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MEDIA ALERT: For immediate release



Metro Arts returns with divine contemporary dance performance to devour

What does the future of Australian contemporary art look like? This July, Metro Arts invites audiences to find out with a new performance season that celebrates the experimental, the provocative and the yet-to-be-discovered: the world premiere of Jag Popham's visceral dance work *god eater*.

Devouring the divine

god eater is a striking new solo work by New Zealand-born, regional Queensland-based artist Jag Popham.

A company dancer with the internationally acclaimed Dancenorth, Popham has developed a reputation for immersive and physically rigorous work drawing on martial arts, breathwork, sound design, ritual and transformation.

Driven by a primal, pulsing soundscape, *god eater* shifts between explosive physical intensity, stark stillness and uncanny tenderness. Encased within a shell-like body armour that slowly mutates and sheds, Popham appears to move between human, creature and something less easily named.

Part performance, part transformation ritual, *god eater* reflects Metro Arts' commitment to investing in ambitious new work at crucial stages of development and showcasing exceptional artistic talent from all of Queensland.

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“The work asks for trust in slowness, silence, and mystery; allowing the experience to move through the body before the mind tries to explain it”, said Jag Popham.

Popham has been dancing since the age of 3, and has worked with the internationally acclaimed Dancenorth since early 2025. He is a regular collaborator of Brisbane’s Studio1 dance hub.

New beginnings

For Metro Arts, this world premier also marks the beginning of a new public chapter following a period of organisational renewal and strategic investment in artist development. Additional programming for the July-December season is now live.

Metro Arts CEO Kieran Swann said, "For more than 45 years, Metro Arts has championed bold ideas and exciting artists. Today, that spirit can be found across our entire program - from new performance by leading Brisbane artists like Leah Shelton, to late-night experiences with Brisbane Festival, to award-winning visual arts collaborations including Kuweni Dias Mendis and Grant x Wilkes.

Metro Arts is where audiences discover artists, ideas and experiences they won't find anywhere else. If you're curious about what's shaping Queensland's cultural future, this is where to start.

Bold, brave and curious art for bold, brave and curious audiences."

Tickets to **god eater** are available via: <https://metroarts.com.au/event/god-eater/>

EVENT INFORMATION

Work title: *god eater*

Artist: Jag Popham

Season dates: 1-4 July 2026

IMAGES - god eater - Photography credits: Jade Ellis Photography & Georgia Haupt

Image downloads are available [HERE](#).

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1c7hnfHygmXN8bRLHmrGEZfhgsVDCB4dE?usp=sharing>

Get in touch:

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More information about *god eater*

Quotes from Jag Popham, on *god eater*:

"The work asks for trust in slowness, silence, discomfort, and mystery allowing the experience to move through the body before the mind tries to explain it. The destabilisation of comprehension is such a key for us."

"We weren't interested in creating a puzzle to solve. The work asks for trust in slowness, silence, discomfort, and mystery - allowing the experience to move through the body before the mind tries to explain it. the destabilisation of comprehension is such a key for us."

"It's a solo, but I'm never alone on stage. The lights behave as living presence, the sound presses back, the costume transforms. We wanted the audience to feel that the theatre 'itself' is participating. This was a foundation that we wanted to build the work upon," Jag Popham.

About Jag Popham

Jag Popham is a contemporary dancer, performer and maker working across dance theatre, experimental performance and sound design. Currently an ensemble member with Dancenorth, he also co-directs KIN, creating physically-driven interdisciplinary performance works.

A graduate of the New Zealand School of Dance, Jag has performed throughout New Zealand, Australia, Asia and Europe with companies including Rambert, New Zealand Dance Company, Okareka Dance Company and Australasian Dance Collective. Notable works include *Enter Achilles* and *Salamander*.

His practice is deeply informed by breathwork, ZenThai Shiatsu, martial arts and sound design, with current works exploring transformation, trance, ritual and embodiment through immersive physical performance.

About Metro Arts

Metro Arts centres Australian artists and experimentation.

In 2026-27, Metro Arts is embarking on a deliberate "rewiring" of our operations, programming and partnerships. This transformational process is strengthening internal systems, deepening philanthropic relationships, embedding entrepreneurial and sustainable practices, and refining strategy to better support artists and future-focused practice. These efforts lay the foundation for the organisation's next chapter as we approach our 50th anniversary and Brisbane's Cultural Olympiad for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

With a profound 45 year legacy, Metro Arts is at the forefront of nurturing Australian creative talent, serving as an incubator and launchpad for some of the country's finest artists. Metro Arts is equipped with state-of-the-art galleries, artist studios and theatre facilities, all located along the old Peters Ice-cream Factory Lane, within the thriving West Village precinct in West End. Their workshop facility at Norman Park provides vital space for visual artists to create, build and experiment supported by Brisbane City Council.

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Dedicated to a better Brisbane

The 2026 Metro Arts program is supported by the Australian Government through Creative Australia, its funding and advisory body. Metro Arts is supported by the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland and the Visual Art, Craft and Design Framework, an initiative of the Australian, state and territory governments. The Metro Arts Creative Development Program and Artist in Residence Program is proudly supported by Brisbane City Council. Metro Arts Visual Arts (MAVA) Substation is assisted by Brisbane City Council.