

MEDIA RELEASE

Multicultural Arts Victoria presents Emerge Festival: 20 June - 3 August Time for Melbourne's vibrant new migrant cultures to shine

Emerge Festival is a gathering together of Melbourne's tribes; a chance for people from all cultures to participate in each other's ceremonies, hear each other's stories, make music together, sing, dance, and kindle cross-cultural creativity of all kinds. With so many enriching, inspiring and entertaining Emerge Festival events all over Melbourne from 20 June to 3 August, there is truly something for everyone. Emerge Festival is an initiative of Multicultural Arts Victoria to promote diversity, social inclusion, respect and the breaking down of racism whilst fostering connections between established and emerging artists, and between emerging and mainstream communities.

From Africa to the far East, from the traditional to the contemporary, from the emerging to the established, Emerge Festival is a dynamic celebration of Victoria's many rich and undiscovered refugee and emerging cultures. Kicking off with a massive one-day cultural celebration at Fitzroy Town Hall on Sunday 20 June, Emerge Festival continues for six sensational weeks. From 20 June to 3 August, a series of amazing performances and unique cultural experiences encompassing music, dance, visual arts, exotic foods, ancient crafts and ceremonies will happen all over Melbourne. Presented by Multicultural Arts Victoria, Emerge Festival commemorates United Nations World Refugee Day and celebrates Refugee Week in Australia.

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EMERGE FESTIVAL EVENT DATES

SUN 20 JUNE	Emerge Festival Main Event Talanoa; Walk the Talk Performance
TUES 22 JUNE	Talanoa Forum; Art, Community & Social Function
SUN 27 JUNE	Blak Roots Debut Album Launch
SAT 3 JULY	Burundian Independence Day Celebrations
SAT 17 JULY	Emerge at The Drum launching Emerge Cultural Hubs
SAT 3,10,17 24, 31 JULY	Don't Be Left Out in the CALD – Music Business Skills Workshops for World Music Artists
TUES 27 JULY – 3 AUGUST	Music is Family Photographic Exhibition by Damian Vincenzi

Attachment: Profiles of Emerge Festival events

- **EMERGE FESTIVAL MAIN EVENT**

- **Freedom From Fear: Celebrating Refugee Week in Victoria**

- Sunday 20 June, 12-5pm @ Fitzroy Town Hall & Napier St, Fitzroy.
Free entry.

Be part of this massive cultural celebration as the magnificent Fitzroy Town Hall opens its doors for a feel-good street party guaranteed to get your hips shaking. Napier Street will be closed off to create an exuberant block party with three stages of nonstop world music and a vibrant cultural marketplace. Grab someone's hand and sway to rhythms from Ghana to West Papua whilst inhaling the aromas of an Ethiopian coffee ceremony, an Afghan tea cart, and tasty authentic foods from all corners of the globe. Take a break from dancing to join in some free cultural workshops, henna tattoos, hair braiding, kids activities and much more. The gloriously diverse, crowd-pleasing lineup brings you infectious rhythms, lush vocals and harmonies from around the globe, featuring Somali dance grooves, African pop, Sudanese reggae, Ghanaian highlife, Ethiopian roots, tropical West Papuan rhythms, Congolese gospel and multicultural hip hop straight from the streets of Melbourne. *Supported by City Of Yarra, Australia Council For The Arts, The Diana Browne Trust, managed by Perpetual, Victorian Multicultural Commission.*

- **TALANOA: WALK THE TALK VII**

- **Culture Court Public Performance: An exploration of the intersection between Art, Culture and Commerce.**

- Sunday 30 May (Reconciliation Week), 3pm @ NGV International, 180 St Kilda Rd, Melbourne. Free entry.

- **NGV Culture Court Talks with Shigeyuki Kihara**

- Monday 31 May 2010 (Reconciliation Week), 11am @ The Ian Potter Centre, NGV Australia, Federation Square corner Russell and Flinders Streets, Melbourne. Free entry.

