



# Media release



The Festival of the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games

**Embargo on release of schedule of events in its entirety before 23 February 2006.**

**January 2006**

**Festival Melbourne2006 ñ FREE PERFORMANCES**

## **Roving in the streets**

**From Africa to Scotland, Australia to England, Festival Melbourne2006 brings a slice of life to the streets in a free program offering non-stop performances in and around Melbourne and regional Victoria.**

**Exploring identity and the way we see ourselves, many of the performers take an ironic and irreverent look at our icons.**

**In Australia ñ sun, surf and sand and of course sport. Kage will perform a cricket match on stilts, Icarus, the oversized lifeguards, will be patrolling the beaches, and look out for three hungry Sharks as they dive and circle around and scavenging seagulls from Scotland, and unbelievably rude giant seabirds.**

### **Beach Patrol, Icarus (Australia)**

These bronzed heroes of surf and sand are on patrol and eager to prove they're ready to rescue. Marvel at their mouth-to-mouth. Be dazzled by their daring drills. Heroic? Certainly. Posers? Definitely.

Over the past 10 years Icarus has established itself as one of Australia's premier stiltwalking companies with its unique brand of stilt acrobatics and dance.

**At Birrarung Marr, 17 March at 3:15pm, 4:30pm & 5:45pm; Geelong, 18 March at 2:30pm; The Beach (Arts Centre forecourt), 22 & 25 March at 1:00pm & 4:00pm; and Moe, 24 March at 5:45pm & 7:45pm**

### **Big Rory (Scotland)**

Quite possibly the world's best comedy stilt act. Big Rory is a nine-foot Scots giant with power presence and bagpipes. Catch him out for a walk with Ochie, his wayward mongrel. Or perhaps Rory will be strolling with his ladylove, Gorgeous Morag, a 9½" sex bomb in stiletto heels.

**At Birrarung Marr, 16 March at 2:30pm, 3:30pm & 5:00pm; 19 March at 4:00pm, 5:15pm & 6:30pm; and 20 March at 2:00pm, 3:30pm & 5:00pm; the City Square 21 & 24 March at 2:00pm, 3:30pm & 5:00pm; and Bendigo 25 March at 5:15pm & 7:30pm**

### **Boat of Faith, Born In A Taxi (Australia)**

Take a dreamily absurd and comically surreal voyage through the streets of Melbourne in the *Boat of Faith* with Vasco Pyjama at the helm. Inspired by the poetry and art of Michael Leunig, this is the quintessential street theatre act for Melbourne, and has been created especially for the Festival Melbourne by Born in A Taxi. This ode to one of Melbourne's cultural heroes will delight all.

**At Alexandra Gardens 16 & 17 March at 5:00pm & 6:30pm; 18 March at 4:30pm & 6:00pm; 19 March at 4:30pm & 6:15pm; at Federation Square 21 March at 3:00pm & 4:30pm; 22 March at 2:00pm & 3:30pm; 23 & 24 March at 3:00pm & 5:00pm; and at Birrarung Marr 25 March at 2:30pm & 4:00pm**

### **Carolyn Connors (Australia)**

Carolyn Connors is one of Melbourne's best-loved musical artists. Engaging and whimsical, her roving characters will enchant as they meander through the Commonwealth Games site making melodic mayhem.

Catch the ukulele-playing Annette Ball, wearing a gorgeous ball gown and plucking more than a G-string as she puts a melodious spin on many of her favourite songs. Or Mrs Ida Noe, a talented and delightful grandmother who joyously shares her life's wisdoms while playing a unique style of drum and bass/rock fusion on her accordion.

**At Birrarung Marr 22 March at 3:45pm, 5:00pm & 6:15pm; 24 March at 2:00pm, 3:15pm & 4:30pm; 25 March at 2:30pm, 3:45pm & 5:00pm; 26 March at 4:30pm, 6:00pm & 7:15pm; and at the Alexandra Gardens 23 March at 2:00pm, 3:30pm & 5:00pm**

### **Chipolatas (England)**

A trio of multi-talented musical jugglers from England throw the switch on a sensory overload of dazzling music and comedy routines, blending accordion and acoustic rhythms with the modern day equivalent of hip-hop and street style. No mere juggling show - this is a lethal cocktail of music, clowning and acrobatics with a dash of clog dancing thrown in, all aimed straight for your jugular. Industrial strength entertainment!

