

CASTLEMAINE STATE FESTIVAL MARCH 13-22 2015

MEDIA RELEASE

CASTLEMAINE STATE FESTIVAL LAUNCHES 2015 PROGRAM BEFORE & BEYOND - 40 YEARS: 20 FESTIVALS

On 10 December 2014 Martin Paten launched the 20th Castlemaine State Festival program, *Before & Beyond*, which marks the festival's 40th anniversary. The 2015 festival promises to be one of the most memorable, celebrating this special milestone with the largest Castlemaine Created program to date, including 20 festival-newly commissioned and produced works that will showcase some of the best artistic gems from the area. This ambitious program will continue to deepen involvement in the region from which it draws inspiration, with more to see and do, and more ways for everyone to participate.

The 2015 festival includes seven premiere performance works, four new boutique theatre pieces and five debut music performances. More than 190 local artists will take part, including filmmakers, performers, musicians, storytellers and visual artists. In addition to two international arts mentorships for over 800 teenagers from Castlemaine Secondary College, 1,500 school children from all primary schools in the area will take part in a major program of theatre and interactive workshops.

Festival Director, Martin Paten says: *'The 2015 theme, Before & Beyond, is inspired by this community, landscape and artists, who will join with artists and companies from all over the world to create one of our most memorable programs. As the sixth Festival Director over its 40 year history, I feel it is important to honour the event's extraordinary past achievement, while ensuring this and future festivals are adventurous, and widely experienced, and have a positive legacy.'*

In 2015 the festival continues to highlight the importance of its local culture, having commissioned a number of bold large-scale works that encourage participation, and site-responsive pieces that connect private and public histories.

The Big Bang will set the scene on opening night with a public music event involving more than two thousand community members, musicians and festival-goers working together to create a huge, celebratory, percussive bang. Festival goers will have a huge range of theatre and music performance acts to engage with. Ranging from world premiere theatre work **Going Through** by John Romeril featuring Aboriginal elder Jack Charles, new dance work **Kekkai** by Tony Yap Company and South Korean dance company Nettle Theatre, to **Simon Tedeschi** playing Gerwshin, exotic lounge and mambo dance tunes by **Queen Cannibali and the Skull Island Orchestra** and Afro-Cuban **El Son Entero** all the way from Cuba.

Carnival of Community will run for three jam-packed days at Victory Park across the opening and closing weekends, in a celebration of this creative and passionate community who ensure the festival's on going success. The final day of festivities will wrap up in the beautiful Castlemaine Botanical Gardens with a last hurrah of feasting, music, singing and circus fun at the **Garden Party**. A fitting end for this very special 40th anniversary festival.

The box office will be open from 10 December 2014 and throughout the festival at the Castlemaine Market Building, as well as online with full program details: www.castlemainefestival.com.au

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Programming key points and figures:

- 40 Castlemaine Created works, including 25 festival-commissioned and supported new works, and an additional 4 feature exhibitions by central Victorian regional artists and companies.
- 10 theatre and dance premieres; 4 new music works.
- 85 Individual performances, exhibitions, workshops, conversations and events, in addition to 90 Associated Artist Open Studios, exhibitions, tours and workshops.
- 500 participating artists, including 190 from regional Victoria, 275 national artists and 40 international artists.
- 2 youth international arts mentorships in partnership with Castlemaine College.
- A major theatre and interactive workshop program for 1500 primary-school students from every primary school in Mount Alexander Shire; 3 free performance events for families; 5 additional family-friendly performances.
- 20 free music performances

Castlemaine Created programming

Castlemaine Created was launched by the Festival in 2011 as the arm of the Festival dedicated to presenting and producing works by local artists. The 2015 Festival will boast the largest suite of Castlemaine Created events to date, with some of the most stunning gems from this region's artistic output. Through the process of engagement with the artists and community, the Festival program has developed 30 works under Castlemaine Created to be presented in non-traditional, distinctive locations at the 2015 Festival.

