

ABORIGINAL ARTISTS CELEBRATED AT 50TH NATIONAL FOLK FESTIVAL



Celebrating Australia's First Peoples is a vital part of the National Folk Festival's program and is one of the most popular features of the Festival. The Festival is proud to announce the following acclaimed and award-winning Aboriginal artists, musicians, dancers and storytellers for their milestone 50th Festival:

National treasure, singer, storyteller and raconteur **Stephen Baamba Albert** has starred in *Bran Nue Dae*, *Corrugation Rd* and *The Circuit* and as the infamous sidekick of *Mary G*. Growing up on the foreshore of Broome's Dampier Creek, Baamba calls on a unique musical family legacy from his aunties and uncles from the 1930s combined with the rich cultural melange of Broome. Loved and adored for his charismatic performances, don't miss out on a show with Baamba from his debut album 'Baad' featuring classic songs from Cole Porter and Engelbert Humperdink alongside Broome Anthems 'Saltwater Cowboy', 'Town of the Bay' and 'Selamat Tingal'.

With music described as 'a deep blend of modern life and ancient energy' (Brian Ritchie, Mona Foma Festival), **Rayella** are Mudburra people and hail from one of the most remote locations in Australia, in the Marlinja Community in the Northern Territory, 700 km south of Darwin. With music sung in both Mudburra and English and a style that ranges from pop to country, rock and reggae, Rayella have performed with the Opera Australia Chamber Orchestra and at Mona as well as Folk, Rhythm and Life and will be sure to wow at the 50th National Folk Festival.

The sublime **Gina Williams and Guy Ghouse** return to the Festival Stage after being named Best Indigenous Act of the 2015 WA Music Industry Awards for the third time. With pure haunting vocals, 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. This could be one of the last times Gina and Guy perform together, so don't miss this spellbinding and moving act.

There's 2011 NAIDOC Artist of the Year **Jacinta Price**, whose songs conjure up a Tracy Chapman feel and are grounded in a blues, folk and Celtic ethos. Jacinta Price's debut album 'Dry River' will feature at the Festival and is a tribute to her hometown of Alice Springs, with songs conjuring up the landscape, the people and the culture.

After impressing the judges on the Sydney Opera House stage at the Dance Rites competition in 2015 and numerous performances right round the country, The **Djaadjawan Dancers** will be back at the National Folk Festival for the 50th. From Yuin Country on the Far South Coast of NSW, these proud Koori women founded the dance ensemble in 2013 with a vision to heal, teach and practice the Yuin culture.

And for the children **Larry Brandy** is an Aboriginal Storyteller from Wiradjuri Country, near Condolbolin NSW. A regular performer at museums, libraries, schools and festivals, Larry Brandy has performed with Apache children in the US as well as First Nations children in Canada and Alaska.

Other special events include the 'First People's Concert' on Easter Saturday Morning, supported by the *Community Broadcasting Foundation* featuring Stephen Baamba Albert, Jacinta Price and Rayella, which will air on Community Radio around the country. On Good Friday there will also be a fascinating presentation supported by the *NLA* titled 'Black and White Tangle' about early indigenous musicians in Australia featuring Kamilaroi man **Col Hardy** who began his career 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.

The National Folk Festival celebrates 50 fabulous festivals in 2016, and will feature an A-list of over 200 international and national artists across 18 venues at Exhibition Park, Canberra on the Easter weekend, 24-28 March with a very special program to mark the 50th Festival. Discounted tickets still available. More news still to be announced so stay connected at www.folkfestival.org.au or follow National Folk Festival on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram @natfolkfest #ournff Just be there!

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