



**MEDIA RELEASE**

**Thursday 10 March**

**Tickets on sale to the public Friday 18 March**

**SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE PRESENTS**  
**IRA GLASS**  
**MONICA BILL BARNES**  
**ANNA BASS**

***Three Acts, Two Dancers, One Radio Host***

*“Glass and the dancers have a similar sensibility –  
brainy, playful, taking pleasure in the warmth and awkwardness of human interaction,  
at times visibly charmed by their own creation” - The New Yorker*

*This American Life* creator **Ira Glass** will bring his latest passion project, *Three Acts, Two Dancers, One Radio Host* to the **Sydney Opera House** in July.

Exploring what happens when you combine two forms that, as Glass says, “*really have no business being on stage together*”, live radio and contemporary dance- *Three Acts, Two Dancers, One Radio Host* is the lovechild of the public-radio hero and Monica Bill Barnes & Company.

As the title indicates, the show is split into three parts: Act One is about the job of being a performer; Act Two is about falling (and staying) in love, and Act Three explores how nothing lasts forever. The show includes radio interviews restaged as dance pieces, alongside stories from the lives of the three performers; Glass, **Monica Bill Barnes** and **Anna Bass**.

*“I know this whole thing sounds a little nuts but I swear it’s pretty great. Huge laughs. Big emotions,” says Glass. Dance is all visuals, no talking. Radio’s all talking, no visuals,” says Ira Glass. “But what the stories on This American Life have in common with dance is music. That’s a start. And Monica Bill Barnes and Anna Bass are such funny, human-scale, relatable sorts of performers; their sensibility somehow matches a lot of what we do on the radio show.”*

**Head of International Development at the Sydney Opera House Danielle Harvey** says, “*Ira Glass blew audiences away at the Sydney Festival in 2012 and we have extended an invite for him to make his Sydney Opera House debut ever since. Three Acts, Two Dancers, One Radio Host with Monica Bill Barnes and Anna Bass is the perfect show to see Ira Glass return to our shores – fun, experimental and, against all apparent odds, it works!*”

Glass encountered the work of Monica Bill Barnes in 2011 and invited her to guest on occasional live broadcasts of *This American Life*. Their collaboration gradually morphed into *Three Acts, Two Dancers, One Radio Host*, which debuted with a ten minute test run at Carnegie Hall in 2013. It has gone on to be performed at theatres and performing arts venues at over 69 cities around the United States. The show will tour through select venues in California, New Hampshire, Alabama and North Carolina between March and June 2016, before concluding its tour at the Sydney Opera House.

View a teaser of the work: <https://vimeo.com/79705698> .

**Sydney Opera House Presents** produces work across the arts, with talks, contemporary music, indigenous, children’s and other programs, to complement the work of our seven resident companies.

**ABOUT THE ARTISTS:**

**Ira Glass** started working in public radio in 1978, when he was 19, as an intern at NPR’s headquarters in DC. Over the next 17 years, he has worked on nearly every NPR news show and did nearly every production job they had: tape-cutter, desk assistant, newscast writer, editor, producer, reporter, and substitute host. He spent a year in a high school for NPR, and a year in an elementary school, filing stories for *All Things Considered*. He moved to Chicago in 1989. He is the host



and executive producer of *This American Life*, which first went to air in 1995. *This American Life* reaches more than 2.2 million listeners on more than 500 public radio stations, with a further 2.2 million podcast downloads. Its first spin-off program *Serial* quickly eclipsed *This American Life* as the most popular podcast ever created, with more than 8 million people downloading each episode.

*This American Life* receives 75,000 podcast downloads per week in Australia. *Serial* currently receives 305,000 per week, with 7.2 million downloads over the course of the show.

**Monica Bill Barnes** is a choreographer, performer, and the Artistic Director of Monica Bill Barnes & Company, a New York City based contemporary dance company founded in 1997. Barnes creates full-length shows that tour the country's biggest stages and tiniest rooms, bringing dance where it doesn't belong: making site-specific dances in public places, mounting collaborations with radio hosts and bringing down the house at comedy shows. MBB&CO has performed in more than 75 cities throughout the United States, been commissioned and presented by The American Dance Festival, The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, and performed all over New York City in venues ranging from Upright Citizen's Brigade to the BAM Opera House. She began working with Ira Glass in 2012 when she created a solo for David Rakoff for *This American Life Live!*

**Anna Bass** began working with MBB&CO in 2003 and now serves as Associate Artistic Director. She has performed Barnes' work all over the country, on stages ranging from public fountains and city parks to New York City Center and Carnegie Hall. Bass performed in Ira Glass's two most recent *This American Life* events – catching boxes while dancing as a part of *This American Life's* cinema event and appearing as a roller-skating mouse alongside Mike Birbiglia in The Radio Drama Episode at the BAM Opera House. She often assists Barnes with theatre projects and served as the Assistant Choreographer for productions at The Atlantic Theater, The Public Theater and Yale Repertory Theater. Bass is originally from a small town in Virginia where she studied almost every dance style from classical ballet to country line dancing. She now lives in Brooklyn, New York.

For more information about Monica Bill Barnes & Company, visit: <http://www.monicabillbarnes.com/>

For more information about *Three Acts, Two Dancers, One Radio Host* and press images, visit: <http://3acts2dancers1radiohost.com/>

*Three Acts, Two Dancers, One Radio Host* is co-represented exclusively by Steven Barclay Agency & Pomegranate Arts.

#### INFORMATION:

**What:** *Three Acts, Two Dancers, One Radio Host*  
**Who:** Ira Glass, Monica Bill Barnes & Anna Bass  
**When:** Sunday 17 July, 8pm & Monday 18 July, 6pm  
**Duration:** 1 hour 40 minutes, no interval  
**Tickets:** From \$49  
**More info:** [http://www.sydneyoperahouse.com/whatson/three\\_acts.aspx](http://www.sydneyoperahouse.com/whatson/three_acts.aspx)

#### CONNECT WITH SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE TALKS & IDEAS:

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/IdeasAtTheHouse>  
**Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/ideasatthehouse>  
**Instagram:** <http://instagram.com/sydneyoperahouse/>  
**YouTube:** <https://www.youtube.com/user/ideasatthehouse>  
**iTunes Podcasts:** <https://itunes.apple.com/au/podcast/sydney-opera-house-ideas-at/id640445035?mt=2>

#### MEDIA CONTACT:

Julia Lenton / Communications Manager, Talks & Ideas / [jlenton@sydneyoperahouse.com](mailto:jlenton@sydneyoperahouse.com) / +61 410 748 039