2015 Castlemaine Created Commissions/ New Works

- The Big Bang
- Going Through
- In Plan
- The Freda Experience
- #wanderingcloud
- Purgatorio
- Bilarni
- Queen Cannibali and the Skull Island Orchestra
- The Impossible Orchestra
- Dominique Segan Emerging Artist Concert
- Body Appliance Revival Experience
- Nightmare
- Stories in a suitcase
- Chipolatas and Castlemaine Circus school
- The Big Sing
- At the edges of meaning
- RKM
- Loomusica
- Solar Mining
- Anonymous

ABOUT THE CASTLEMAINE STATE FESTIVAL

The Castlemaine State Festival was founded in 1974 by Berek Segan AM OBE who along with Gian Carlo Menotti proposed Castlemaine as the preferred place for the third arm of the Spoleto Festival. Modelled on Europe's famous small-town classical music festivals, the Festival was a unique event in its time, opening up the regional touring circuit for organisations such as the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra.

Under the direction of Berek Segan and Phee Broadway it developed into a multi-artform Festival, committed to artistic excellence in a regional setting, specifically aimed at creating a context for valuing the arts in Victoria.

Today the Castlemaine State Festival is the flagship multi-art form regional state festival in Victoria. With a commitment to programming regional artists and events, including a strong indigenous presence, the Festival has significant recognition in the international arts festivals arena.

Whilst maintaining the essence of the original vision and intent, the program has evolved to reflect the changes in the cultural production, regional demographic and audience expectations throughout its 40-year history.

Preceding other Victorian arts festivals, the Castlemaine State Festival has been unique in its scope and diversity, and in its impact on the social and cultural fabric of the Mount Alexander Shire and environs. The Festival program encompasses visual arts, music, theatre, opera, dance, literature and film, and has been a major contributor in connecting people and developing enterprise within the regional community.

In 2013 the festival involved more than 355 artists, had approximately 46,000 attendees, sold out 96% of ticketed events, received a 91% satisfaction rating from audience surveys and contributed \$2.48 million to the local economy.

The 40th Anniversary of the Castlemaine State Festival, with 2015 being the 20th Festival, demands a level of ambition and cohesiveness that consolidates the strengths of past events and carves a clear way forward. 2015 will be a mature regional community festival combining history and vision, leading its industry through best practice in process and profiling works of excellence. 2015 will celebrate this biannual event moving into its prime.

Festival Director Martin Paten

The 2015 Castlemaine State Festival will be Martin Paten's fourth as Director. Martin has taken the festival to unprecedented levels of creative and financial success, achieving widespread acclaim.

Martin's vision for the festival as both a showcase opportunity for the enormous wealth of local artistic endeavour, and as a platform for the presentation of entirely new works in a regionally based international festival is further enabled through the expertise of an exemplary festival team. An extensive network of dedicated volunteers, together with the financial commitment of government and NGO bodies, philanthropic individuals and organisations, ensure the Castlemaine State Festival's continued success.

Martin came to the Castlemaine State Festival with 13 years' experience directing and managing public festivals in central and suburban Melbourne. He has directed the Moonee Valley Festival, overseen the strategic direction of Melbourne Moomba Festival and managed funding relationships with many of Melbourne's major international festivals including Melbourne's Arts, Fringe, Comedy, Film, Jazz, Midsumma and Next Wave Festivals.

Martin left the City of Melbourne in December 2007 after a 10-year career managing a team delivering Melbourne's Public Art and Laneway Commissions, Melbourne Conversations, City Music and Art and Heritage Collection.

Martin lives locally in the beautiful town of Vaughan, 10 minutes from Castlemaine. He is married with two children.

OPENING NIGHT EVENT

The Big Bang

The past and the present come together to kick off the Castlemaine Festival's fortieth anniversary celebrations in a large-scale public music-event, culminating in a big percussive bang and brass instrument blast. More than two thousand community members, musicians and festival goers will be involved in its creation.

