

MAV folio 64

multicultural arts victoria guide to the arts



Enjoy by Naeem Rana

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Sing Sing



Paul Petran



La Voce Della Luna

Music Deli crowd, NGV



Rebetiki



Mix It Up continues to celebrate Victoria's cultural diversity with amazing local and overseas artists on show at the Arts Centre. The unique partnership between Multicultural Arts Victoria and the Arts Centre, Mix It Up, is an initiative that celebrates our shared heritage. People from all over the world make their home in Victoria. From fifth generation Australians to recent arrivals, all of us contribute to make Victoria such a diverse and unique place to live.

Pivotal to the success of the Mix It Up program is the collaboration between MAV and the Arts Centre. MAV has continued to work closely with the Arts Centre in relation to the program in ensuring the Arts Centre is for ALL the people and reflects the diversity of Victoria. MAV and the Arts Centre have had long ongoing consultations in relation to ways of engaging artists and linking audiences from the CALD community into the arts through collaboration. Key elements of this collaboration included design of the program structure, identification of local artists, delivery of programs, making connections with local communities and developing the potential to engage new markets and audiences. Mix it Up is a model that has enormous potential for application nationally.

Audience development with CALD communities involves new product development and new ways of working and is a long term process and commitment. It is about developing relationships. Multicultural audience development requires arts organisations to change the way they meet and invite CALD artists and communities to participate and needs to add new program content and new program delivery formats to meet the needs and interests of CALD communities and youth. This partnership has the potential to effect significant change for Arts in a Multicultural Australia.

The upcoming Aug & Sept Mix It Up program includes, 'Meeting Place, Keeping Place' an exciting exhibition being held in the George Adams Gallery. The exhibition which opened in July, will run through to October. Steve Tonkin the curator is to be congratulated on bringing together such an exciting group of artists, many of whom are MAV members.

The Mix It Up music program also continues and we have planned on Sunday 27 August a soul-stirring Latin concert with hot salsa, Cuban son, Latin hip-hop, Afro-Cuban & flamenco Vive La Fiesta! An inspiring festival of Latin culture from around the globe, starring Latin Grammy award winner Juan Formell & Los Van Van, supported by Melbourne's very own hip hop spectacular Labjacd and Arte Kanela Flamenco are one of the most innovative and inspiring flamenco acts in Australia. There will also be free workshops and dance classes in the foyer from 1.00pm. Then on September 3rd we will have our VISIBLE artists performing main stage at Hamer Hall in the afternoon launching a new compilation CD that has been recorded as part of our mentoring program developed by MAV throughout 2006. Many of you may have seen the results of this fantastic program at the Emerge Festival in June, if you did not, this is your chance to see some emerging quality musicians perform live with their mentors for the Arts Centre's Open Day. There will be a traditional indigenous smoking and welcome to start the day.

Then on Sept 10th for the very first time in Australia, the undisputed "King of the Calypso World" The Mighty Sparrow brings all the excitement, colour and sheer musical exhilaration of Carnival for the biggest soca party this city has ever seen!

An integral part of the Mix It Up program will be Sunday Soapbox, the Arts Centre's annual feast of conversation, performance and multi-media returns every Sunday afternoon from 23 Jul to 8 Oct. Curated by writer, broadcaster and arts journalist, Peter Clarke, each week a different topic featuring a panel of experts. Best of all its FREE, so come along, join in and make sure the discussion is culturally diverse!

In addition to the Mix It Up program in June & July MAV held two very successful and extremely well attended events. In June MAV presented our Emerge Festival to thousands of festival goers. The Festival was coordinated by Anita Larkin with the assistance of a great team of volunteers. This year the event profiled artists from Visible along side their mentors on the Africa stage and on the Silk Road stage artists from Afghanistan and Kurdistan. Emerge also included a youth FreeZa event - New School Rulez & soccer match co-coordinated by Khaled Abdulwahab, Story and Song night, Film night and Women's Gathering. On July 8th MAV worked with Paul Petran ABC in our valued partnership to present Music Deli Radio National's 20th Birthday concert, it was presented to a capacity audience of over a 1000 people in the Great Hall at the NGV. We thank the City of Melbourne, NGV and the ABC for their support of this fantastic line up of extraordinary musicians.

