

# CASTLEMAINE STATE FESTIVAL MARCH 13-22 2015

## MEDIA RELEASE

### IT'S OUR PARTY: ONE MONTH UNTIL CASTLEMAINE STATE FESTIVAL

13 February 2015

Celebrating the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary and 20<sup>th</sup> Festival, this year's Castlemaine State Festival is a momentous occasion, and with one month to go the township and its artists are in full swing with preparations. The 10 day multi-artform Festival is renowned for its dynamic programming set within the golden Central Victorian landscape.

With regional arts centers becoming a hub for artists and creative industries, the Castlemaine State Festival is leading the way in presented new works and collaborations. The 2015 Festival boasts 30 new commissioned works, created as part of its producing arm Castlemaine Created. **Festival Director Martin Paten** says "With so many new works being produced for the 2015 Festival, there is so much that will be a surprise for me as much as the audiences."

Part of Paten's programming aims to bring new experiences for audiences that take place in unique locations or significant buildings within Castlemaine and the region. 2015 will be Paten's fourth as festival director, and he feels that "the Festival is such a rare and special way to have a deeper experience of Australia through the stories and imagination of its regional artists."

One month out and a number of the festival events have already sold out, with many others selling fast. Paten admits "it's so encouraging to see how many of these festival works are already selling out and how adventurous Castlemaine State Festival audiences are."

Highlights of the theatre and dance program include six world premiere shows: **Going Through by Jack Romeril featuring Jack Charles**, **In Plan** by acclaimed dancer **Michelle Heaven**, two experiential performance works **The Freda Experience** and **#wanderingcloud**, **Kekkai** which is a collaboration between Tony Yap and South Korean Nettle Theatre, and **Purgatorio** a story of love and life by esteemed author Ariel Dorfman. The ever popular music program brings a range of world music, dance and classical music to town – including artists **Casey Bennetto**, **Steve Sedergreen**, **New Zealand Chamber Soloists**, **Simon Tedeschi**, **Tom Thum**, **The Cambodian Space Project**, **Massimo Scattolin** and **Deborah Cheetam**.

With programming for the whole family, the children's program includes a magical show for newborns **Rain**, the widely acclaimed **Erth's Dinosaur Zoo**, a comic outfit **The Listies Make You LOL!**, and theatrical adaptation of Thumbelina in **Maia Takes Flight**. Other non-ticketed and free events include the **visual arts program**, which features site-specific works inspired by Castlemaine's history and landscape; the **Community Carnivale** filled with performances, kids shows, music, dance, workshops food stalls and fun, which will run for three days (15, 16 & 21 March), and finally the Garden Party in the Botanical Gardens on Sunday 22 March will close the Festival on a celebratory note.

The festival is estimated to bring in an audience of close to 40,000 people, with Australian and international performers and companies mixing and mingling with regional communities and audiences. The Castlemaine State Festival is a truly celebratory arts festival, and we invite you to come and share its anniversary!

**For more information & bookings please visit [castlemainefestival.com.au](http://castlemainefestival.com.au)**