The Big Bang encompasses the festival theme of Before & Beyond, by bringing together professional musicians from past and present festivals with local associations and music groups, school music ensembles, amateur and young musicians from within the shire. Together they will create percussive and brass works that will be woven into an overarching composition and performance. Influential musicians of the past will perform with younger musicians of the future in an acknowledgment of their transferring of musical gifts.

Festival goers will participate both as party guests and as performers, joining in the thousands of percussive moments that will build up into 'The Big Bang'.

This momentous birthday party celebrates the 10-day gift that the festival is for the shire, the gift of time and support from the local community, which ensures that the festival's relevance and ambition is maintained, and it also celebrates the many gifted artists who have generously shared their own creative talents through the festival for so many years.

MUSIC

The 2015 Castlemaine State Festival has developed a rich music program traversing 18th to 21st century compositions in response to the theme Before & Beyond. The festival is renowned for presenting an expansive music program, with an exceptional range of genres and styles, and a wealth of extraordinary local, national and international musical talent. This year is no exception, with the 2015 program premiering four Castlemaine Created commissioned works.

The **MARKET BUILDING** will host eight concerts, ranging from baroque through to jazz improvisation and cabaret.

Simon Tedeschi, one of Australia's most well known and sought-after pianists has played for admirers ranging from the Dalai Lama to George W. Bush and is one of the few classical pianists able to cross into jazz improvisation. At the Market Building, he will play a program of Gershwin all-time favourites, and works by composers from Gershwin's world.

The premiere work **Trio Avium – Birdsong** is a carefully designed concert response to the 2015 festival theme, Before & Beyond, uniting three exceptional artists –Australia-based Ros Bandt and Ruth Wilkinson, and Europe-based Australian baroque violinist Cynthia O'Brien. Audiences will hear new music compositions inspired by central Victorian and European birdlife in a rich and enveloping musical immersion.

Local legend **Broderick Smith** was playing music some thirteen years before the Castlemaine State Festival started. Accompanied on the keyboards by friend Richard Tankard, Broderick will be presenting honest, soulful and sometimes moving music, from many years ago and some brand new works that go beyond into the future.

Maestro **Alfrio Cristaldo** (Paraguay) and his student **Andy Rigby** (Australia) have been playing harp together for 30 years as a teacher-student duo, 'Los Hermanos del Arpa' (brothers of the harp), and more lately as a performance combination. The harp is the national instrument of Paraguay, producing a rich bass sound and clear melody.

In 2015, talented jazz pianist, improviser and educator, **Steve Sedergreen** will undertake a major composition project entitled The Art & Beauty of Deep Listening. Steve intends to create a folio of solo piano, small ensemble and orchestral compositions grounded in this process and working closely with his collaborators, local didgeridoo player and storyteller Ron Murray, and drummer Michael Jordan.

The **New Zealand Chamber Soloists** will transport audiences to the sights, sounds and colours of Aotearoa's Southern Pacific island environment through the intimate experience of chamber music. Core trio, Katherine, Lara and James celebrate vital and energetic new compositions from the composers' of Aotearoa, alongside the works of the classical and 20th century masters.

In a one-night-only concert, come hear the songs of **Casey Bennetto** in **The Verandah**, a chance to see Casey perform his incredible back catalogue of songs, alongside cabaret chanteuse **Aurora Kurth**, pianist Enio Pozzebon, bass-playing maestro Vincenzo Ruberto and even a guest or two.

MUSIC (continued)

CASTLEMAINE TOWN HALL will present eight concerts, ranging from orchestral to cinematic, deftly weaving together cultures and genres into a tapestry of delights.

Renowned soprano and composer **Deborah Cheetham** will share her unique story of the journey to discover her belonging, building on her acclaimed works, *White Baptist Abba Fan* and *Pecan Summer*. Accompanied by pianist Toni Lalich, and incorporating music by herself, Catalani, Cilea, Dvořák, Puccini, Richard Strauss and Vaughan Williams, **Til the Black Lady Sings** is personal storytelling at its most intimate.

