

VISIBLE CONCERT

September 3rd 2006 1.30-3.00pm at the Arts Centre, Hamer Hall FREE CONCERT

Come face to face with some of the hottest new African talents in town and Melbourne's best homegrown indigenous performers, as they come together on stage for one electrifying FREE show - VISIBLE, at the Arts Centre Open Day on September 3rd 1.30 – 3.00pm.

This vibrant concert joins feature artists from two exciting cultural projects initiated by Multicultural Arts Victoria - Black Harmony Gathering & Visible Project– to reveal a rich layer of 'invisible' artistic talent bubbling away in our city.

The concert also launches the first ever Visible Project compilation CD with a line up of African talents that have hit our shores in recent times and have been taken under the wing by some of our top artists. The Visible Project has been instrumental in giving a voice, face and expression to some of the new and emerging African cultures coming alive in Melbourne.

See the likes of ARIA award winning maestro Nicky Bomba take the stage with Sudan Azza. Featuring a talented lineup of musicians hailing from Omdurman – the cultural Mecca of Sudan in North East Africa – Sudan Azza capture the essence of a rich Sudanese cultural heritage with the characteristically sweet music of the Horn of Africa.

Let your notions of African music be seriously challenged as local rising hip hop stars hailing from East Africa and the Caribbean, Diafrix, take the stage with Jali Buba Kuyateh – Melbourne's best kept secret yet. Coming from one of Senegambia's most famous griot (hereditary musician) family, the Kuyateh family of Medina Wandifa in Gambia, Jali will have you on the edge of your seat with his extraordinary vocals and kora (21 string African harp)

Sudanese songstress Ajak Kwai, with her soulful and distinctly sub Saharan voice expresses heartfelt songs of love and hope for her war torn homeland and deeply philosophical and global concerns. Then be uplifted and let your spirits soar with the Sudanese Catholic Choir – a 25 strong choir of men and women singing African gospel songs.

South Sudan Music will explode onto stage with Melbourne's star of soukous, King Bell. South Sudan Musica are the largest and only all African soukous band in Australia. Soukous comes from the French word for "shake," and that's exactly what this band makes you want to do!

This high energy extravaganza of African music will be threaded with Indigenous culture and spellbinding performances from many of our key Black Harmony Gathering artists. BLACK HARMONY GATHERING held annually in the heart of multicultural and Indigenous land on the banks of the Yarra River, brings together local indigenous artists and their more recently arrived brothers and sisters from Africa to Say No To Racism. VISIBLE will feature a traditional Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony and performances by Richard Frankland, Monica Weightman, Joel Ma (TZU), Koori Youth Will Shake Spears, Dave Arden and more.