



MEDIA RELEASE

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Darwin Festival – An Outstanding Success!

The Darwin Festival programme proved to be an outstanding success this year with local and visitor numbers even higher than last year. Initial figures indicate that over 38,000 people attended events, which is an increase of 4,000 from last year.

“The positive feedback we have received to date has been overwhelming”, said Artistic Director Malcolm Blaylock. “We’ve had positive comments on the quality of the performances and also the new addition of the Star Shell in the Gardens which provided a truly ‘top end’ festival atmosphere”.

According to Blaylock, this year’s festival has been notable for the very high level and quality of involvement and participation by the public. “The community involvement this year is to be commended as it contributed significantly to the growth and success of this year’s festival”.

Audiences have predictably been drawn to the big ticket items such as Wil Anderson and Xavier Rudd, but attendances to free outdoor events has seen the biggest increase with 6,000 attending Kultura and 4,000 attending the Australian Central Teddy Bears’ Picnic. There were also large turnouts for the Santos Concert on the Esplanade and the inaugural NT Indigenous Music Awards.

“The Darwin Festival would like to thank all the sponsors and supporters of this year’s Festival. It has been a great success and it could never have happened without their support”, said Peter McQueen, Chairman of the Darwin Festival Board.

Festival Administrator Roma Dainius added, “we would also like to acknowledge and thank the wonderful volunteers who have tirelessly given their time, energy and enthusiasm to the Darwin Festival. They have been absolutely amazing and we really appreciate all their help in the lead up to and throughout the Festival.”

The festival officially closed on Sunday after 18 days and over 50 performances from local, interstate and international talent.

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