**At Birrarung Marr 16 March at 3:15pm, 4:30pm & 5:45pm; at the Alexandra Gardens ñ Palm Stage 17 March at 3:30pm; 18 March at 1:30pm & 4:30pm; and 20 March at 3:30pm & 6:30pm. At the Alexandra Gardens 21 March at 2:30pm, 4:00pm & 5:30pm. At the Outdoor Rig 17 March at 6:00pm; and in Geelong 19 March at 2:45pm, 5:00pm and 6:30pm**

### **Chrome (Australia)**

The unison precision, elegance and humour of the three synchronized and syncopated songsters of Chrome have delighted and bemused audiences around the globe.

**Sharks** Three Sharks arrive on the scene sporting blue gill-fitted wet suits, bathing caps and shark-fins growing from their heads. They swim, dive and parade through public places with their synchronised and syncopated dance movements and harmonies.

**Tennis Players** These Tennis Players lament the professionalism that has crept into the modern game. They hail from a bygone era when it was more important to be king of court fashion than to win matches, a time when style triumphed over substance. The Tennis Players will be holding court throughout the Games with a gold-medal winning performance.

**At the Alexandra Gardens 17 March at 1:30pm, 2:45pm & 4:00pm; 19 March at 2:30pm, 4:00pm & 5:15pm; 20 March at 4:30pm, 6:00pm & 7:15pm; and at Birrarung Marr 18 March at 2:15pm, 3:30pm & 4:45pm; 21 March at 2:00pm, 3:30pm & 5:00pm**

### **Circus Solarus (Australia)**

#### **Drovers on Emus**

Experience a bit of the Aussie outback when the Emus and Drovers come to town to show our Commonwealth guests some real Australian hospitality. He-mu, She-mu and Baby-mu are almost domesticated and their riders have just about got them under control. Herding crowds into a venue near you!

**The Dairy Delights** Clarissa the Kisser and her friend Rosebud are going for gold in the cow-kissing competition, while Studley J. Nevertire, on his champion bull Double Dare, is heading straight for a rodeo-riding medal ñ if he doesn't get thrown off first!

**Alexandra Gardens 22 March at 1:30pm, 3:00pm, 4:30pm & 6:00pm; at Birrarung Marr 23 March at 2:30pm, 4:00pm & 5:30pm 24 March at 1:30pm, 3:00pm, 4:30pm & 6:00pm; at the City Square 25 March at 2:00pm, 3:30pm & 5:00pm; 26 March at 1:30pm, 3:00pm, 4:30pm & 6:00pm; and Ballarat 26 March at 5:30pm & 7:15pm**

### **Cocoloco (England)**

Cocoloco believes in poetry, cinema, laughter, sex over lunch, lunch over sex, lavatorial humour, crop rotation, dressing up, karaoke, fondue, Dyson vacuum cleaners, nudes descending staircases, the muse, the news, the hypotenuse, serendipity, sunrise, the specific, the general and Buster Keaton. This British performance company with a love of the bizarre and its relationship to everyday life.

**At the Alexandra Gardens 20 March at 2:30pm, 4:00pm & 5:45pm; 25 March at 1:45pm, 3:15pm & 5:00pm; 26 March at 5:45pm & 7:15pm; at Birrarung Marr 22 March at 2:00pm, 3:30pm & 5:00pm; 24 March at 2:30pm, 4:00pm & 5:30pm; and at the City Square 23 March at 2:00pm, 3:30pm & 5:00pm**

### **Dinosaurs from Gondwana, EARTH (Australia)**

Natural history will come to life before your eyes when the awe-inspiring dinosaurs of EARTH are released to roam at will. Approach with caution ñ no-one is entirely sure what these magnificent but unpredictable pre-historic creatures will do once they have their freedom.

