



MEDIA RELEASE

THURSDAY 24TH JUNE 2004

For immediate release

Darwin Festival Announces Preview to the 2004 Program

Darwin Festival Artistic Director Malcolm Blaylock today announced that Australia's finest stand-up comedian **Wil Anderson** and one-man-band wonder **Xavier Rudd** will headline the Darwin Festival 2004, along with Oz Opera's exciting new production **La Boheme**, and a diverse mix of music, dance, theatre and artistic performances.

Malcolm Blaylock said "The Darwin Festival offers events and performances for everyone to enjoy. It is going to be another great event this year, and this is just a taste of things to come."

Legendary comedian **Wil Anderson** is bringing his new stand-up show *Licence to Wil* to the Festival and **Xavier Rudd**, one of the freshest faces in the Australian music scene will bring his entourage of instruments and new millennium roots based music for a concert not to be missed.

Anderson's intelligent mix of personal, pop and political comedy alongside Rudd's fiery blend of emotion filled, acoustic lap guitar work and three didgeridoos is sure to make the Darwin Festival 2004 an eclectic treat and just a hint of what audiences can expect from the wide-scope of experiences to choose from.

A sneak preview of other selected events for the highly anticipated 2004 program include Oz Opera's exciting new production **La Boheme** and the incredibly popular **Sing Your Own Opera**, which will be the largest operatic participation event in the Northern Territory's history.

Also new to the Festival this year will be the Australian Ballet's regional touring arm, The Dancer's Company, presenting the classic fairy tale **Nutcracker**, using Tchaikovsky's original and moving 1892 score.

The annual free **Santos Concert on the Esplanade** will move from its previous Festival timeslot of Saturday night to Thursday 12th August and will officially open the Darwin Festival 2004. The free concert once again promises to be a fantastic night of live music and entertainment.

The exotic and colourful **Kultura** will move to an exciting new venue at George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens with over 30 different performances and workshops celebrating Darwin's unique multicultural mix and community spirit. Also located at the Botanic Gardens is the ever popular children's activity zone, **The ACCU Teddy Bear's Picnic**, offering an array of entertainment and hands-on activities that will be the highlight of every child's year.

The Darwin Festival 2004 will have a lively outdoor entertainment venue located at the George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens, and will feature an enormous open-air sound shell - The Star Shell. The Star Shell is set to become the social hub of the Festival with music, theatre, dance, comedy and cabaret performances, followed by the Festival Club every night.



MEDIA RELEASE

THURSDAY 24TH JUNE 2004

For immediate release

WHAT: Darwin Festival 2004

DATES: Thursday 12 August – Sunday 29 August 2004

VENUES: The Star Shell and Amphitheatre at George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens, Darwin Entertainment Centre, Bicentennial Park

TICKETS: Tickets will be available from Monday 28th June and can be purchased direct by phoning Darwin Entertainment Centre Booking Office on 08 8980 3333

WEBSITE: www.darwinfestival.org.au

Sponsors: Carlton & United Breweries, Santos, Australian Central Credit Union, Power and Water, Tattersalls, Sporting Bet, Thrifty, Parmalat Australia, Colemans Printing

Government Partners: Northern Territory Government, Darwin City Council, Northern Territory Tourist Commission

Media Partners: Channel 9 Darwin, Mix 104.9, 105.7 ABC Darwin

Venue Partners: George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens, Darwin Entertainment Centre, Deckchair Cinema, Darwin City Council

The official Darwin Festival 2004 program will be released in mid July.

The Darwin Festival is from August 12 – 29.

For further information or to request images of the preview events listed, contact:

Claire Butler	08 8981 0083	0439 801 212
or		
Shannon Miskelly	08 8981 0083	0403 779 940