

MEDIA RELEASE

December 2011



THE PIERS FESTIVAL *a celebration of migration* *Station Pier & Princes Pier, Port Melbourne – FREE EVENT*

Date: Saturday 28 January, 2012
Time: Station Pier from 12 to 4pm. Princes Pier from 1 to 9:30pm.
Venue: Station Pier (off Waterfront Place, Port Melbourne) and Princes Pier (off Pier Street, Port Melbourne)
Transport: Tram 109 lightrail to Waterfront Place, Port Melbourne.

On **Saturday 28 January 2012**, the **Piers Festival** will bring the Port Melbourne piers precinct to life with a spectacular display of music, dance, food, historical displays, the tall ship Enterprize and more. This wonderful display of Melbourne's diversity will link in with Victoria's Australia Day activities and highlight the state's rich history of migration. The **Piers Festival** will run on Station Pier from 12-4pm and on Princes Pier from 1-9:30pm. The event is free, family friendly and will culminate with a fireworks display.

Station Pier Cruise Terminal from 12 to 4pm

OPEN DAY: Celebrating Victoria's migration and living cultural heritage

Wander through the arrival hall where thousands of migrants have arrived. View a historical exhibition by the Immigration Museum and a photographic exhibition by Georgia Metaxas. Experience 'Dall'Italia All'Australia' historical, silent film screening with live musical accompaniment by *Il Viaggiatori*.

Princes Pier from 1 to 9:30pm

CULTURAL CONCERT & STALLS

Tall Ship Enterprize	Historical displays	Kid's activities	Fireworks
World music	Choirs	Dance groups	Roving acts
Food and crafts from the around the world		Marching bands	

The **Piers Festival** will celebrate Victoria's incredible cultural diversity by reflecting on the rich histories of both Port Melbourne piers. Originally called Railway Pier, the heritage listed Station Pier officially opened in 1854 and played a pivotal role in the lives of gold seekers and early settlers. It was the departure point for key military expeditions and the entry point for hundreds of thousands of European migrants over the past century.

Princes Pier, adjacent to Station Pier, was completed in 1916 and also played a significant role in Victoria's multicultural, wartime and maritime history. Its 1935 gatehouse is heritage listed and the pier was recently restored for public use by the Victorian Government, through Major Projects Victoria. The 1935 gatehouse will house historical photographs and this will be the first major event on the pier since its restoration.

The **Piers Festival** welcomes all to celebrate migration and cultural diversity across two historic landmarks. The **Piers Festival** will also celebrate Multicultural Arts Victoria's move to the City of Port Phillip.

The **Piers Festival** is proudly produced by Multicultural Arts Victoria and supported by the Office of Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship, the Australia Day Committee (Vic) and Major Projects Victoria.

More information is available at the Multicultural Arts Victoria website: www.multiculturalarts.com.au

Media inquiries: Andrea Makris (t) 03 9188 3681 (e) events@multiculturalarts.com.au



THE PIERS FESTIVAL *a celebration of migration*

STATION PIER

Station Pier Cruise Terminal will welcome visitors to an OPEN DAY from 12 to 4pm. Learn about the history of the pier from its beginnings and through decades of migration by experiencing the historical display put together by the **Immigration Museum** especially for this event.

Witness the stunning images by local photographer **Georgia Metaxas**, which poignantly document the *Blessing of the Waters* ceremony which has been held by the Greek Orthodox community at this site for over three decades.

Go on a journey through time with a stunning screening of **Dall'Italia All'Australia** (from Italy to Australia), impressions of the voyage of the SS Regina d'Italia towards the mysterious Orient and the fascinating Far South, filmed between August and September 1924. This silent film by Angelo Drovetti is presented by Tony De Bolfo with live music by **Il Viaggiatori**. By arrangement with Fondazione Cineteca Italiana, Milan.

An epic journey of 8000 nautical miles is captured on film and brought to the **Piers Festival** with live musical accompaniment by Il Viggiatori. The film showcases the panoramic views witnessed by Italian, Yugoslav, Greek, Arabic and Jewish migrants as they stood atop the deck of the old steamer during their seven-week world odyssey from Genoa to Australia, by way of Egypt and Sri Lanka, arriving in September 1924. Over 60 minutes of incredible black and white imagery is brought to life by Il Viggiatori, comprised of ARIA Award winners Kavisha Mazzella and Irene Vella and three others playing romantic and earthy 19th century, Italian folk music.

Screenings at 12:30 – 1:30pm and at 2:30 – 3:30pm.

Location: Cruise Terminal, Station Pier (the south end of the pier)

Screenings by RSVP only to fiesta@multiculturalarts.com.au

PRINCES PIER

Princes Pier will welcome visitors from 1 to 9pm for a world music program, food and craft stalls and lots more. Learn about the history of the pier in its heritage listed gatehouse and historic kiosk.

On stage from 4 – 9:15pm:

THE MELBOURNE SKA ORCHESTRA ...25 piece band with special multicultural guests

SOL NATION ...reggae, samba, funk with a dash of East Timorese folk

VICTORIA POLICE PIPE BAND ...playing many highland pipe band favourites for the Scottish & Irish dancers

MEHTER OTTOMAN MARCHING BAND ...a powerful performance of voice and drum from Turkish community

TE HOHONGA O NGA IWI ...powerful Maori harmonies, haka and poi twirling

ARTE KANELA ...Australia's leading flamenco music and dance act

BITSAT ...uniquely talented performer offering authentic, groovy and soulful Ethiopian music

THE LOST CLOG ...authentic Lithuanian harmonies and costumes with a dash of humour

DANCE BY: **MANASIS** (Greek) **VERCHOVYNA** (Ukrainian) **GLEN BRAE** (Scottish) **RABUSIN** (Irish)

ROVING ARTISTS

CHILDREN'S STORYTELLING (migration stories)

RANGOLI (Indian floor art)

FOOD AND CRAFTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

TALL SHIP ENTERPRIZE

FIREWORKS DISPLAY

Board the tall ship *Enterprize* for an authentic nineteenth century sailing experience. *Enterprize* is a stunning replica of the 1835 ship that brought the first settlers to Melbourne and will be offering sails throughout the afternoon.

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