**At the Alexandra Gardens 16 March at 2:00pm & 3:30pm; 20 & 21 March at 1:30pm & 3:00pm; 22 March at 3:45pm & 5:15pm; 23 March at 1:00pm & 2:30pm; 24 March at 4:30pm & 6:00pm; in Geelong 25 March at 2:00pm, 4:30pm & 6:15pm; and in Ballarat 15 March at 6:00pm**

### **Fraser Hooper (England)**

Forget scary make-up and squirty flowers, this is clowning with a contemporary edge, where elements of mime, physical comedy and vaudeville are fused with the traditions of the great silent clowns. Using no words Strawberry (Fraser Hooper) gives a mesmerising performance that has delighted audiences of all ages across the world. Each performance is unique full of ridiculous routines, dexterous juggling and eccentric dance that builds to a thrilling finish in this hilarious multi award winning show.

**At the Alexandra Gardens ñ Palm Stage 21 & 22 March at 2:00pm; 25 March at 2:00pm & 5:00pm; 26 March at 6:30pm; at Federation Square ñ Amphitheatre 23 March at 2:30pm; 26 March at 4:00pm in the City Square 22 March at 3:45pm; 23 March at 4:15pm; and in Moe 24 March at 4:00pm & 5:00pm**

### **Heartstopping, Third World Bunfight (South Africa)**

Silhouetted against the urban skyline in a living sculpture, their eerie stillness shocks, evoking the heart and soul of Africa, and lamenting the pain of its people. Inspired by the art of Japanese butto, this highly moving and powerfully dramatic performance installation showcases the unique style and perspective of South Africa's **Third World Bunfight**, a company on the razor-sharp cutting edge of African theatre.

**At the Arts Centre ñ Forecourt 18 March at 2:00pm & 4:00pm; and 19 - 20 March at 2:00pm**

### **Icarus, Rooid (Australia)**

A favourite at festivals around the world, these phenomenal giant bouncing kangaroos can jump up to a metre off the ground and 2 metres in a single bound! A crossover of outback macho and inner-city punk savvy, this pair of long-jump medal contenders will be springing into action for the Games.

**Alexandra Gardens 16 March at 1:30pm, 3:15pm & 4:45pm; in Geelong 18 March at 5:00pm & 6:30pm; in the City Square 19 March at 1:30pm, 3:00pm & 4:30pm; and in Birrarung Marr 21 March at 2:30pm, 3:45pm & 5:00pm; 23 March at 3:15pm, 4:30pm & 5:45pm**

### **Kage Physical Theatre (Australia)**

Three pieces of highly quirky and unusual physical theatre conceived and directed by Melbourne's Kage Physical Theatre.

**Crick-art** It's the Australian cricket team versus the rest of the world in this supersized parody of Australia's favourite game. With batsmen on stilts slashing wildly at tumbling human cricket balls, you'll be completely stumped.

**The Pavlovas** A stunning confection of elongated elegance and spectacular grace on stilts. Never saccharine, perfect for dessert.

**The Travelling Aussie Troupe** An amazing troupe of eccentric characters from Australia's historical past roll into the Games on their incredible wooden Side-by-Side Bike. Spouting Australian colloquialisms all along the way, the Southern Cross Brothers with Rosella and her Kangaroo will take you on a journey through imaginary Australian folklore.

**At the City Square 16 March at 1:30pm, 3:00pm & 4:30pm; in the Alexandra Gardens 17 March at 2:15pm, 3:45pm & 5:15pm; 18 March at 1:30pm, 3:00pm, 4:30pm & 6:00pm; 19 March at 2:00pm, 3:30pm & 5:30pm; 21 March at 3:00pm, 4:45pm & 6:15pm, 22 March at 2:45pm, 4:15pm & 5:45pm; 23 March at 1:30pm, 3:00pm, 4:30pm & 6:00pm; 24 March at 2:30pm, 4:00pm & 5:30pm; 25 March at 2:30pm, 4:00pm & 5:30pm; and 26 March at 5:30pm & 7:00pm**

### **Pammy & Spin (Australia)**

Mr Spin, the most charismatic & silliest juggler Australia has ever seen, joins forces with sassy cigar box mistress, Miss Pamela Pink. Together they are the all new, all singing, all dancing Pammy & Spin show. A feast of delectable juggling, with a smattering of hat tricks and a sprinkling of ball tricks, this show climaxes with Pammy standing on Spin's shoulders while he rides the unicycle.

