



media release

5 April 2006

AFRICA!

EXPLODES ONTO THE HAMER HALL STAGE FEATURING DIRECT FROM SENEGAL FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL HIP-HOP STARS **DAARA J**

Africa! resonates in a blur of colour, sound, rhythm, movement and global hip-hop, at the Arts Centre's **Hamer Hall, April 23, 2006 as part of the MIX IT UP program.** Prepare to have your notions of African music seriously challenged with performances from Africa's finest hip-hop outfit **Daara J** and local rising stars **Diafrix** and **special guests**. Daara J have enthralled audiences around the world and were without a doubt one of the high lights of Womadelaide 2005, where thousands of eager festival goers thronged to the stage swaying to Daara J's unique blend of African infused hip-hop, Dancehall, Cuban Son and Reggae. This show at the Arts Centre programmed by **Systa bb** from **Planetary Chaos** of **PBS FM** will also feature roving entertainment and a free marketplace in the foyers of Hamer Hall, where you can taste, smell, hear and see the true essence of Africa. Come early and you can also immerse yourself in an African inspired workshop.

Daara J Among the hundreds of hip-hop groups in the world **Daara J** (which means "school life" in Senegal's national language of Wolof) certainly have their own distinct sound. Their style of music is achieved by using a fusion of hip-hop and traditional African rhythms. What really sets **Daara J** apart from other hip-hop bands is their poetic, story-telling style of rap, which delivers a message and expresses their thoughts and emotions. **Daara J's** music has been described as a combination of soul, funk, dancehall and even Cuban. **Daara J** is a must see, for lovers of hip-hop and world music alike.

Diafrix & special guests Described as a rare blend of new Australian urban music with an African beat, **Diafrix** delivers rhymes that flow from English to French to Swahili and back again. The group was formed in 2002 in Footscray, when a group of aspiring MCs of mixed African backgrounds, decided to get together and make some noise. Awarded the Music Oz Award as one of the top ten Independent Australian hip-hop acts in 2003, **Diafrix** is a guaranteed crowd pleaser.

The foyers of Hamer Hall will come alive from 12.00 noon, with food, music, colour, dance, story-telling and African performances with artists from across the continent. Highlights of the day will include; the African Royal Drummers from Ghana, the Ethiopian Circus performers, an Ethiopian Coffee Ceremony, story telling from South Africa and Sudanese Dancers, **all free**. For those of you who would like to immerse yourselves further, there will be three **low cost workshops on the day at 1pm & 3pm**, where you can experience African drumming & dance; singing; and even get the opportunity to develop your very own African based music track in a workshop led by Melbourne African music identity **Stani Goma** from **Africa No1** of **PBS FM**. **For more information please visit www.theartscentre.net.au or phone 03 9281 8000, bookings are essential.**

"Through **MIX IT UP** the Arts Centre has worked with Multicultural Arts Victoria to give flight to a marvellous series of performances that each takes their cue from a particular part of our own diverse community. With these performances supported by exhibitions, workshops, public programs, education activities and the development of new work, the Arts Centre has sought to unite the audiences and artists, enriching and rewarding everyone who decides to **MIX IT UP**" said Milos Miladinovic, Executive, Programming, the Arts Centre.

If you would like to receive a copy of the MIX IT UP program please call the Arts Centre on 03 9281 8000.

the Arts Centre presents

AFRICA! Featuring direct from Senegal West Africa

DAARA J with support by Melbourne's **DIAFRIX**

Sunday, 23 April, 2006

the Arts Centre, Hamer Hall

Show starts from 5.00pm, Tickets \$35.00 - \$55.00, Foyer Entertainment & Workshops from 12.00noon Contact the Arts Centre on 03 9281 8000 or visit www.theartscentre.net.au for more information

Bookings at ticketmaster.com.au* on 1300 136 166* or www.theartscentre.net.au *Transaction fee applies

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