



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

MEDIA KIT

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Opening Weekend festivities: Pageant and Pandemonium

To open the **2011 Castlemaine State Festival** a free dance pageant will sweep through Mostyn Street with **Pageant and Pandemonium**, starting from 7:00pm on Friday 1 April.

Part show ride, part street procession, the **Opening Night Pageant** draws upon the long history of show parades and processions, and will invite everyone to watch and dance along as the street comes alive with activity.

The night will begin with a **Wominjika welcome to country**, followed by a newly commissioned dance, **Crow Dreaming of the Dja Dja Wurrung**, created by central Victorian Indigenous dancers in collaboration with local hip hop dancers.

The pageant will encompass more than **150 central Victorian dancers** ranging from Scottish Highland to Indigenous hip hop, Japanese break-dancing, ballroom, contemporary, belly-dancing, classical ballet dancers and zumba fans amongst many others. Completely outside and processional, the dance is combined with the automobile culture of Castlemaine - notably it's vintage cars, hotrods along with the CFA, road crossing safety officers and street sweepers. With these skilled people, two 10 piece bands, a couple of trucks, some hydraulic machines and sweeping lights, the pageant will build a massive 'show ride' that occupies the central street of Castlemaine. The finale will be a street dance fiesta for the whole audience, to the beat of **'Rocco Grimaldi and his Pandemonium Band'**.

For those who want to continue the party, the **Theatre Royal** comes alive with **The Jitterbug Club** - a contemporary Harlem-style New York jazz club. Featuring: **Mojo Juju & The Snake Oil Merchants; The Jitterbeetles (in-house chorus line); James Grim (of Brothers Grim fame);** and special performances from **Frankie Valentine, Papillon and Le Snak**.

Throughout the opening weekend an abundance of performance pandemonium will take place in various pavilions installed from Castlemaine's central **Market Building** as well as **Victory Park**. Combining the cultural tradition of agricultural shows and side show alleys, the **Pandemonium Pavilions** are a celebration of Australia and Castlemaine's cultural abundance in the same way that agricultural show pavilions rejoice in displaying agricultural endeavour. Each pavilion has its own performance carnival, with **gothic country songs, Castlemaine Cultural Women's Association acts, stories and treats, Clown Master Class, Acrobats, Shadow mechanics** and other mayhem.

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www.castlemainefestival.com.au