In Aug & Sept, Multicultural Arts Victoria, as part of kultour, the network dedicated to touring quality multicultural arts, is presenting "Opposite My House is a Funeral Parlour" in Lismore, Sydney and Perth; a contemporary dance piece performed by Naree Vachananda. Ajak Kwai & band through the support of kultour and ARTBACK NT will tour Katherine, Tennant Creek, Alice Springs Festivals, Darwin Festival and on to Adelaide. Australia Council is to be congratulated on their vision and support for the development of multicultural arts.

In August also MAV artists Janette Hoe, Tony Yap, Madeleine Flynn and Tim Humphries will be performing in the first International Lombok Arts Festival and Yogyakarta's 250 Anniversary Arts Festival, congrats to all the artists involved.

At board level the elections at our AGM 2006 are as follows, Stefan Romaniw OAM has been re-elected Chair for the next three years alongside Natalia Moravski and Assoc Professor Ruth Rentschler as Deputy Chairs, Marcello D'Amico, Georgie Meyer, Roger Ouk 2 years, Jean Kereopa, Ruth Komisaroff, Anne Tyedin (secretary) 1 year. Co-opted members are Dr Elisabeth Presa and Jeya Ponnuthurai. MAV thanks Middletons for their support in reviewing the MAV Constitution and to everyone associated with MAV in making multicultural arts dynamic and for contributing to the vital ingredient that makes multiculturalism strong.

JILL MORGAN *Executive Officer*



Simon Landid



Sudan Azza with mentor Nicky Bomba



David Arden



South Sudan Musica



South Sudan Musica
mentor King Bell

Simon Landid

How did you come to live in Australia?

I am Sudanese from the Chollo tribe in the Southern region of Sudan. My village is called "Agowd" in north Malakal city along the river Nile. I came to Australia after spending three years seeking asylum in Cairo, Egypt after fleeing the war in Sudan. It was very difficult to get a visa to come here and I was glad finally I could go to a country that gives me freedom that I had been searching for so long - freedom that my mother country Sudan couldn't provide me.

When did you start playing music?

My Dad was my first music teacher - he taught me traditional music on the *thoom*. Then I met Jacky, who was a guitar player in Fashoda Jazz Band - a band that was very popular among my people - and started learning from him. After we moved to Khartoum I started learning with Mr. Kalisto Wako - a retired musician from Sudanese Army Music Team- playing bass guitar and learning music theory.

What inspired you to follow a career in music?

My love of music and a dream to become a famous musician playing for big audience who love what I do were the main factors. And that dream came true in December 1997 when I first gave 120 international Sudanese catholic choirs a starting note to sing one of the greatest hymns written by my music teacher Mr. Kalisto Wako. From that day, my dream has grown bigger and bigger.

Your band includes soukous styles of music in its repertoire. Why is soukous/ lingala music so popular in Sudan?

In the early eighties southern Sudan didn't have much access and communication with the wider world. I remember there was only one telephone line in my city Malakal to make a phone call to Khartoum. The only people that visited our region of Sudan were from Kenya and Zaire Democratic Republic of Congo. They introduced Sudanese people to this kind of music and dance.

Who are your favourite musicians and styles of music in the world?

My favourite styles are classics, R&B, country, blues, jazz, reggae and definitely African music with all its flavours. Some favourites that move my soul are Kenny Rogers in his Lady and Lucille, Michael Jackson with Heal the World and all country musicians, like John Denver. I also love R'n B and listen to R. Kelly, Usher and Destiny's Child.

What future do you see for African musicians in Australia?

Personally, I can see a brilliant future for African music in Australia. But only if the artists can overcome challenges positively and welcome Australian people and culture as theirs.

