



MEDIA RELEASE

SUNDAY 28TH MARCH 2004

For immediate release

INCREASED GOVERNMENT FUNDING FOR DARWIN FESTIVAL 2004

The Darwin Festival Board welcomes today's announcement by Chief Minister Clare Martin that the Northern Territory Government will provide increased funding of \$200 000 for the 2004 Darwin Festival.

Artistic Director, Malcolm Blaylock said that he appreciates the Northern Territory Government's continuing support for the Darwin Festival and the arts.

"While it is not as much as we had hoped for, I think this is an indication that the Government recognises the future potential of the Festival, and has considerable plans for its growth.

"The Festival is a vibrant celebration of Darwin's unique lifestyle and multicultural diversity and is a fantastic community event.

"Not only does it provide local artists and performers with the opportunity to showcase their talent, but it enables us to attract numerous well known interstate and international acts that may otherwise not come to Darwin."

"It's important that we continue to grow this event. It creates a positive profile for Darwin in Australia and Internationally, and also attracts interstate and international visitors to Darwin."

Darwin Festival Chairman, Peter McQueen said that the Darwin Festival is one of the fastest growing major festivals in the Southern Hemisphere.

"We have seen the Darwin Festival transform and grow over the years since it's beginning. I believe this is a positive first step towards building the Darwin Festival into an even bigger event in the future."

"With increased Government support and funding in the future, the Darwin Festival has the potential to become a distinctive and innovative Top End arts, cultural and music festival recognised Australia wide.

The Darwin Festival 2004 will be an exhilarating 18 days of colour, movement and excitement from the 12th – 29th August. The Festival will feature community events as well as local, interstate and international performances and Indigenous cultural and artistic expression.

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