

# The New York Times

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## Dance: Confronting Climate Change in ‘Cut the Sky’

By The New York Times



Performing Marrugeku’s “Cut the Sky.” Credit: Rob Maccoll

In the face of a global crisis, can art move people to action? With “Cut the Sky,” the Australian dance-theater troupe Marrugeku addresses one of the most urgent and inescapable issues of our time: climate change. An international collaboration — featuring artists from Africa, Asia, Europe and Australia — the ambitious, genre-blurring project centers on the Aboriginal people of Australia’s remote regions, who are among the most vulnerable to the threats of climate change on that continent.

Through a potent concoction of poetry, video, song and dance, “Cut the Sky” tells the story of a group of climate refugees confronting catastrophic weather conditions, looking back at the events leading up to their displacement. In a rare United States appearance, Marrugeku brings the 70-minute work to Montclair State University in New Jersey, as part of the Peak Performances series. While it may not offer concrete solutions, such an earnest, lyrical call to action can’t help but echo beyond the stage. *SIOBHAN BURKE*