What's on

August

Bohemian Rhapsody Nights: Kavisha Mazzella Dante's Gertrude St Fitzroy *Thurs 3 Aug*

Winberri Music Festival Featuring Sweet Cheeks, YBKB, Jarrah & more. Kangan Batman TAFE Auditorium, Pearcedale Pde *Sat 5 Aug 6.30pm*

Jugularity & Rosamel Burgos Box Hill Community Arts Centre 470 Station St, Box Hill *Fri 11 Aug 8pm*

Vardos & Friends Tanzhaus Hungarian Church Hall, Brunswick St Nth Fitzroy *Sat 12 Aug 7.30pm*

Music From the Heart Benefit for the Asylum Seekers Resource Centre Featuring Jenny M Thomas & more... St Peter & Paul Church 375 Dorcas St, Sth Melbourne *Sat 19 Aug 2pm*

Jenny M. Thomas & Chris Hale Boite World Music Café 1 Mark St, Nth Fitzroy *Sat 19 Aug 8.15pm*

September

The Sweet Monas & Ajak Kwai Band Box Hill Community Arts Centre *Fri 8 Sept 8pm*

Jali Buba Kuyateh Dya Looloo Ossobo 419 Spencer St West Melbourne
Tix \$15/12 *9pm Sat 9 Sept*

King Bell & Soukous Ba Congo @ BMW Edge Fed Square. The award winning band gives out the true African spirit that guarantees to make the crowd move. Featuring Jali Buba Kuyateh. *Fri 15 Sept 8pm*

VISIBLE CONCERT

3 Sept 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 Musica 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.

Mix it Up

An exciting new partnership between MAV & the Arts Centre
celebrating cultural diversity



Mighty Sparrow

Complexions Contemporary Ballet

Complexions is Ballet for the 21st Century. Like their home base of New York, the Company is a mix of experience, culture, race and background. Combining this with their myriad of influences from film, photography, TV, fashion, poetry, theatre, urban street dance and pop culture, they developed a potent and relevant form of contemporary dance.

Dwight Rhoden and Desmond Richardson, both former performers with the legendary Alvin Ailey Dance Theatre, created the company. This famed American company makes their Australian debut with a gala program, Featuring the music of Jimi Hendrix, Prince, the Gershwins', Nina Simone and Beethoven.'

1- 6 August

Tickets \$29-\$89, \$29 discount for groups of 6 or more (A-res).

VIVE LA FIESTA!

Soul-stirring Latin Concert with Hot Salsa, Cuban Son, Latin Hip-Hop, Afro-Cuban and Flamenco. Direct from Havana, Cuba, for the first time in Australia, Latin Grammy winners Los Van Van! From the fiery flamenco bars of Seville, Spain, to the hot salsa clubs of New York and down the vibrant streets of Havana, Cuba, VIVE LA FIESTA! is a journey of Latin music culture from around the world. Latin Grammy award winners Los Van Van will ignite the stage with their hot fusion of Cuban rhythms. Founded by Juan Formell, one of the most important figures in the history of Cuban music, the group has remained Cuba's most popular band for over 30 years and are regarded as one of the greatest salsa bands ever.

Supporting Los Van Van will be Melbourne's 'Latin Massive' with performances by nine-piece band LABJACD, who draw their influence from old school hip-hop, jazz and Cuban salsa; and Arte Kanela Flamenco, the most innovative and inspiring flamenco act in Australia.

Get to the show early for the carnival atmosphere! Learn salsa dancing with City Salsa Club and how to make pan pipes, and experience the colourful Latin sights, tastes and sounds with Los Cabrones, DJs, flamenco performers and tasty Latin food for purchase.

ONE SHOW ONLY! Sun 27 Aug - 5pm

Tickets: \$30 - \$45 Book now at the Arts Centre box office,
www.theartscentre.net.au or 1300 136 166**Booking fee applies
MIX IT UP! Celebrating cultural diversity

www.theartscentre.net.au/mixitup

CARIBA!

featuring The Mighty Sparrow

For the very first time in Australia, the undisputed "King of the Calypso World" THE MIGHTY SPARROW brings all the excitement, colour and sheer musical exhilaration of Carnival for the biggest soca party this city has ever seen!

With a career spanning over 50 years, 70 albums and a string of international awards, don't miss your chance to see the man affectionately dubbed 'The Birdie' in full flight with his eight-piece band The TNT Troubadours.

Sparrow is renowned for his biting social comment, hilarious take on life and his all round political savvy. Songs such as Cricket Lovely Cricket, First Black Miss Universe, Capitalism Gone Mad, What's The Use of Getting Sober, Shake & Brake Your Bam Bam and hundreds more have endeared him to audiences worldwide.

