



MEDIA RELEASE

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For immediate release

Darwin Festival announces a sneak preview to the 2005 program

The Darwin Festival today announced that Australia's most popular comedy trio, **Tripod**, and the Australian Dance Theatre's critically acclaimed **Birdbrain**, will be coming to the Top End to perform at the Darwin Festival 2005.

Festival Director Malcolm Blaylock said the Festival is thrilled to be highlighting two of Australia's finest creative talents, but this is just a small sample of an exciting and diverse program for 2005.

"The line-up of acclaimed international and national performers will complement the emerging and established local artists, who together will create 18 days of festive celebrations and exciting performances."

The Australian Dance Theatre, one of the world's most influential young dance companies, will present **Birdbrain** at the Darwin Entertainment Centre. Their electrifying, pop-cultural reworking of *Swan Lake* is a wry, sharp and energetic look at the classic version. Drawing on elements of classical ballet, gymnastics, break-dance, yoga and contortionism, Birdbrain is essentially *Swan Lake* condensed and made sexy by Artistic Director Garry Stewart. From performances in the United States, Canada and across Europe, Birdbrain will delight Darwin Festival audiences with their astounding airborne athleticism at breakneck speed.

The fun-loving, musical lads of **Tripod** will bring their brand new live show, *Self-Saucing* to the Darwin Festival Star Shell, so be prepared to buckle-up for a fast-paced onslaught of comedy and music with the colourful and lovable bundle of three. Described by the Melbourne Herald-Sun as "the funniest musical comedy act in the country", Tripod has enjoyed sell-out shows at the Melbourne International Comedy Festival, Edinburgh Fringe Festival and were the popular regular guests of Wil Anderson & Adam Spencer on the Triple J Breakfast show.

The Darwin Festival is also excited to announce the return of the **Star Shell** in 2005; an entertainment-venue treat for the dry season. The all-in-one Festival hub, club and main stage will again be the key location for music, dance, comedy and cabaret that will see the tropical Botanic Gardens transformed into a lively and colourful 'place to be' during the balmy August nights.

With a strong focus on free and family events, the Darwin Festival 2005 will see a weekend dedicated to the exotic and colourful **Kultura** on Saturday 20th August and **The Australian Central Teddy Bears' Picnic** on Sunday 21st August. Both events will again take place at the Botanic Gardens with Kultura featuring performances and workshops from local artists, Darwin schools and community groups. The weekend of free family entertainment is an annual Darwin Festival celebration.

Following on from the huge success of last year's **Santos Concert on the Esplanade**, the free concert will move back to its traditional festival timeslot of Saturday night (13th August) and promises to be another fantastic night of live music and entertainment that offers some of the best Indigenous musicians the Territory has on offer.

The highly anticipated Darwin Festival 2005 program will be launched on Tuesday 12th July.

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***Darwin Festival 2005 hits town between August 11-28,
providing a feast of theatre, dance, visual arts, film, comedy and music***

