



MEDIA RELEASE

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City schools to help bring arts education to regional Queensland students with launch of new Outreach initiative

Queensland Music Festival (QMF) is calling out to large, metropolitan Queensland schools to help take high quality arts performances to students in rural and remote classrooms through its Youth Touring program's new Outreach initiative. Youth Touring is Queensland's premier arts in education program that brings some of Australia's most exciting award-winning artists and works into classrooms across the state.

Regional schools often face challenges accessing high quality arts education experiences because of their geographic remoteness, school size and financial pressures on school resourcing. But now, schools that participate in Youth Touring's initiative can enable smaller regional and remote schools to access a performance from QMF's 2018 Youth Touring lineup.

St Peters Lutheran College in the Brisbane suburb of Indooroopilly is the first school to sign up for Outreach and will sponsor the travel of *Ruby Moon*, a haunting tale set in Australian suburbia by internationally renowned playwright Matt Cameron, and *The Didjeribone Show*, a mix of ancient and cutting-edge music, to the regions. *Ruby Moon* will be performed in the state's far north-west corner for the students at Good Shepherd Catholic College during Term One.

St Peters Lutheran College Drama Teacher, Nicholas Trethan, said participating in high-quality, live arts experiences to support the curriculum is not only an excellent way to engage and extend students in their learning, but also central to the growth and development of the cultural capital of school communities.

"We at St Peters Lutheran College are so fortunate to have access to a wide variety of live arts experiences and to see, first-hand, the transformative power these experiences have on the lives and learning of the diverse members of our community," Mr Trethan said.

"By partnering with Queensland Music Festival and Youth Touring, St Peters Lutheran College (Indooroopilly) is proud to support both artists and arts organisations in connecting with regional and remote school communities, ensuring these powerful opportunities are made available to more students."

Arts Minister Leeanne Enoch said Youth Touring's Outreach initiative would allow more Queensland students to tap into the beauty and creativity of the arts.

"The Palaszczuk Government is proud to support the Youth Touring program, and I am delighted the new Outreach initiative will connect schools in metropolitan, regional and remote areas, and deliver more arts experiences to Queensland students," Ms Enoch said.

“I commend Queensland Music Festival for curating a stellar and well-rounded 2018 program – one which features music, dance, theatre, puppetry, circus and poetry – and look forward to seeing greater creativity come to life amongst our kids.”

QMF Artistic Director Katie Noonan said Youth Touring’s new initiative would enable students from Cape York to Cunnamulla to enjoy educational performances and important themes through music, theatre and visual storytelling.

“Many of Queensland’s smaller and remote schools don’t have the resources to participate in this year’s exciting Youth Touring program, so we’ve created the state’s most far-reaching institutional buddy system to ensure students living in all communities can access important arts experiences,” said Ms Noonan.

“Queensland Music Festival is always working to remove the financial and geographical barriers Queenslanders encounter that restrict their access to the arts because we know how important these experiences are, especially for young people, regardless of if they live in the city or in the bush.”

Artists participating in the program will create and share a short video message, after Outreach performances, about the regional school and area they have travelled to, including messages from students and teachers in response to the show.

A powerful Australian play *Discovering Black Diggers*, *The Didjeribone Show*, a unique music show by internationally renowned didgeridoo performer Adrian Fabila “Tjupurru” Tjupurrula, and some marvellous prehistoric megafauna all feature in the 2018 Youth Touring program, which will explore social, environmental, cultural and historical perspectives through high quality performances and workshops.

Programs such as Youth Touring are an incredibly effective way of enhancing student engagement in key learning areas, with a cross-curricular focus which provides links to STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Maths) as an integrated approach to education.

Youth Touring is proudly presented by Queensland Music Festival and the Queensland Government.

Schools wishing to participate in the Outreach initiative can contact Queensland Music Festival’s Youth Touring team on 07 3010 6623 or by emailing youthtouring@qmf.org.au.

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For more information on the 2018 Youth Touring Program click [here](#).

To view press images please click [here](#).

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Notes for editors

2018 Youth Touring Program performances:

Ruby Moon

Rounding off term one for secondary schools is *Ruby Moon*, a haunting tale set in Australian suburbia by internationally renowned playwright Matt Cameron.

Detective Smart and the Mathematical Underpants

Detective Smart and the Mathematical Underpants will encourage primary students to apply their maths and critical thinking skills to solve a mystery.

Discovering Black Diggers

After Easter, a special adaptation of one of Australia's most important stories and most critically acclaimed plays will come to Queensland's secondary schools. *Black Diggers*, written by Tom Wright, tells the real stories of the Indigenous men who enlisted to fight and die for their country in World War I.

Future Dreaming

For primary schools in term two, a diverse cast will bring 100,000 years of Australian music, dance and storytelling to life in the exciting, uplifting *Future Dreaming*.

Animania

Animania, based on the Australian National Science Curriculum, will help kids understand the similarities between humans and animals, such as complex communication, passing of culture, empathy and self-awareness, through humour, puppetry, circus and slam poetry.

The Didjeribone Show

In term three, students of all ages can enjoy a mix of ancient and cutting-edge music in *The Didjeribone Show* (a unique cross between a didgeridoo and a trombone) by internationally renowned didgeridoo performer Adrian Fabila "Tjupurru" Tjupurrula. Students can learn to use live samples and looping to create songs and soundscapes that crisscross music genres, tradition and technology.

Marvellous Megabeasts!

Using circus, theatre and comedy, ancient Australian megafauna like the hippo-sized wombat, the Demon Duck of Doom, a carnivorous kangaroo and the unicorn turtle that lived alongside humans, will be brought back to life in *Marvellous Megabeasts!* This entertaining show will also teach Queensland primary students about science and geography.

Junkyard Beats

Junkyard Beats is an energetic, interactive drumming, dance, theatre and comedy performance that transforms household objects and junk into musical instruments while teaching students of all ages about recycling, sustainability, and mental and physical health, will finish off the school year.

