



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

Media Release

CASTLEMAINE STATE FESTIVAL OPENS IN 2 WEEKS!

CASTLEMAINE, 21 March 2011 – **Castlemaine State Festival opens in two weeks on the 1 April**, and is set to be the biggest festival yet. With over **800 artists involved**, the 10 days will be jam-packed with activities across music, theatre, dance, literature and visual arts in Castlemaine's town centre as well as in neighbouring villages – Campbells Creek, Chewton, Maldon and Vaughan Springs.

With the opening night party event **Jitterbug Club completely sold out**, the Dancing Room Only program at Castlemaine's fabulous Theatre Royal will buzz with excitement and energy with other acts including New Zealand's funky **Batucada Sound Machine**, the illustrious bad-boy fiddler **Ashley MacIsaac** from Nova Scotia, and for those who want to swing-dance, **The Pearly Shells**.

An exciting new addition in the program is **Canada's world music sensation Beyond The Pale**, performing their **Beyond Mozart** program exclusively for the festival – in its Australian premiere. A truly new way to listen to the classics, Beyond the Pale present their **CBC Radio commissioned new interpretations of works by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, in celebration of his 250th birthday in 2006.**

Turning local buildings and locations into extraordinary venues for art is a continuing theme through **Martin Paten** Festival Director's programming. Securing exceptional and unique non-theatre spaces, including Michelle Heaven's beautiful contemporary dance piece **Disagreeable Object** in The Goods Shed; using Wattle Gully Mine – a working mine in Chewton, to feature the World Premiere of **Precipice**, a play written by AWGIE award-winning playwright Catherine Ryan; and the atmospheric Carman's Tunnel in Maldon will be transformed into an intimate performance space filled with music and poetry from leading **Australian poets**.

Martin Paten, Festival Director said ***"I was keen for the festival events to utilise all different venues in Castlemaine and surrounding areas. It is a chance for the community to experience amazing performances that transform our local iconic buildings and locations."***

The **Visual Arts Biennial will officially launch on Thursday 31 March**, with 5 outstanding curated exhibitions including a major selection of Indigenous works as well as a showcase of local and internationally acclaimed print makers in the **Pressing Issues** exhibition. Additionally over 100 more visual artists are participating in exhibitions, open studios and alternative street activities during the Castlemaine State Festival.

This year's Castlemaine State Festival is perfect for the whole family to experience, with specific children's and youth programs, a **Children's Day** to start off the school holidays as well as two marvellous shows **Saltbush** by Italy's acclaimed company Campagna TPO and Australian Insite Arts, and the **New York Fringe Award Winning show The Adventures of Alvin Sputnik: Deep Sea Explorer**, which will keep everyone entertained.

INFORMATION AND BOOKING DETAILS:

PROGRAM www.castlemainefestival.com.au

INFORMATION 5472 3733

BOOKING 5434 6100

Travel with V Line is one of the easiest options, and those with a carbon consciousness – see V/Line's website for a variety of information and itineraries that are tailored to using the train services:

<http://www.vline.com.au/discover/regionalvictoria/castlemainestatefestival.html>

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