**At the Beach (Arts Centre forecourt) 16 & 21 March at 3:00pm & 4:30pm; in the City Square 23 March at 2:45pm, 5:30pm; at Federation Square 24 March at 2:00pm, 25 March at 2:00pm & 6:00pm; in Ballarat 18 March at 3:00pm & 4:30pm; and the Outdoor Rig 24 March at 6:30pm.**

### **Pitt Family Shovel Team (Australia)**

Inspired by the Wood Chop event at an agricultural show, this is a roving comedic ode to the Pitt-falls of Occupational Health and Safety, and Risk Management. Stand back as the Pitt Family Shovel Team dig in with a speed and precision shovelling competition that will have you falling in a heap.

**At Birrarung Marr 16 ñ 18 March at 2:00pm, 4:00pm & 6:00pm; in the City Square 19 March at 2:00pm, 4:00pm & 6:00pm; and 20 March at 1:30pm, 3:30pm & 5:30pm**

### **Pop-Eyed (Australia)**

Polish your hammers and sharpen your sickles, because those Soviet Acrobatic Strongmen, PopEyed, are coming to Melbourne. With slabs of steel and a chest full of more Olympic gold than you can shake an iron curtain at, these hand-balancing masters of equilibrium will have you see-sawing from fits of laughter to gasps of amazement.

**At Alexandra Gardens ñ Palm Stage on 21 March at 5.00pm & 23 March at 3.30pm. In Geelong on 18 March at 2.00pm & 3.45pm. The Beach (Arts Centre forecourt) on 19 ñ 20 March at 3.00pm & 4.30pm. Federation Square Amphitheatre on 21 March at 2.30pm; 22 March at 2.30pm & 6.30pm at in the Outdoor Rig on 23 March at 7.30pm.**

### **Seagulls (Scotland)**

Unbelievably rude giant seabirds. They snatch chips from peopleís plates, squabble over pizza boxes, rummage in peopleís pockets, squawk insultingly and generally cause chaos. These feathered stars of the international festival circuit have already flown several times around the world, and will be soon be scavenging at a Games site near you.

**At The Beach 17 March at 2:00pm & 4:00pm; 23 March at 1:00pm & 4:00pm; and in the City Square 18 March at 2:00pm, 3:45pm & 5:00pm**

### **The Ukulele Ladies (Australia)**

Musical comedy duo, Dusty Footpaths and Rhoda Dendron, sashay straight out of the sixties playing ukulele in a glorious gamut of musical genres. Their mind-boggling repertoire ranges from disco, reggae and classics to folk, pop and heavy metal. Devoted to humming, strumming and gorgeous floral frocks.

**At the Alexandra Gardens 16 March at 3:15pm, 4:30pm & 5:45pm; in the City Square 17 March at 2:00pm, 3:45pm & 5:00pm; in Birrarung Marr 18 March at 3:00pm, 4:15pm & 5:30pm; 19 March at 2:30pm, 3:45pm & 5:00pm; and 20 March at 3:15pm, 4:30pm & 5:45pm.**

### **Tutti Frutti (Australia)**

#### **A waterless stunt water-skiing extravangza**

Tina and BB are Central Australiaís one and only stunt waterskiing duo, performing *skiBOOM!* Inspired by the grace of Esther Williams, these sisters from the desert have never let drought stand in the way of their dream. Equipped with their W.A.S.A (Water skiing Aquatic Simulation Apparatus) and a couple of frilly pink bikinis, these girls have taken their stunt water skiing to the streets all around the world.

**The Beach 18 March at 4:00pm & 6:00pm; 24 March at 3:00pm & 4:30pm; in Geelong 19 March at 1:30pm & 3.45pm; and in the Alexandra Gardens 23 March 3:30pm & 25 March at 3.30pm**

## **Festival Melbourne2006 ñ Wednesday 15 to Sunday 26 March, 2006.**

**Festival Melbourne2006 celebrates the breadth of culture and art from across the nations of the Commonwealth. The Festival is an integral part of the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games, and it is proudly funded and supported by the Victorian and Australian Governments.**

### **MEDIA INFORMATION:**

**Magda Petkoff            0409 436 473, magda@purplemedia.com.au**  
**Katrina Hall            0421 153 046, kathall@ozemail.com.au**