Supporting The Mighty Sparrow is one of Australia's most talented MCs Ru C. L with his Jamaican flavoured R&B hip-hop. Ru C.L has supported international acts including Jurassic 5, Pharcyde, Mad Professor, Lee Scratch Perry, Supernatural, DJ Craze and more.

Bring your bells, whistles and flags and party, dance and celebrate with the Caribbean's greatest entertainer!

Sun 10 Sept, 5pm, the Arts Centre, Hamer Hall

Tickets \$30 - \$45

The 7 Fingers

After years of performing in the world's finest circuses (including Cirque de Soleil and Cirque Eloize), seven circus artists, simultaneously actors, dancers, singers, musicians, directors, writers and choreographers pooled their talents to form The 7 Fingers, appearing at the Arts Centre, Melbourne 8 - 13 August 2006.

This unique, French-Canadian circus show is funny, poetic, wacky and outrageous. It combines state-of-the-art circus skills, dance, theatre, multi-media projection and Montreal's famous DJ Pocket live on stage. Described as the next generation of circus, The 7 Fingers will allow you to escape from reality, let go of your inhibitions and get swept up in what is an arresting visual and aural landscape that both meets and subverts your expectation of the modern circus.

Based in a loft, seven zany friends are confined to a single space. They entertain themselves by employing everyday objects - apples, shoes, bathtubs, flashlights, knives, lampshades and even a Barbie doll - to break-up the monotony of their daily lives, in what is an energetic, inspiring and hilarious show.

8-13 Aug

Tickets \$19- \$79, Family ticket \$110-\$170**, Groups 6+ \$49

** A family Ticket consist of 2 adults and 2 children or 1 adult and 3 children, 15 years and under.



Naeem Rana

Naeem Rana was born in Lahore, Pakistan. He received a B.F.A. from the National College of Arts in Lahore and a Graduate Diploma in Visual Arts from the Victorian College of Arts in Melbourne. Rana was trained from the age of twelve by his father in the discipline of Lahori khat, a regional style of Urdu calligraphy practiced in his family for seven generations.

Islamic calligraphy presents the word and the image together in one visual form. It serves simultaneously as a visual icon for the word, as an index of the calligrapher's hand, and as a symbol for ideas expressed in language. Rana extends the semiotic issues raised in traditional calligraphy to probe the capacity of multiple signs - sounds, words, icons, patterns and gestures - to transmit emotional states between individuals and across cultures.

He develops his practice through the distinctive considerations of aspects of Pakistani visual culture, including both historical iconography and contemporary popular culture. Naeem uses images drawn from popular culture that include film and advertising. The calligraphy tends to be very bold in the manner of Indian and Pakistani movie posters, and is conceptually political. Digitally manipulated prints explore consumer culture and its infatuation with popular subjects or products.

Rana's work is included in the exhibition "Meeting Place Keeping Place".

Meeting Place, Keeping Place

Until Sun 8 Oct. Open daily until late.
George Adams Gallery

Celebrates Victoria's cultural diversity & the vitality that different cultures bring to the visual and performing arts. Melbourne is a 'meeting place' for artists from around the globe, who now call this city 'home'. Showcases a fascinating cross-section of established & emerging visual artists whose practice reflects multicultural Victoria.

The artists whose work is showcased in the exhibition are: Sutueal Bekele Althe, Kate Beynon, Angela Cavallieri, Renato Colangelo, Raafat Ishak, Ellen José, Magda Matwiejew, Georgia Metaxas, Nusra Latif Qureshi, Naeem Rana, Sangeeta Sandrasegar, Emmanuel Santos, Melinda Schawel, Renee So, Susan Wirth & Mami Yamanaka.

A range of free public events have been created to bring to life the ethos of Meeting Place, Keeping Place. These include:

Floor Talks

Join curator Steven Tonkin & a panel of artists for a discussion of their work.

Thurs 31 August, 12.30pm: Sutueal Bekele Althe, Angela Cavallieri & Emmanuel Santos

Thurs 28 September, 12.30pm: Renato Colangelo, Naeem Rana & Melinda Schawel

My World, My Victoria, My Home

Open daily: What does cultural diversity mean to you? Young people throughout Victoria were asked to draw, paint or illustrate their interpretation of "My World, My Victoria, My Home". See their results in this joyous selection of artworks. Mezzanine level above the George Adams Gallery & throughout the Arts Centre

Sunday Soapbox

Meet the artists as they compare their diverse cultural backgrounds & artistic sources at the first Sunday Soapbox for 2006. Sunday Soapbox continues with a different topic each week until 8 Oct visit www.theartscentre.net.au for the full program.

