/190229375%20>

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Perth International Arts Festival

Founded in 1953 by The University of Western Australia, the Perth International Arts Festival is the longest running international arts festival in Australia and Western Australia's premier cultural event. The Festival has developed a worldwide reputation for excellence in its international program, the presentation of new works and the highest quality artistic experiences for its audience. For 65 years the Festival has welcomed to Perth some of the world's greatest living artists and now connects with over 700,000 people each year.

Wendy Martin is the Artistic Director 2016 – 19.

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