

## MEDIA RELEASE

Level 5, 10 Hickson Road The Rocks  
Sydney NSW 2000 Australia  
Phone 61 2 8248 6500 Fax 61 2 8248  
6599  
sydneyfestival.org.au

**SYDNEY  
FESTIVAL  
2015** 18-26 JAN

# Tabac Rouge

## AUSTRALIAN EXCLUSIVE

An extravagant collision of circus, theatre and dance



Photo: *Tabac Rouge* © Richard Haughton

*"A beautiful beast of a show."*

**The Times**

*"Tabac Rouge is full of real power and dark beauty."*

**Le Figaro Magazine**

*"James Thierrée has created a grand and virtually silent opera that is a sublime manifestation of ideas and mystifying sounds."* **Edinburgh Guide**

*"...a hymn to creativity."*

**Exeunt Magazine**

In January 2015 James Thierrée returns to Sydney Festival with *Tabac Rouge*, his largest and most extravagant work to date. Acrobat, musician, dancer, actor, mime, choreographer - Thierrée is recognised as one of the world's greatest and most creative contemporary circus performers.

A Festival favourite, James Thierrée returns to Sydney Festival for the fourth time after sell-out seasons of *Junebug Symphony* (2003), *Bright Abyss* (2006) and *Au Revoir Parapluié* (2008).

*Tabac Rouge* transports the audience to the dark and delirious world of a disillusioned ruler, a King Lear or Prospero, haunted by images of beauty and chaos. Mirrors, mystery, movement and music combine to create a 'choreodrama' which Thierrée describes as being about "desire, power, systems and mechanisms of society, and of how people organise themselves."

In *Tabac Rouge*, Thierrée is joined by a highly skilled cast of performers and dancers who weave a physically daring production filled with spectacular theatrics. Dancers rise and fall, reflect and refract in the many mirrors on stage and move in and out of the set's enormous contraption – "la trame". Constructed from a giant scaffold of pipes, mirrors and wheels the set becomes as much a part of the show as the cast, becoming completely integrated with the action.

James Thierrée has taken on the roles of director, choreographer and set designer for *Tabac Rouge* and he successfully pushes the boundaries of conventional dance, circus and theatre - conjuring a world of endless invention and fantasy. *"I went into the undergrounds of my artistic desires."* said Thierrée. His unique direction and choreography are further complemented by the costume design from Victoria Thierrée and clever sound design ranging from Matthieu Chédid to Pergolesi. These elements all magically combine to create the production's dreamlike ambience.

Festival Director, Lieven Bertels, was enthralled with *Tabac Rouge* when he first saw it in London describing it as *"a feast of visual poetry"* and saying that *"in his largest work to date, James Thierrée not only shines in the lead role but also demonstrates his skills as a choreographer. The show explores a world somewhere between the silent cinema classic Modern Times and a Jeroen Bosch painting - sometimes dazzling and funny, sometimes alienating and grotesque, but always hypnotic. After the success of Vivienne Westwood's fashion*

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# SYDNEY FESTIVAL 2015

8-26 JAN

*opera Semele Walk (2013) and Sasha Waltz's choreographed version of Dido and Aeneas (2014), Sydney Festival is proud to present James Thierrée's new masterpiece as another Australian exclusive for a season that will encompass our whole Festival period."*

Direction, Set Design & Choreography  
Costumes  
Assistant to the Director  
Stage Managers/Construction  
Lighting  
Sound  
Wardrobe & Accessories  
Confections/Fabrications

**James Thierrée**  
**Victoria Thierrée**  
**Sidonie Pigeon**  
**Anthony Nicolas, Fabrice Henches, Gerd Walter**  
**Bastien Courthieu**  
**Thomas Delot**  
**Sabine Schlemmer**  
**Monika Schwarzl, Victoria Thierrée, Marie Rossetti, Laura Léonard,**  
**Sabine Schlemmer**  
**Compagnie du Hanne-ton - Junebug**  
**James Thierrée, Julie Guibert, Magnus Jakobsson, Namkyung Kim,**  
**Matina Kokolaki, Katell Le Brenn, Piergiorgio Milano, Thi Mai Nguyen,**  
**Ioulia Plotnikova, Soa Ratsifandrihana**

Executive Production  
Performers

Where Sydney Theatre, Walsh Bay

When Preview: 7 January, 8pm.  
Season: 8 -11, 13-18, 20-23 January.  
Tues: 6.30pm.  
Wed to Sat: 8pm.  
Sun: 5pm.  
No shows on Mondays.

Duration 100 minutes no interval

Price Premium \$109 - \$119  
A Reserve \$85 - \$109  
B Reserve \$72 - \$85  
Family \$298 - \$320 (A Reserve, 2 Adults + 2 Children)

Suitable for 10 +

Bookings Sydney Theatre on 02 9250 1777 or [sydneyfestival.org.au/tabac](http://sydneyfestival.org.au/tabac)

**Multipacks** are available for all Sydney Festival events except *Disco Dome*. Book 3 or more events and save. Discounts apply to full price A Reserve or General Admission tickets.



**For interviews and further information contact:**

Jessica Keirle, Publicity Manager, 02 8248 6525 / 0438 805 109 [jessica.keirle@sydneyfestival.org.au](mailto:jessica.keirle@sydneyfestival.org.au)

Tabac Rouge is a production from Compagnie du Hanne-ton with the support of the Ministère de la Culture et de la Communication – D.G.C.A et de l'Adami. La compagnie du Hanne-ton is supported by the Ministère de la Culture D.G.C.A and the Fondation BNP Paribas.

