



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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For immediate release

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# *STAR SHELL*

## BACK IN THE GARDENS FOR FESTIVAL

The Darwin Festival will once again be staging the fabulous Star Shell entertainment hub in the George Brown Botanic Gardens. The popular venue features a large sound stage with a 500-seat capacity and a bar area with outdoor dining provided by some of Darwin's top restaurants.

Festival Director Malcolm Blaylock is expecting record crowds to attend this year's event. "We've created a unique entertainment experience here that takes advantage of the dry season climate and combines food, art and culture under the stars," Mr Blaylock said.

"The Darwin Festival is about presenting the very best of Territory art and culture which has a strong representation of Indigenous arts along side some really great interstate and overseas acts," he said.

Mr Blaylock said it was great to have high profile overseas acts like Gomez, the indie-rock band from England, in Darwin as part of the Festival. "Groove in the Moo will be a highlight of our contemporary music program and will feature some great Australian bands that are currently riding high in the alternative music scene," he said.

The full program of events, including some spectacular free outdoor performances, will be announced on July 11 when the Official Program is unveiled at a special function in the Botanic Gardens.

Darwin Festival General Manager, Anne Dunn said that Festival shows will be presented at venues all over Darwin but the entertainment hub will once again be in the Gardens. "With over 55,000 people attending free and ticketed events last year, and even more expected this year, we have a huge job to ensure everything runs smoothly," she said.

The Festival opens on Thursday August 10<sup>th</sup> with a massive free concert on the Esplanade and will finish on Sunday August 27<sup>th</sup> with a major free public event in the Botanic Gardens.

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