

NOTES FROM KRISTY ([HTTPS://CAP.UCLA.EDU/BLOG/CATEGORY/NOTES-FROM-KRISTY/](https://cap.ucla.edu/blog/category/notes-from-kristy/))

NOTES FROM KRISTY: WEATHERING STORMS AND THE ART OF PERFORMANCE

OCTOBER 2, 2013 ([HTTPS://CAP.UCLA.EDU/BLOG/NOTES-FROM-KRISTY-WEATHERING-STORMS-AND-THE-ART-OF-PERFORMANCE/](https://cap.ucla.edu/blog/notes-from-kristy-weathering-storms-and-the-art-of-performance/)) | KRISTY ([HTTPS://CAP.UCLA.EDU/BLOG/AUTHOR/KRISTY/](https://cap.ucla.edu/blog/author/kristy/))

One of the artists I have been most eager to introduce to you, the Los Angeles community, is Australian choreographer Lucy Guerin and her astonishing company of dancers.

And now, after much travail thanks to the U.S. visa process and subsequent travel delays, which have required us to **rearrange our presentation of her work** (http://cap.ucla.edu/calendar/event_detail.asp?id=354), Lucy Guerin and all of her company are here. To perform their work for the first time in Los Angeles. We are so proud to welcome them.

Lucy has always been keenly concentrated, artistically and through her choreography, with human relationships and how we encounter and affect each other. Her newest work, "Weather," is an analysis of the conflicts within, and desires for intimacy – which widen into a meditation on human beings as a species and our relational patterns. Particularly explored in "Weather," are the naturally occurring forces that exist outside of the realms of human control, and our direct impact upon the elemental properties that govern the natural world order.

In the advance planning to bring this remarkable work of choreography to open our 2013-2014 season of contemporary dance, there are two particular weather events occurring now that we could not have anticipated, then. But both, in their own distinctive way offer insight into elemental and poetic forces that are explored in the conceptual and choreographic structure of this work.

The first event, is the U.S. Government 'shut down.' Not to dwell, but it is an undeniable display of relational impact and the kind of political weather operating at present in the U.S. One that offers remarkable difficulty in providing elegant explanation around, as we welcome our Australian friends to Los Angeles for the first time. But so too in how we approach an explanation within ourselves, as we grapple with what this current political weather means within our collective citizenry.

Perhaps this work from Australia, in crossing the Pacific to premiere in the U.S., has arrived in exactly the right moment. However robust our current head winds might be.

The second, as was reported for all Angelenos this week, is the annual onset of the Santa Ana winds themselves, a local phenomenon – due to blow in and work upon our nerve endings, on the very evening of this performance.

Guerin's work often draws from the physical world – elemental properties and naturally occurring events – to draw parallels for exploring the ethos of human relationships, as expressively framed through the art of dance and choreography. Read more about Lucy's approach to the creation of "Weather," in her **director's note** (<http://cap.ucla.edu/blog/?p=928>) for the program.

We have also harnessed our local community at UCLA to explore the themes of this performance through the lens of their scientific research. I hope you are able to arrive early on Friday night and enjoy our special pre-show event *The Poetry of Nature*: a discussion with graduate researchers from the UCLA Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Studies.

We may not be able to predict the political winds–nor the weather, nor visa delays nor the traffic patterns during the gusts from the Santa Anas – but we can predict with certainty that the arts in all of their expressive potential, mastery and refined exploration, can and do bring us into direct proximity with the possibility of being astonished and enlivened by the human imagination.



(http://cap.ucla.edu/blog/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/Kristy_weather_photo_Insta-crop.jpg)

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