



MEDIA RELEASE:

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AUSTRALIA'S FIRST PEOPLES RECOGNISED AT 2015 FESTIVAL

In 2015 the National Folk Festival will once again recognise and celebrate Australia's first peoples with an outstanding Indigenous program across music, song and dance. The Festival is proud to announce the following artists:

Kutcha Edwards, Mutti Mutti man from the Murrumbidgee and a member of the Stolen Generation, is an icon of the Aboriginal soul/blues scene and has worked with the likes of David Bridie, Jeff Lang, Dan Sultan, The Black Arm Band and Carlos Santana. Since touring extensively through the 1990s with Koori rock bands Watbalimba and Blackfire, Kutcha went on to record solo projects, fusing soulful music and a rich powerful voice that evoke a connection to an intimate and resilient Songline. Don't miss Kutcha performing with Dan Fox and Tom Lynch at this year's National Folk Festival.

The Festival is delighted to welcome back **Gina Williams and Guy Ghouse**, winners of the Best Indigenous Act of 2013 at the WA Music Industry Awards and Best Indigenous Act at the NAIDOC 2014 awards. Showcasing songs from their lauded debut album Kalyakoori, Gina Williams sings entirely in Noongar Language - rare and unique to the South West of Australia with less than 240 speakers left of this beautiful language. Guy compliments on guitar in a way that will leave you breathless.

The first Aboriginal person to win a Golden Guitar at Tamworth (1973), **Col Hardy** (AOM) is a living legend. Born and raised in Brewarrina in north western NSW, Col is a Kamilaroi man and in 2011 received the Jimmy Little Lifetime Achievement Award at the Deadly Awards. Col's career began in the 1960's as a member of the Opals, a country outfit and sometime house band for Jimmy Little's travelling All-Coloured Revue. Anticipate a warm, mesmerizing and unforgettable performance when this 'gentle giant of country-soul' graces the Festival Stage.

John Bennett from the Bidyadanga community in WA's Kimberley region, accompanied by multi-instrumentalist David Hyams, return to the festival after their striking debut performance in 2014. John's star continues to rise and in the past year he's been part of the 'Murru' album performances, sharing the stage with Bill Chambers, Emma Donovan, Harry Hookey and Lucky Oceans. Heartfelt songs of John's remote homeland, his culture and community are a feature of his standout shows.

The **Djaadjawan Dancers** come from Yuin Country on the Far South Coast of NSW. Proud Koori women, this dance ensemble was founded in 2013 with a vision to heal, teach and practice the Yuin culture and features dancers from 6-60 years old, who celebrate their culture with dance and song.

The National Folk Festival is one of Australia's most accessible and longest running folk festivals and will feature an A-list of over 200 international and national artists across 18 venues at Exhibition Park, Canberra on the Easter weekend, 2-6 April. Hurry! Earlybird2 Tickets close this week! More artists still to be announced so stay connected at www.folkfestival.org.au or follow National Folk Festival on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram @natfolkfest #5daysinaperfectworld

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