



MEDIA RELEASE

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For immediate release

TRADITIONAL INDIGENOUS DANCE – AT THE DARWIN FESTIVAL

The Darwin Festival celebrates the significant Indigenous population and culture of the Top End, with nine nights of Traditional Indigenous Dance at the Darwin Festival Star Shell in the Botanic Gardens from Saturday 14 August to Sunday 22 August.

Locals and visitors can embark on a spiritual journey into a world steeped in the Dreaming, with traditional dancers who share their spiritual, cultural and artistic identity in deeply inspiring performances.

Artists include the Djilpin Arts Dancers, Red Flag Dancers, and Injalak Dancers, who will transport you to a different world as you sit under the stars amongst the palm trees in the Gardens.

The Djilpin Arts Dancers from the Wugularr community draw on the soul of Arnhem Land and dance from the heart, telling stories of ancestral lands that have been crafted and handed down over generations.

The Red Flag Dancers are from the remote Arnhem Land community of Numbulwar. Their dance is based on their story of the Red Flag, and was a feature of the Opening Ceremony of the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games.

The Injalak Dancers are from Gunbalanya (Oenpelli) in Western Arnhem Land.

Malcolm Blaylock, Artistic Director of the Festival said the performances are an important part of the Festival.

“These performances are an opportunity to experience the traditional culture of the Indigenous population of the Top End.

“The Red Flag Dancers and Injalak Dancers over the past few nights have mesmerised the audiences, and people have left feeling like they have experienced something very special, which they in fact, have.”

“The tickets are affordable at only \$8, so I would encourage anyone who is a little bit curious, or even people who have seen something similar before, to come along and see these amazing performances.”

Other Indigenous aspects of the Darwin Festival program still to come include the **NT Indigenous Music Awards** on Saturday 28 August; the **Yilila Concert** on Tues 24 August, followed by **Black Music Bright Future**, a Festival Club showcase of music students from the Charles Darwin University.

Also, a highlight and unique feature at the Darwin Festival venue at the Gardens is the **Galuku Gallery** - the Palm Tree Gallery - where prints from the artists of Yirrkala are on display and for sale.

“Indigenous and multicultural acts and performances are a large part of the Darwin Festival program, as that is one of the unique and wonderful aspects of the Top End.”

For more information on the Darwin Festival program, visit www.darwinfestival.org.au

CONTACT

Claire Butler: 0439 801 212