Free performances @ the George Adams Gallery on Fridays from 6.30-7.30pm with musicians from culturally diverse backgrounds.

August

4 Aug **Lou Bennett & the Sweet Cheeks** - A sweet, cheeky combination of harmonies.

11 Aug **Ria Soemardjo, Adrian Sherriff and Jeremy Dullard** - West Javanese music

18 Aug **Fadil Suna & Julian Swinnerton** - Music from Kurdistan: sas and oud

25 Aug **Valanga Khoza & Andrea Watson** - African rhythms and voice from Soweto

September

1 Sept **Anthea Sidiropoulos with George Iliopoulos & Tony Iliou** - Original mediterranean music

8 Sept **Rosamel Burgos & Orietta Seguel** - Music from the Andes

15 Sept **Ernie Gruner & Phil Carroll** - Bohemian nights (klezmer, jazz, middle-eastern)

22 Sept **John Norton & Michael Kontochristos** - Acoustic flamenco and middle-eastern tunes

29 Sept **Etienne Dinanga & Rene Sephton** - World folk fusion & congolese rhythms

October

6 Sept **Jenny Thomas Trio** - Adventurous Australian Folk

MAV's Emerge Festival 2006

The World Refugee Day Rally

This year the Emerge Festival ran a huge and highly successful program of six events that celebrated the richness of cultures and talent from Africa, Afghanistan and Kurdistan that have recently come alive in Melbourne. Thousands of people experienced the culture and vibrancy of the under represented new and emerging artists and communities in Melbourne.

The Festival was launched at the charming Fitzroy Town Hall Reading Room with an intimate evening of story and song to a capacity audience. Tales of life in Africa and new lives in Australia were told by South African born singer/stoyteller Valanga Khoza, Somali poet Yusuf Sheikh Omar, Sudanese singer Ajak Kwai and the recently arrived Synodos - an amazing group of young Sudanese people that told their story of the war in Sudan through theatre and comedy. The night was compered expertly by Elf Tranzporter

The next day the Emerge Festival Soccer Carnival saw the Asylum Seekers Resource Centre battle it out with the Sunshine Tigers for the Emerge Festival Soccer Cup and \$500 cash prize. The Tigers led by Michael Chuti - also last year's winners - were victorious once again! Other activities enjoyed on the day were a yummy free halal BBQ and performances by the African Youth Centre who drummed up a storm (literally) with their teacher/ mentor Aliou Sylla - a Guinean master drummer.

On Sunday the 18th June the Fitzroy Town Hall opened its doors once again for a fantastic all day cultural arts festival that brought together diverse communities from all over Melbourne. The Refugee Rally coordinated by the Refugee Action Collective marched to the Festival in support of refugees on World Refugee Day. Three non-stop stages including the SBS Radio Stage, featured some of our finest international performers - Diafrix, Ethiopian Circus, Jali Buba Kuyateh, Lion of Judah, Khalil Gudaz, King Marong & Afro Mandinke and much more. Other cultural delights included the Ethiopian Coffee Ceremony, a colourful and vibrant marketplace, henna painting, exotic foods from Senegal, Ethiopia and the Middle East and kids activities with international visual artist Amanda King. Some of the groups that gave stunning performances on the day - Ajak Kwai, Sudan Azza, Sudanese Catholic Choir, South Sudan Musica, Dambai Dance Group, Ormas Band - were participants in Multicultural Arts Victoria's VISIBLE mentorship program this year and have just recorded a compilation album that will be launched in a free concert at the Arts Centre Hamer Hall on 3 September 1.30pm.

Several other events were introduced to the festival program this year. On Saturday 24 June was the Emerge Festival Women's Gathering at the Brunswick Town Hall. The day saw women from newly arrived Sudanese, Assyrian, Chaldean and Iraqi communities come together to share and celebrate cultures. With massage, Chinese flower making, lots of dancing, henna art, food, games and prizes there was not a dull moment. Hostess for the day Gabby Fakhri did a fantastic job entertaining the women and getting them involved.

