



## **Official Media Release**

### *A new Australian work by Lissajane Dance*

*“Dance theatre of the first order – truly exploring the man behind the brush...”*

New Australian dance theatre company Lissajane Dance is excited to announce the 2017 Australian Tour of its brand new work *“Vincent”*, an extraordinarily moving dance theatre piece about the man behind the brush of Vincent Van Gogh; his relationship with his brother Theo, his own internal struggle of inner self and self expression and his constant battle with his inner psyche. Choreographer Melissa Lanham is a contemporary dance theatre artist who has worked in the UK and Australia across countless social inclusion projects and mainstream dance company productions over the last 20 years. Over a decade in creation, *‘Vincent’* is the first time in many years that a professional dance piece has risen out of a vibrant regional community, with a truly national representation of creative and artistic talent. Taking out Best Dance Weekly in its 2016 Adelaide Fringe Festival Premier, and receiving rave 5 star reviews, this is a dance theatre work of the first order not to be missed.

With an explosive 2017 tour schedule, Vincent will be touring to communities from as far north east as Mount Isa to communities as far west as Carnarvon, with 17 venues already confirmed as part of its journey (venues to be released end 2016).

Vincent and Lissajane Dance focuses on community, and not just presenting to community, but involving youth and education sectors into its performance. Offering huge varieties in education performances, workshops, youth work projects and other master classes, Vincent is a truly accessible piece of theatre that is designed specifically around breaking down the barriers often associated with contemporary art forms.

It also aims at starting a discussion with community about mental health, depression and family issues – allowing a platform for expression not often seen in our remote and regional communities within Australia. Using Van Gogh himself as a carrier, we invite youth, adults and particularly men to feel comfortable and relaxed in expressing themselves and their woes in a safe and supportive environment, even if nothing is said at all. The program aims to cross art platforms of dance, drama, art and music and tie in with current curriculum models and frameworks and allow students new ways of expression, performance and appreciation of social themes.

Vincent has made waves across our borders also, with the 2016 Van Gogh Europe Federation board of directions showing great excitement in having the show put on the official program and brought to the Netherlands, Belgium and France in 2016 to celebrate the 127<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Van Gogh’s death in 2017. This also joins with the invitation to perform with several dance and performing arts colleges in the United States in co-production opportunities through 2018. We are also in negotiations with the national gallery of Victoria to join them with the Van Gogh exhibitions in 2017

With her cast of three Australian based contemporary dancers, Lanham has engaged Melbourne based lighting designer Phil Lethlean and Perth based set and costume designer Daniel Ampuero and composer Sean Tinnion to come on board with *Vincent* culminating in a stunning result that truly moves and captivates audiences. National and International production and tour management is being supplied by GoslingProductions.

## SYNOPSIS OPTIONS

### 60 Words

Emerging dance theatre company LissaJane Dance presents this extraordinarily moving piece about the man behind the brush of Vincent Van Gogh; his relationship with his brother Theo, his struggle and self-expression and constant battle with his inner psyche. Evoking choreography, striking lighting, set and costume design and a haunting original composition comes together to create the stunning result that truly moves and captivates audiences.

### 100 Words

*Vincent* is a sensational hybrid dance theatre work by emerging company LissaJane Dance that explores the man behind the brush. Vincent Van Gogh had a brother, Theo, and a series of intense mental health issues ranging from a bi-polar personality, depression, anxiety and schizophrenia. *Vincent* explores the relationship between the brothers and Vincent's inner mind - his muse or Psyche. A brilliant production of world class quality, showcasing some of Australia's best young dancers, choreographer Melissa Lanham takes audiences on a journey inside the mind of one of the worlds most prolific and mysterious painters. A stunning set, original and haunting score and beautifully balanced production elements bring this story to life before your eyes. We have left hundreds spell bound in their seats, will you be next?

### 200 Words

VINCENT explores the life of the man behind the brush. The life of Vincent Van Gogh was one plagued with debilitating schizophrenia, depression, severe anxiety and a bi-polar disorder. By exploring the themes of mental health and mental health awareness, Vincent seeks to illustrate that there is power and expression even when suffering, and that it doesn't have to be done alone.

