

# Media Release

For immediate release: 29 September 2016

## Touched by Suicide: A Creative Workshop

People who have been affected by suicide are being invited to join a creative workshop hosted by award winning performance artist James Berlyn.

*Touched by Suicide*, will be held at the State Theatre Centre during Mental Health Week.

It's a subject area in which James has a high degree of lived experience.

*"I am interested in a statistic that I read somewhere ages ago that said if you have suicide in your family you are 50% more likely to commit suicide yourself. I don't know where I read or heard that but it has always stuck in my mind. I have three points of reference to this topic. My grandfather committed suicide when my dad was about three so in effect he never knew his dad. That has, as you would expect, had a flow on effect for all of us. And my Cousin (on my mum's side) committed suicide at the age of 37." He was a farmer alone on his farm struggling with a messy divorce and custody issues. He is left behind two beautiful daughters and a large and loving extended family. I have suffered from suicidal ideation for most of my adult life and attempted suicide in my early thirties."*

The workshop will be facilitated by James and Zoe Warwick, who will lead a gentle and participatory discussion that explores better ways to communicate about suicide.

The workshop is designed to be intimate, so places will be limited. Those wanting to attend are invited to register here: [communications@waamh.org.au](mailto:communications@waamh.org.au)

James Berlyn is an award winning artist, director, curator and teacher with more than 25 years' experience. He is co-founder of Proximity Festival.

Touched by Suicide: A creative workshop is a partnership between Community Arts network, WA association for Mental Health and sponsored by WA Primary Health Alliance.

### Touched by Suicide: A Creative Workshop

Thursday 13 October 2016

1.30pm – 3.00pm

State Theatre Centre of Western Australia

174-176 William Street Perth.



James Berlyn. Photos Courtesy [www.jamesberlyn.com](http://www.jamesberlyn.com)

## About Community Arts Network (CAN)

CAN is an exciting and dynamic organisation working towards positive social change through community arts and cultural development practice.

For more than thirty years CAN has been inspiring and mobilising WA communities who experience social disadvantage, to creatively express their unique stories through a diversity of art mediums.

## ENDS

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