



MEDIA RELEASE

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Literature program

Collective DNA: we are made of stories, poetry and song builds on the overwhelming success of the 2011 Castlemaine State Festival sell-out literature program. An inspired host of events delve into personal stories about our bodies, our histories, our dreams – and the more embarrassing or unexpected moments in our lives – using not only the standard form of the written word but also more non-traditional and innovative mediums including music, dance and puppeteering.

Contributing their stories are a carefully curated team of authors, singers, dancers, film makers, entertainers and actors, both local and international, as well as a raft of people and personalities from all walks of life who will provide some answers to the question 'how can people tell stories?'

The opening forum (and Festival taster), **the sound of our own voices**, sets the tone for the rest of the literature program. Guests from across the larger Festival program, such as acclaimed indigenous visual artist and film maker, Bindi Cole, and stage and screen actor, John Stanton, will discuss 'voice', its manifestation in their particular practice and its employ in their life. Billed as a hybrid musical, literary and performance panel, the audience will be invited to add their own voice to the mix by raising questions for address by the panellists.

The 4 story-telling sessions – **let me hear your body talk; declaim to fame; hairbrushes and air guitars;** and **Luke...I am your father** – are set to provide audiences with outstanding examples of some of the many, and varied, ways in which stories can be told. Through voice, action, dance and projection these stories will be performed by the likes of acclaimed authors Cate Kennedy and Alice Pung; international singers, Sabrina Zuber and Bhagya Murthy; dancer, Jayanthi Siva; film maker, Megan Spencer; puppeteers, Lachlan Plain and Colleen Burke; and actor, Alice Garner.

Poetry, too, has its own specialised events with performances at **everything you need is here** that are far from traditional – incorporating classical Indian dance, pop songs, opera and the haka – and a special, interactive, **poetry triage** which will guide those attending through the poetry minefield.

'the last CSF [Castlemaine State Festival] literature program was full of great surprises for me...There was a night of inspiring personal stories and some of sadness and hardship told by local refugee residents... I'll be looking out for this year's literature program.'

'After those reading sessions I just felt I knew the people of Castlemaine a whole lot better. How marvellous is that? It is being in the space and with the audience as much as listening to the writers and what they choose to share.'

Whether international or local, a literary giant or specialist doctor, the 2013 literature program reveals that everyone has a story. So come witness the magic of story-telling and perhaps share one of your own. Book your shows now, as **Collective DNA** is bound to be another Castlemaine Festival sell-out.