Vincent had a brother, Theo, who was his one true support and so the show dives deeply into looking at the bonds of brother hood, whilst battles with Vincent's inner Psyche continued to torment him. A beautifully captivating show that will truly make you hold your breath, Vincent strives to break the laws of contemporary dance, and seamlessly fuse dance with theatrical brilliance and magic. An exquisitely haunting score will keep you on the edge of your seat, as you are transported into the mind and life of one of the most innovative painters of the impressionistic art era.

Vincent was a painter, but he was also a man of titanic emotions. This show puts those emotions onto his sleeve, onto the stage, and into you heart.

For interview requests, photographic releases, logos, approved biographies etc, please contact the production manager at [production@vincenttheshow.com](mailto:production@vincenttheshow.com)

### Cast Credits

Name	Role
Phil Blackman	Principal Dancer – Vincent
Charles Ball	Principal Dancer – Theo
Courtney Scheu	Principal Dancer – The Psyche

## Crew Credits

Name	Role
Melissa Lanham	Artistic Director & Choreographer – LissaJane Dance
Daniel “Goz” Gosling	Executive Producer & Technical Director – LissaJane Dance
Phil Lethlean	Lighting Designer
Daniel Ampuero	Set & Costume Designer
Sean Tinnion	Composer

## Social Media Links

Social Media	Website/Account Tag
Official Website	<a href="http://www.vincenttheshow.com">www.vincenttheshow.com</a>
Facebook	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/vincenttheshow">www.facebook.com/vincenttheshow</a>
Instagram	<a href="http://www.instagram.com/vincenttheshow">www.instagram.com/vincenttheshow</a> or @vincenttheshow
Twitter	<a href="http://www.twitter.com/vincenttheshow">www.twitter.com/vincenttheshow</a> or #vincenttheshow

## Interview Availability

Who & Role	Available in Adelaide from
Melissa Lanham Artistic Director & Choreographer, LissaJane Dance	Anytime over the phone/via email
Daniel “Goz” Gosling Executive Producer & Technical Director, LissaJane Dance	Anytime over the phone/via email
Phil Blackman Principal Dancer - Vincent	As organized through LJD Management
Charles Ball Principal Dancer – Theo	As organized through LJD Management
Chloe Lanham Principal Dancer – The Psyche	As organized through LJD Management
Daniel Ampuero Set & Costume Designer	As organized through LJD Management
Phil Lethlean Lighting Designer	As organized through LJD Management
Sean Tinnion Composer	As organized through LJD Management

## Composer Samples

Composer Sean Tinnion has provided excerpts of the original score that will be used in Vincent. You can find these below. Please reference to Sean as the Composer and to his work where applicable.

### Excerpt from Scene 4

[https://soundcloud.com/seantinnion/vincent-the-show-excerpt-from-scene-four?fb\\_action\\_ids=10206695989709932&fb\\_action\\_types=soundcloud%3Apublish](https://soundcloud.com/seantinnion/vincent-the-show-excerpt-from-scene-four?fb_action_ids=10206695989709932&fb_action_types=soundcloud%3Apublish)

### Excerpt from Scene 6

[https://soundcloud.com/seantinnion/vincent-the-show-excerpt-from-scene-six?fb\\_action\\_ids=10206836090972376&fb\\_action\\_types=soundcloud%3Apublish](https://soundcloud.com/seantinnion/vincent-the-show-excerpt-from-scene-six?fb_action_ids=10206836090972376&fb_action_types=soundcloud%3Apublish)

## **Formal Listings**

**“Vincent”** is presented by LissaJane Dance Pty Ltd

LissaJane Dance Pty Ltd | ACN: 609 170 050 | ABN: 25 609 170 050

Registered Address: 31 Blackall Terrace, Nambour, Queensland 4560

Directors:

Melissa Lanham – Artistic Director & Choreographer

Daniel Gosling – Technical Director & Executive Producer