

2011
**CASTLEMAINE
STATE FESTIVAL**
1-10 APRIL

Media Release

ASHLEY MAC ISAAC PERFORMS WITH QUINN BACHARD

CASTLEMAINE, February 2011 – Cape Breton fiddle sensation **Ashley MacIsaac** comes to Castlemaine State Festival with his preferred sideman, **14 year-old guitar prodigy Quinn Bachand**, with music that fuses Celtic folk, punk, garagerock and metal with the force of a tornado.

Having burst onto the worldwide scene with 1995's *Hi, How are you Today?*, Ashley MacIsaac scored a rare coup for instrumental artists. Going triple-platinum in Canada and breaking down radio barriers with the Gaelic single *Sleepy Maggie*, he established himself as a pop icon – rebellious and exuberant, resplendent in kilts, army boots and combat pants.

MacIsaac has performed with **Paul Simon, The Chieftains, Edie Brickell and composer Phillip Glass**, among many others. He succeeded in regaling the world with a foot-stomping performance at the opening ceremony of the **2010 Vancouver Winter Olympics**, and famously lifted his kilt and flashed the cameras when appearing on TV's *Late Night with Conan O'Brien*.

Upon discovering young guitarist **Quinn Bachand** playing on YouTube with his sister, Kristina, Ashley MacIsaac struck up a new musical partnership. Hailing from Vancouver Island, British Columbia, Bachand has been described by MacIsaac as **“one of the best Celtic guitar accompanists in the world”**, although this 14 year-old is adept in a range of styles including gypsy-jazz.

Blessed with intense focus, an acute ear and innate sense of rhythm, **Quinn Bachand** has also astonished fans with his abilities on the banjo and fiddle. He has performed with a number of high profile Celtic and jazz musicians, such as **Buddy MacMaster, Liz Carroll, Daniel Lapp, Mark Sullivan, Pierre Schryer, Andrea Beaton, Robin Nolan and Marc Atkinson**, to name a few.

MacIsaac and Bachand also play at **Ten Days on the Island** in Tasmania, before coming to Castlemaine.

“Oh my, do those fingers fly! MacIsaac taking the reins, whipped the mob into a frenzy with music that moved like lightning. Jeez by gum, was it fun!” Vancouver Sun, Canada

“Unbelievable precision, speed and savage energy.” Chronicle-Herald, Canada

Websites:

<http://ashleymacisaac.net/>

<http://www.qbachand.com/quinn/bachand.html>

Videos:

ASHLEY ONLY: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E7Q8V1F1zSQ&feature=related>

WITH QUINN: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-AG4iLmfkcg>

EVENT DETAILS:

DATE: Thursday 7 April

TIME: 8PM

PLACE: Theatre Royal, 30 Hargraves St Castlemaine

TICKETS: \$35/ \$30

BOOKING: 5434 6100

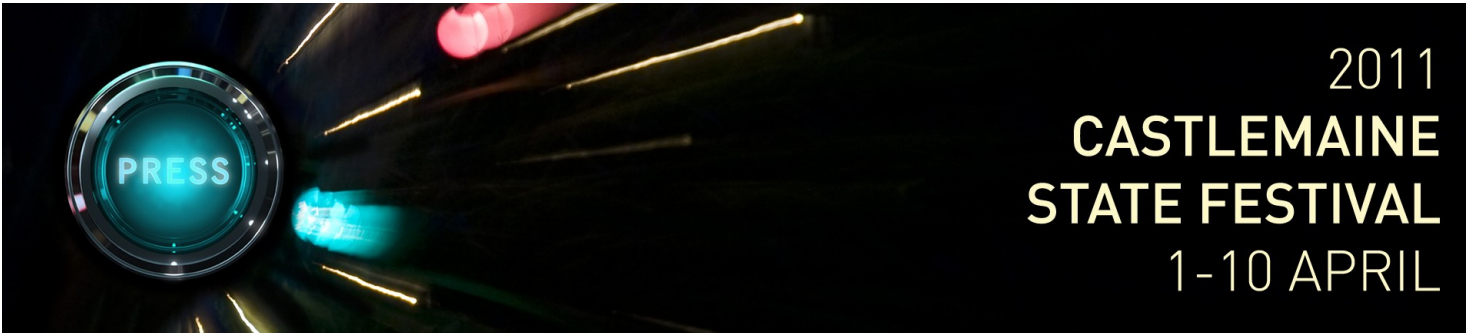
For interviews and more information: Pia Johnson, Puk



[@gmail.com // 0413 450 951](mailto:pjohnson@castlemainefestival.com.au)

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