

Spongebob Squaretimes WORLD PREMIERE

Australia

A video installation that poetically captures the loneliness and isolation of a costumed character



Photo courtesy of Greg Barrett.

"Greg is a master of the precise moment. [Barrett] celebrates the grace and beauty of the human body, in flight, in repose and, at times, pared back to its raw and most basic essentials." **British Journal of Photography**

In a world premiere installation by Australian photographer **Greg Barrett**, *Spongebob Squaretimes*, is an unexpected and life surging narrative. A video installation of accidental footage that exposes the audience to people-watching at its most poetic.

Shooting still images in Times Square in New York City, Barrett also recorded a short burst of video. Leaving his camera rolling, he realised he'd captured not only a surging slice of life in the Big Apple's centre, but someone in a SpongeBob SquarePants costume trying to attract the attention and generosity of passers-by for a solitary 45 minutes.

"The footage you'll see is all I shot, from start to stop. I turned the camera off when a New York cop tapped me on the shoulder and said I had to leave. But contained within the unintended length of recording is a narrative that I was completely unaware of at the time," explains Barrett.

This inadvertent depiction of loneliness and isolation in a bustling city landscape is accompanied by the soundtrack of **Simeon ten Holt's** ground-breaking composition *Canto Ostinato* played on two pianolas.

The rich and playful piece creates a joyful juxtaposition to what we visually experience. Challenging the audience with the competing emotions of sadness and alienation, *Spongebob Squaretimes* beautifully depicts the inherent human desire to connect with others.

Greg Barrett is one of the world's foremost photographers with a special interest in bodies in movement. He has worked extensively in film direction, feature film gallery still shoots, performance, fashion photography, advertising and portraiture.

Where Carriageworks Bay 19

When 8-17 January
Noon – 8pm, daily

Price Free

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

8-26 JAN

Bookings Sydney Festival 1300 856 876
sydneyfestival.org.au/spongebob

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
Anna Shapiro, Publicist, 0417 043 205 anna.shapiro@sydneyfestival.org.au
Gabrielle Wilson, Publicist, 0433 972 915 gabrielle.wilson@sydneyfestival.org.au

Spongebob Squaretimes *is presented with the support of the Simeon ten Holt Foundation.*