

MEDIA RELEASE

8 May 2009



Multicultural Arts Victoria presents...

EMERGE FESTIVAL

From Africa to the Far East, from the traditional to the contemporary, from the emerging to the established, music, dance, visual arts, exotic foods, ancient crafts and ceremonies... Emerge Festival is a dynamic celebration of Victoria's many rich and undiscovered refugee and emerging cultures... Emerge Festival commemorates the United Nations World Refugee Day and celebrates Refugee Week in Australia with a series of amazing performances and unique cultural experiences around Melbourne from 16 June to 26 July.

Emerge Festival Main Event

Celebrating Refugee Week in Victoria – 'Freedom From Fear'

Sunday 21 June 12-5pm FREE

@ Fitzroy Town Hall & Napier St, Fitzroy

Be part of this massive cultural celebration as the magnificent Fitzroy Town Hall opens its doors and closes off the street for 2 non stop stages of world music, a vibrant cultural marketplace, the aromas of an Ethiopian coffee ceremony, tasty authentic foods from all corners of the globe, FREE cultural workshops in Pacific Island Body Percussion with Steve Tafea, Vocal Gymnastics with Carl Pannuzzo, African Drumming with King Marong and Bellydancing with Underbelly, henna tattoos, hairbraiding and much more. Featured artists from African and Indigenous communities will include Muhanamwe (Guinea), Kankelay (Sierra Leone), Burundian Drumming Group (Burundi), Landid Sound (Sudan) Anbessa Gebrehiwot (Ethiopia), Eshak Awi (Sudan), Paul Mbenna (Tanzania), Angels Voices Band (Congo), Blak Roots (Congo), Kundalila (Zimbabwe/ Congo), Dereb Desalegn & Lion of Judah (Ethiopia), Deline Briscoe (Indigenous), James Henry (Indigenous), Skye Taikato (Indigenous/ Maori).

ABC Music Deli Free Concert

Under an Eastern Moon

Wednesday 24 June 6.30pm for a 7pm start

@ Iwaki Auditorium, ABC Southbank Centre, Southbank Blvd, Southbank

No bookings – arrive early to ensure your seat!

Hosted by ABC Music Deli's Paul Petran, a beautiful concert of exquisite music for voices and strings from Turkey, Afghanistan, Japan and India, made in Australia. Featuring Dya Singh (India), Khalil Gudaz (Afghanistan), Noriko Tadano and George Kamikawa (Japan) and Huzzam (Turkey).

Multicultural Arts Victoria in association with the Arts Centre presents

Visible Sessions Live at the Black Box FREE

@ The Arts Centre, Black Box, 100 St. Kilda Rd, Melbourne

#1 Sunday 28 June 5-8pm

Connecting musicians and creating a platform for new Aussie sounds and styles, the Visible Sessions Live at the Black Box are a new series of live music and jam sessions with flavours from all around the world. The first of these unique sessions will feature two unique acts jamming it out live on stage: The Black Jesus Experience, an exciting blend of traditional Ethiopian song with jazz, funk and hip-hop and Culture Connect – a refreshing, upbeat, progressive 7 piece live hip hop act featuring artists from some of the planet's most exotic locations.

#2 Sunday 12 July 5-8pm

Mixing it up with Fresh Hip Hop, RnB and soulful vibes - upcoming MC's, Vocalists, and Beatmakers mash it up with the veteran MC Elf Tranzporter, and his multi-talented LO2's Fleet featuring DJ TakaCo, Bboy Lamaroc, Vida-Sunshyne, TWOONE..... Keepin the dance floor vibes alive – DJ Kuya and Nomadic Funk will lend their skills to an afternoon of jammin', freestylin' and fresh sounds.

The Arts Centre in association with Multicultural Arts Victoria presents as part of MIX IT UP

Visible Concert

Sunday 26 July 5pm

@ The Arts Centre, Hamer Hall, 100 St. Kilda Rd, Melbourne

For the past three years, Multicultural Arts Victoria's Visible music mentorship project has given a kick start to an incredible range of musical talents from all around the globe with Visible 2009 supporting some of the most exciting and innovative new world music acts to emerge in Melbourne in recent years. Be part of a musical revolution on Sunday July 26th as contemporary and traditional African cultures come together in a massive showcase at Hamer Hall to launch the annual Visible CD. Arrive early at 3pm to enjoy live performances and cultural displays.

Love Burma Love Freedom

An exhibition by Andrea Draper, Saw Chu Cil and Timothy Syrota

Tuesday 16 June – Monday 28 June. Opening 16 June 5-7pm

@ fortyfivedownstairs, 45 Flinders Lane, Melbourne

A unique exhibition that reflects the people and the rich traditions of Burma. Love Burma Love Freedom brings together the work of three creatives working in different disciplines: Andrea Draper a digital artist with Burmese origins; Saw Chu Cil a refugee painter who lives on the Thai Burmese border; and Timothy Syrota an author, photographer & film maker whose work has focused on Burma since first visiting Burma 1997.

Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria presents

Refugee Week Forum at *Love Burma Love Freedom*

Wednesday 17 June 6pm for a 6.30pm start

@ fortyfivedownstairs, 45 Flinders Lane, Melbourne

Bookings Essential: 9349 4122 or donna.eynon@eccv.org.au

For more than five decades, Burma has been embroiled in political and armed conflict between the ruling military regime, political opponents and ethnic groups, resulting in the displacement of over 3.5 million people. Many are seeking refuge in Australia. Some have already settled in Melbourne and watched for hints of progress towards democracy and the restoration of rights for the Burmese people. They have been sorely disappointed. With an inspiring backdrop of the *Love Burma Love Freedom* exhibition, the Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria is hosting an important forum to discuss the plight of the Burmese people on the Thai/ Burmese border and to provide a safe space for Burmese refugees in Melbourne to tell their stories.

For further media information:

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Multicultural Arts Victoria

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