- **Talanoa at Emerge Festival Main Event: Dambai Dancing Group of Sudan, Te Roro n Rikirake Kiribati Youth Group, Shigeyuki Kihara.**

- Sunday 20 June, 2pm @ Fitzroy Town Hall & Napier St, Fitzroy.
Free entry.

- **Talanoa Forum: Art, Community and Social Function. With Sudanese and Kiribati community leaders, Shigeyuki Kihara and guest speakers, plus Dambai Dance Group & Te roro n ririrake Kiribati Dance Group.**

- Tuesday 22 June, 3-6 pm @ Federation Hall VCAM, Grant Street, Southbank.
Free entry.

Talanoa; Walk the Talk is an inspiring cultural arts project taking place in Melbourne from May to June, 2010. Commissioned by Multicultural Arts Victoria, internationally renowned Japanese/ Samoan artist Shigeyuki Kihara will apply the ancient Samoan concept of talanoa - a practice of talking through matters of cultural and social importance - with two very different cultural groups during her two month residency in Melbourne. Working with the Dambai Dancing Sudan Group and Te Roro n Rikirake Kiribati Youth Group, Shigeyuki Kihara will facilitate a new dialogue between two of Melbourne's newest communities. Key events include a Reconciliation Week performance at the NGV on Sunday 30 May, an NGV Culture Court talk on Monday 31 May, a free Talanoa Performance at the Emerge Festival on Sunday 20 June, and a Talanoa Forum on Art, Community and Social Function at Federation Hall on Tuesday 22 June. All events are free entry and open to the public. *Supported by Festivals Australia, Australia Council for the Arts, The Wilin Centre - Faculty Of The VCA and Music- The University Of Melbourne, National Gallery of Victoria, The*

Substation, Hobsons Bay City Council, AAAPS, Merethan Vision and New-Zealand Maori Polynesian Welfare Support Group Inc.

- **BLAK ROOTS DEBUT ALBUM LAUNCH**

Sunday 27 June, 7.30pm @ The Toff, 2nd floor, Curtin House, 252 Swanston St, Melbourne. Tickets \$12/ \$10 conc at the door.

African reggae act Blak Roots have taken the reggae genre in Melbourne to new heights with an exciting musical brew of driving reggae rhythms, refreshingly sweet vocals and African inspired harmonies. Led by African vocal extraordinaire William Kadima, Blak Roots formed in early 2008 bringing together an eclectic mix of talented jazz, world and reggae artists from some of the planet's most exotic locations. The band releases its long awaited debut album with the support of amazing local act Vox Congo performing a unique mix of Congolese gospel, rumba, soukous, zouk, reggae, aguaya and pende folk rhythms. *Supported by City Of Melbourne, Victorian Multicultural Commission.*

- **BURUNDIAN DRUM FESTIVAL**

Saturday 3 July, 2 – 6pm @ Eolian Hall, 836 Lygon St, Carlton.
Entry gold coin donation at door – arrive early to avoid disappointment!

Presented by the Australian Burundian community in Victoria in partnership with Multicultural Arts Victoria, this inaugural event will be a spectacular celebration of Burundian independence day as Melbourne's Burundian community put their talents and culture on show. Come and experience traditional songs, dances and food from Burundi and be blown away by the sound of the *ingoma* – the powerful and distinctive traditional Burundian drums. Also featured on the day will be contemporary Burundian artists Lil Fablice and African reggae band Blak Roots featuring vocalists William Kadima (Burundi/ Congo) and Aminata Doumbia (Burundi/ Mali). *Supported by City Of Melbourne, Victorian Multicultural Commission.*

- **STEP BY STEP DOCUMENTARY SCREENING**

Saturday 17 July, 7.30pm @ ACMI Cinemas, Australian Centre For The Moving Image, Federation Square, Flinders Street, Melbourne.
Tickets: visit the ACMI box office at Federation Square or phone 8663 2583.

