

## Song for a Weary Throat – Melbourne Festival 2018 Notes for Deaf Audience

Welcome to Arts Centre Melbourne and *Song for a Weary Throat* by Rawcus. This work is highly visual and can be experienced without an Auslan interpreter. Below is some information about the show that is particularly relevant to our Deaf audience.

### General Notes

- There is no specific story-line in this show and you can make your own meaning from what you experience. The show is a series of images and emotional states which move from one scene to the next. When making the show, we explored ideas of loss, trauma and what happens in the aftermath of these events individually and as a community.
- There is almost no spoken text in this piece. The only spoken moments are as follows:
  - A woman with curly hair shouts “YEAH!” as she pumps her fist in the air. *(This is about a third of the way through the show).*
  - *(This happens straight after the moment above)* A woman with long, brown hair walks around the stage asking people to dance with her. She expresses a range of feelings and tones. These build from gentle at the start to more aggressive and frustrated at the end of the sequence. The whole time, she is repeating the same words e.g.
    - *(Gently)* “Dance with me... *Dance with me....*”
    - *(While dancing, playfully)* “Daaaaance with ME!”
    - *(Impatient)* “Dance with ME!”
    - *(Sad/Tired)* “Come on, DANCE with me!”
  - *(This happens towards the end of the show)* The performers end up sitting in a line at the back of the stage. One by one, they say the words: “**You know what? I think I’m gonna dance**”. This starts as a shy statement and builds in volume and confidence as more people say it. Some people say it to each other; others proclaim it to the audience; some people say it to themselves.

### NOTES ON THE MUSIC:

- We have worked with 3 singers and a sound designer to create the sounds to accompany the physical work.
- Most of the music and singing fades in and out and overlaps so one moment becomes the next moment almost without the audience noticing.
- The singers do not use any words at all, however they try to convey a feeling with the sounds they are making. The feelings in the music and sound are also shown physically by the performers onstage.