Another inaugural and highly successful event was the youth gig -New School Rulez All Ages Dance Party. This non stop action hip hop extravaganza held at Maribyrnong Secondary College saw culturally diverse 12 -25 year olds from all over the Western suburbs get together for some serious dancing action. There were fantastic performances by rising stars Diafrix and new kids on the block, Nubian Knights, DJ battle, 3 round hip hop dance battle with cash prizes, street art, live VJing and giveaways. The event was initiated by MAV's youth coordinator Khaled Abdulwahab who worked in a first-time partnership with Maribyrnong and Moonee Valley FReeZA committees. In the lead up to the event a series of very popular hip hop workshops were held in 5 Western suburb schools to encourage local CALD kids to get involved.

And finally another first time event - the Film Night Fundraiser screening 'Lost Boys of Sudan' - saw the Fitzroy Town Hall sold out and packed full of people despite the freezing cold conditions! Presented by The Tomorrow Foundation this feature-length documentary followed two Sudanese refugees on an extraordinary journey from Africa to America. Orphaned as young boys in one of Africa's cruellest civil wars, they survived lion attacks and militia gunfire to reach a refugee camp in Kenya along with thousands of other children. From there, remarkably they were chosen to go to America where they found themselves confronted with the abundance and alienation of contemporary American suburbia. All proceeds raised on the night went towards The Tomorrow Foundation which works to assist the development of the Sudanese community both locally and overseas.

The festival was an enormous success and had many of the new communities involved feeling very proud and welcome in their new Victorian home. Thanks to all who supported the event and thanks to all the volunteers who without their support the Festival would not be as fantastic!

Anita Larkin *Festival Coordinator*



New School Rulez



Silk Road Stage



Synodos - Story and Song Night



Ethiopian Circus



Dereb Deselegn



Naree Vachananda



Opposite My House is a Funeral Parlour

Multicultural Arts Victoria, as part of kultour, the network dedicated to touring quality multicultural arts, is presenting "Opposite My House is a Funeral Parlour" in Lismore, Sydney and Perth; a contemporary dance piece performed by Choreographer/performer Naree Vachananda. Don't expect black costumes, white powder or saffron transcendence. This dance of death is uncompromisingly contemporary. It features sound installation composed by Darwin-based composer Edward Kelly and multi-media projections by Yeap Heng Shen from Malaysia.

Naree has created an hour-long solo which the program tells us centres on intimations of mortality. The work has arisen from her reflections on the potential loss of her sister - who was in New York on September 11, 2001 - and her observations of the funeral parlour opposite her house. Her point of view is coloured by her cultural background as a Buddhist.

Opposite My House is a Funeral Parlour contemplates a personal journey of death. The work is a meditation on the Buddhist concept of cyclical flow of life and death, with the structure based on the metaphor of the journey of the Greek archetype Persephone. Naree will be travelling with Lisa Stockdale (stage management and lighting) and Edward Kelly (sound composer)

"...the work is a rich and meditative one that tackles its chosen theme with a contemplative leisure..."

"Vachananda is a daring, able choreographer with a strong presence and this work offers a provocative glimpse of the kinds of sustained solo work that can still exist outside the larger streams of dance in Australia." –John Bailey Realtime

PERTH – Presented by KULCHA Multicultural Arts of WA in association with Deckchair Theatre **19 Aug** www.deckchairtheatre.com.au www.kulcha.com.au

LISMORE – Presented by Lismore Regional Gallery in association with NORPA **16 Aug** www.lismore.nsw.gov.au

CAMPBELLTOWN – Presented by Campbelltown Arts Centre **16 Sept** www.campbelltown.nsw.gov.au

AJAK KWAI & Band

Melbourne based Ajak Kwai performs songs of the timeless musical traditions of her people, the Dinka's of Southern Sudan. Her unique vocal style is distinctly Saharan and her deep philosophical and global concerns are expressed in her heartfelt songs of love and hope for her homeland.