Directed and produced by independent film maker Thomas Baricevic in partnership with Multicultural Arts Victoria, Step By Step is a documentary that peers into the fascinating world of young Sudanese in Melbourne. Step inside the world of A-MCs, a group of Sudanese school age boys based in Dandenong who write and perform hip hop music, and Jungle City Massive, group of young Sudanese school age girls based in Melbourne's west who learn and perform hip hop dance and music. *Supported by City Of Melbourne.*

- **EMERGE FESTIVAL @ THE DRUM**

Saturday 17 July, 12pm – 4pm @ Drum Theatre, Dandenong Town Hall, 226 Lonsdale St, Dandenong.

Multicultural Arts Victoria takes its exciting and innovative **Emerge Cultural Hubs** project to Dandenong for the first time, unearthing a wave of new cultures and talents who have made Dandenong their home in recent years. This unique arts mentorship project will be launched at the city's outstanding landmark venue The Drum Theatre, and will mark the beginning of a dynamic new partnership between Multicultural Arts Victoria and The Drum Theatre. Bring your dancing shoes and a sense of adventure

and get ready to enjoy an afternoon of music, song, drum, dance, food, crafts, culture and ceremony from local refugee and new arrival communities. Featured artists include Angels Voices (Congo), Exodus (Sudan), Landid Sound (Sudan), Cook Islands Polynesian Dance Group, Afghan Atar Group, Sultan Miazoi (Afghanistan), Lopit Community Cultural Dance (Sudan), Burundian Drum and Dance Group, Cook Islands Adventist Choir, Mady Keita (Mali), Acholi Womens' Dance Group (Sudan). *Supported by The Drum Theatre, City of Greater Dandenong, Sidney Myer Fund.*

- **MUSIC BUSINESS SKILLS WORKSHOPS FOR WORLD MUSIC ARTISTS – DON'T BE LEFT OUT IN THE CALD**

Saturdays in July, 12- 5pm @ Melbourne Multicultural Hub, 506 Elizabeth St, Melbourne. Free entry. Bookings essential 9417 6777

A unique opportunity for culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) and world music artists to learn more about the business of music, the Australian music industry and how to get heard! Workshops will be presented by industry experts and will include:

July 3 A Festival Nation; Recording and Releasing Your Music
July 10 Getting Your Music to the World; Marketing Your Music to the World
July 17 What Can APRA Do For You?; Copyright – Who Owns the Song?
July 24 Going on Tour; Tuning In To Community Radio
July 31 Funding, Funding, Funding; On Your Way to Successful Grant Writing
Supported by Victoria Rocks.

- **MUSIC IS FAMILY: AN EXHIBITION BY DAMIAN VINCENZI**

Tuesday 27 July – 3 August @ Steps Gallery, 62 Lygon St, Carlton South.

This stunning photographic exhibition captures the intimate connection between music, family and everyday life in African culture. Photographer Damian Vincenzi invites us into some of Melbourne's newest African refugee communities to reveal an incredibly diverse wave of new musicians; musicians who have made Australia home, and continue to live their music in every moment.

Produced and presented by Multicultural Arts Victoria. **Principal sponsors:** Australia Council For The Arts, City Of Melbourne, City Of Yarra, Arts Victoria, Victorian Multicultural Commission, Festivals Australia, Perpetual Funded by the Diana Browne Trust, managed by Perpetual, Victoria Rocks, Community Support Fund. **Partners and supporters:** Drum Theatre, City of Greater Dandenong, Sidney Myer Fund, National Gallery of Victoria, University of Melbourne, The Substation, Hobson's Bay City Council, AAAPS, Merethan Vision, New-Zealand Maori Polynesian Welfare Support Group Inc, PBS FM, Metro Printing, keke Design

EMERGE FESTIVAL: 20 June - 3 August, all over Melbourne.

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