

The Farm, in association with Performing Lines & NORPA (Australia) and Dance Touring Partnership (UK), presents

# Cockfight

A cross between The Office and a cage-fight, Australian style

[www.CockfightTour.co.uk](http://www.CockfightTour.co.uk)



**Media release: Friday 14 July 2017** – Straight from their critically acclaimed performances in Australia, The Farm, in association with Performing Lines & NORPA (Australia) and Dance Touring Partnership, presents the first UK tour of **Cockfight**, an exhilarating duet of extreme physical theatre that explores male behaviour and intergenerational conflicts.

Touring this autumn, **Cockfight** opens at Laban Theatre in London on Tuesday 3 October, then heads to Chester, Canterbury, Poole, Doncaster, Oxford and Nottingham before concluding at

DanceEast in Ipswich on Friday 27 October (full tour details included).

We think dance is a young person's game. What happens when someone higher up the food chain weakens and is ready to be taken down? **Cockfight** is a work for two performers - Gavin Webber and Joshua Thomson - developed by The Farm in partnership with guest artist Julian Louis; a powerful and dangerous physical performance (*The Australian*, said "... the work is physical theatre at its most extreme..."), the duet is woven around the lives of two men from different generations, trapped in an all too familiar and universal environment- the office.

In **Cockfight** the two men exist side by side, share space, resources, time and responsibility and justify their existence in relation to each other. Their physical action is underpinned by a fierce co-dependency in a duet of slow-motion fight sequences, interlocking rolls and tackles and Buster Keaton-esque battles of supremacy.

**Cockfight** is born out of a very real relationship between performers Joshua Thomson (33 years old) and Gavin Webber (50 years old). Thomson joined Webber at Dancenorth in Australia in 2005 and they have continued to work together ever since. Their relationship has developed over the years, and these shifts in their shared physical and performance history are evident in the trust and danger of **Cockfight's** choreographic language.

Based in the Gold Coast, with roots in Berlin, The Farm is an international network of highly respected artists, ranging from choreographers and independent dancers to musicians and designers. The artistic direction of the company is led by Gavin Webber and Grayson Millwood who have been making work together for the past fifteen years across four continents.

Kate Harman, Julian Louis, Joshua Thomson & Gavin Webber co-direct **Cockfight** for The Farm. Lighting design is by Mark Howett, sound design by Luke Smiles and set design by Joshua Thomson with consultation from Joey Ruigrok.

Originally commissioned by NORPA and supported by Dancenorth, Townsville; the Centre for Contemporary Arts, Cairns (COCA); Arts Queensland and the Australia Council for the Arts, and toured by Performing Lines. The Farm is supported by the Gold Coast City Council. UK tour is funded by the National Lottery through Arts Council England.

-ENDS-

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## **NOTES:**

**The Farm - Cockfight - UK Tour 2017- Listings information:**

Laban Theatre, **LONDON**

Tue 3 & Wed 4 October at 7.30pm (Post show Q&A 3 Oct)

Tickets: £16 (£12 concessions) // 020 8463 0100 // [www.trinitylaban.ac.uk/labantheatre](http://www.trinitylaban.ac.uk/labantheatre)

Storyhouse, **CHESTER**

Sat 7 October at 7.30pm (Post show Q&A)

Tickets: £16.50-£25.50 // 01244 409113 // [www.storyhouse.com](http://www.storyhouse.com)

Gulbenkian, **CANTERBURY**

Tue 10 & Wed 11 October at 7.30pm (Post show Q&A 10 Oct)

Tickets: £12.80, GulbCard £10.80, Students & Under 25s £8.80, Schools £7.80 // 01277 769075 // [www.thegulbenkian.co.uk](http://www.thegulbenkian.co.uk)

Lighthouse, **POOLE**

Fri 13 & Sat 14 October at 7.45pm (Post show Q&A 13 Oct)

Tickets: £18 (discounts available to Under 18s, Students, Seniors, ATL) // 01202 280000 // [www.lighthousepoole.co.uk](http://www.lighthousepoole.co.uk)

Cast, **DONCASTER**

Tue 17 & Wed 18 October at 7.30pm (Post show Q&A 17 Oct)

Tickets: £16.50 (£14.50 concessions) // 01302 303959 // [www.castindoncaster.com](http://www.castindoncaster.com)

Oxford Playhouse at Pegasus Theatre, **OXFORD**

Friday 20 October at 7.30pm

Tickets: £19 (£15 concessions) // 01865 305305 [www.oxfordplayhouse.com](http://www.oxfordplayhouse.com)

Nottingham Playhouse, **NOTTINGHAM**

Tue 24 & Wed 25 October at 8pm (Post show Q&A 24 Oct)

Tickets: £12, £15, £18, Students/Under 26s £1.50 off, Schools £11 // 0115 941 9419 // [www.nottinghamplayhouse.co.uk](http://www.nottinghamplayhouse.co.uk)

Jerwood DanceHouse, **IPSWICH**

Fri 27 October at 7.30pm (Post show Q&A)

Tickets from £12 (£9 concessions) // 01473 295230 // [www.danceeast.co.uk](http://www.danceeast.co.uk)

**Running time:** 70 mins (no interval)

**Age suitability:** 14+

Based on the Gold Coast with roots in Berlin, **The Farm** is an international network of highly respected artists, ranging from choreographers and independent dancers to musicians and designers. The artistic direction of the company is led by Gavin Webber and Grayson Millwood who have been making work together for the past fifteen years across four continents. The Farm works out of Queensland but retains and builds on its national and international pedigree and touring record. Touring highlights include, Venice Biennale, Tanzplattform (Germany), Barbican Theatre (London), Europe, Canada and Australia.

The Farm is driven by a desire to connect to anyone, from dance and theatre virgins to aficionados and professionals. Often described as cinematic, our work is based on universal subjects and themes that matter. Finally and perhaps most importantly, The Farm create contemporary performances that transcend expectations of what dance can be and how and where it should be viewed.

**Dance Touring Partnership (DTP)** is a network of theatres working together to bring exciting and engaging dance to audiences around the UK. The network aims to build audiences for dance, increase the range and diversity of work available and encourage new attendees into dance. Since 2004 DTP has toured Ultima Vez, Australian Dance Theatre, Jasmin Vardimon, Renegade Theatre, Stan Won't Dance, Theatre Rites, Fabulous Beast, Hofesh Shechter, Tanja Liedtke, Bounce Street Dance Company, Shaun Parker & Company, Blanca Li Dance Company and Mark Murphy's V-TOL.

**DTP Member Venues:** Brighton Dome; Cast, Doncaster; Grand Theatre, Blackpool; Gulbenkian, Canterbury; Hall for Cornwall, Truro; Lighthouse Poole; The Lowry, Salford; Northern Stage, Newcastle; Nottingham Playhouse; Oxford Playhouse; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry. **Guest Venues:** Barbican, Laban, Sadler's Wells and South Bank Centre, London; DanceEast Ipswich; Storyhouse, Chester; Edinburgh Festival Theatre; Macrobert Arts Centre, Stirling; G-Live, Guildford; Sherman Cymru, Cardiff.

Photo credit: The Farm - Gavin Webber and Joshua Thomson in **Cockfight**. Photography by Darcy Grant