Ajak Kwai & band through the support of Kultour, Playing Australia and ARTBACK NT will tour to Darwin, Katherine, Tennant Creek, Alice Springs Festivals, Ngukurr Community and on to Adelaide in Aug & Sept. Ajak toured earlier in the year to Kulcha in Fremantle.

"I highly regard the talents and skills of Ajak as she brings together a culturally rich and diverse music genre. Ajak has been at the forefront of developing African Music in Tasmania and she has been instrumental in developing many projects and concerts that enhances cultural pride and identity through her music." – Jennie Gorringer Glenorchy City Council

DARWIN – Presented by Darwin Festival in association with Browns Mart and Artback NT **12 Aug**

REGIONAL NORTHERN TERRITORY – Produced by Multicultural Arts Victoria in association with Artback NT and supported by Playing Australia.

KATHERINE - Katherine Festival **13 Aug**

TENNANT CREEK – Tennant Creek Festival **26 Aug**

ALICE SPRINGS – Alice Springs Festival **2 Sept**

ADELAIDE – Presented by Nexus Multicultural Arts Centre **15 Sept**

...and has toured to **FREMANTLE** – Presented by KULCHA Multicultural Arts of WA and the World Music Carnival **18 Mar**

kultour has finalised a quality program for touring in 2007, which will be announced later in the year, which once again will open up opportunities for touring quality multicultural arts nationally. As with past years, kultour will select a number of works to embark on a fully funded national tour. New for 2007 though, is an allocated portion of kultour funds designated to assist other interested presenters from around Australia, in presenting any of the kultour shortlisted product. WWW.kultour.com.au

In Special Memory

Baron Matata

Highly respected musician and long standing member of Multicultural Arts Victoria. Originally from the Democratic Republic of Congo where he was the band leader of Babwaka Lokolo, Baron arrived in Australia from Zimbabwe in 1995. He spent his time here sharing his musical talents in bands Super K, Matata Sound and Real Sound of Africa and featured in local groups Musiki Manjaro, Warako and Soukas La Cole. Baron contributed a lot of his time and talent to organisations such as World Vision and Red Cross, giving workshops in schools and taking part in community events in Victoria. Thank you for leaving us with the memories of your wonderful music Baron.



Memorial Benefit Concert

Fitzroy Town Hall, Sun 6 Aug @ 2-6pm

All funds raised to assist with funeral expenses. See some of the best African artists, bands and their friends perform – King Bell & Soukas Ba Congo, Congo Boys, Jo Malatji, Valanga Khosa, Musiki Manjaro, Passi Jo, King Marong, Safara, Mazuri Dance and much much more

Information & Donations:

MAV 9417 6777 or 0411 310 826

Lisa Bellear

Lisa was a true inspiration to so many in both the Indigenous and non-Indigenous community. Multicultural Arts Victoria was lucky enough to have Lisa MC our Black Harmony Gathering at Fairfield Ampitheatre this year. She was an artist, academic, poet, photographer, radio producer, community worker, friend and a truly beautiful woman whose life will touch the Melbourne community for many years to come.



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Reminder...

Funding deadlines in early August and September.

Arts Victoria Funding 2006-07

www.arts.vic.gov.au

Australia Council for the Arts

www.ozco.gov.au



Application for MAV Membership

Group/Organisation		Name	
Address		Postcode	
Phone (bh)	(ah)	Mobile	
Fax	email	www	
Culture		Profession	

Artform (please tick)

<input type="checkbox"/> Visual Arts	<input type="checkbox"/> Theatre	<input type="checkbox"/> Craft	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Music	<input type="checkbox"/> Dance
<input type="checkbox"/> Multimedia	<input type="checkbox"/> Film/Video	<input type="checkbox"/> Design	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____		

Membership Type GST Inclusive (Please tick)

<input type="checkbox"/> Concession \$22	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$33	<input type="checkbox"/> Group/Organisation \$66	<input type="checkbox"/> Corporate \$176 <i>(pensioner/unemployed/student)</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> New	<input type="checkbox"/> Renewing	<input type="checkbox"/> Please tick if a tax invoice is required <i>(for memberships of over \$50)</i>	

Credit Card payment (You can pay by credit card OR by cheque)

Name on Card: _____ Card Type: _____

Card No: _____ Expiry Date: _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Membership is valid for 12 months from date of payment.