



QMF.ORG.AU

MEDIA RELEASE

STRICTLY EMBARGOED 6PM TUESDAY 30 MAY, 2017

ARIA Award-winner Dan Sultan shares music and stories with remote Indigenous communities during Queensland Music Festival

ARIA and Deadly Award-winning soul-rocker Dan Sultan will visit three Far North Queensland remote Indigenous communities for a series of free concerts and workshops for young people and local musicians from 7 to 10 July as part of Queensland Music Festival (QMF) 2017.

The *Dan Sultan Tour* will see Sultan, along with bandmates, board a light aircraft and travel to Aurukun, Woorabinda and Palm Island to play live, share stories and pass on professional experience to budding musicians.

QMF Artistic Director Katie Noonan said the tour is an incredibly special opportunity for Dan Sultan to connect with Indigenous Queenslanders who, due to their remote location, rarely experience musical mentorship from nationally recognised artists.

"QMF has been working intensively in Far North Queensland since 2009. For this year's festival we will once again take the cream of Australian musicians to some of Queensland's most remote communities, using music as a vehicle for entertainment, education and community storytelling," Ms Noonan said.

In Aurukun, Sultan will bring his rockstar flair to Cape York's western coast, while his concert in Woorabinda will feature in an outdoor concert celebrating the community's 90th anniversary, which he will headline alongside local musicians including much-loved Indigenous rock band Black Image.

In a very special finale for the *Dan Sultan Tour*, his visit to Palm Island will be a highlight of the community's NAIDOC Week celebrations.

"I'm really looking forward to these shows. Performing in these remote communities will be a special experience for me and my fellow band mates," Mr Sultan said.

Queensland Premier and Minister for the Arts Anastacia Palaszczuk said Dan Sultan is an extraordinary success story, having performed at many Australian music festivals.

'I am delighted my government is supporting Dan and his band to tour Far North Queensland and engage our young people in remote Indigenous communities, sharing stories of his influences and artistic journeys along the way during the important celebrations of NAIDOC week and Queensland Music Festival,' Ms Palaszczuk said.

"I am sure Dan's tour will inspire and create lasting memories for many. The Queensland Government is proud to support this tour and Regional Engagement initiative through the Playing Queensland Fund, to ensure Queenslanders have access to the arts across the state."

Melbourne-based multi-instrumentalist Dan Sultan has been steadily establishing himself as an important emerging Indigenous leader.

His third studio album, 2014's *Blackbird*, saw the musician explore his Indigenous identity and the many facets of his artistry. In its review of the album, Tone Deaf said *Blackbird* reflects on Sultan's Indigenous roots as a descendent of the Arrernte and Gurindji people.

"Although many may never have set foot on the red dirt of the northwest, there is a strong sense of familiarity in *Kimberley Calling*, which transports listeners alongside Sultan to Kimberley icons like the Roebuck Hotel and the Aboriginal township of Beagle Bay." – Tone Deaf.

Blackbird took out the award for Best Rock Album at the 2014 ARIA Awards along with a slew of gongs at the National Indigenous Music Awards including National Album of the Year, National Song of the Year, and National Cover Art of the Year and in 2015, Sultan was named joint Artist of the Year alongside Jessica Mauboy.

The *Dan Sultan Tour* is presented by Queensland Music Festival in association with Aurukun Aboriginal Shire Council, Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council and Woorabinda Aboriginal Shire Council, and supported by the Australia Council for the Arts, the Playing Queensland Fund, Rio Tinto, the Tim Fairfax Family Foundation, Glencore, the Pavetta Foundation, PCYC Aurukun, Red Cross Woorabinda and Palm Island Community Company.

This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body, and has received additional support from the Queensland Government through the Playing Queensland Fund. This project is presented in association with Aurukun Shire Council, Woorabinda Aboriginal Shire Council and Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council. Community programming for this event has been supported by the Pavetta Foundation.

For more information visit qmf.org.au.

EVENT DETAILS

EVENT: *Dan Sultan Tour* - Aurukun

DATE: Friday 7 July 2017

TIME: 5pm

VENUE: Aurukun Football Field

TICKETS: Free

EVENT: *Dan Sultan Tour* - Woorabinda

DATE: Saturday 8 July 2017

TIME: 7.30pm

VENUE: Woorabinda Sports Complex

TICKETS: Free

EVENT: *Dan Sultan Tour* - Palm Island
TIME: 10am
DATE: Monday 10 July 2017
VENUE: Fred Clay Park
TICKETS: Free

ENDS

Queensland Music Festival is an initiative of the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland, part of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet.

Queensland Music Festival is a state-wide celebration of music with a vision to transform lives and communities through music.

Follow QMF on:

Facebook: /qldmusicfest
Twitter: @qldmusicfest
Instagram: @qldmusicfest
YouTube: /qldmusicfest
Hashtag: #qmf17

MEDIA CONTACT

For further information and interviews please contact:

Jean Smith
Agency North
0474 385 109

jsmith@agencynorth.com.au

Jack Doonar
Agency North
0450 735 779

jdoonar@agencynorth.com.au

Click [here](#) to access images and additional media content.