Live Live Cinema elevates the concept of live cinema to a new level: all music and dialogue is performed live by a specially created ensemble and a group of actors, and all sound effects are produced live, by a lone courageous Foley artist, to bring new life to Herk Harvey's **Carnival of Souls** and Francis Ford Coppola's **Dementia 13**. Live Live Cinema Composer, New Zealand's musical maverick Leon Radojkovic, and his crew of musicians and actors shift meaning through their music and performances, underlining the mood and atmosphere, and at times striking fear into the hearts of their audience. The end result is a thrilling and sophisticated live-film production.

Gurrong is a choral exploration of 250 years of immigration; a taste of the boundless ideas, aspirations, stories and music, compassion and welcome that infuses this ancient land. Designed and directed by Jane Thompson and James Rigby for the Boite Millennium Chorus concert in 2014, **Gurrong** features a choir of over 80 voices complemented by an outstanding band and a suite of special guest artists in a performance that will move and inspire all who see it.

On Wings of Song is a premiere Castlemaine Created commission that pays tribute to Italy's Spoleto Festival, which inspired the first Castlemaine State Festival. To celebrate this connection, the concert unites three exceptional Italian artists – soprano **Stefania Bellamio**, guitarist **Massimo Scattolin** and chef **Stefano De Pieri**. This bespoke operatic program of Italian lyric music arranged for voice and guitar will also be accompanied by a sumptuous four-course meal prepared by Stefano De Pieri, created in collaboration with Massimo Scattolin, for a complete experience of elegance and indulgence.

In celebration of our 40th Anniversary we honour Berek Segan, the Festival's Founding Patron, in a concert dedicated to his vision and philanthropy. **The Impossible Orchestra** comprises 30 exceptional musicians in a night of celebratory and magnificent music. Under the baton of former Festival Director, Brett Kelly, the program will feature outstanding violinist Ji Won Kim, former ABC 'Young Performer of the Year'. This rich and rare one-off program will include inspiring works such as Mozart's G Major Concerto and the Bizet/Sarasate Carmen 'Fantasy'.

MUSIC (continued)

THEATRE ROYAL will present six music performances, including a number of enriching cross-cultural collaborations and international acts.

The special Castlemaine Created commission, the premiere of **Queen Cannibali and the Skull Island Orchestra**, plays a mix of exotica, lounge and mambo, transporting everyone to her enchanted island before finishing the evening off with a steamy dance set to shake off the cobwebs to open the 20th Castlemaine State Festival in style.

Pasaje performed by **El Son Entero**, from Camaguey in central Cuba, is a musical journey through Cuban history, and a superb glimpse into this complex culture. It is the first time the band has travelled outside Cuba, making this a very special performance of music, dance and film. They will also present another evening of Afro-Cuban dance rhythms for festival goers to dress 'para la fiesta' and move with the grooves of Cha-cha, Son, Danzón, Danzonete, Mambo, Rumba, Salsa and Bolero. El Son Entero's members are classically trained and deeply passionate, with tightly woven string rhythms led by the galloping six-stringed 'Tres', full Afro-Cuban percussion, blistering trumpet and tight vocal harmonies.

Maru Tarang is a virtuosic musical conversation born of the inter-generational collaboration between Australian artists Jeff Lang and Bobby Singh, and Rajasthani artists Asin Langa and Bhungar Manginyar, and initiated by Divya Bhatia. Ancient Rajasthani folk songs are heard anew with Australian input, while seminal blues by Robert Johnson are enriched with an Indian-influence.

Phnom Penh based rock'n'roll outfit **The Cambodian Space Project** is a psychedelic phenomenon at the forefront of Cambodia's cultural revival. Charismatic front-woman Srey Chanthly channels past divas of Cambodia's lost rock'n'roll roots, making her own mark through narrative songs like *Whisky Cambodia*, the title track of their third album, produced by Motown guitar legend Dennis Coffey.

Outside central Castlemaine are two more events to enjoy as you take in some of the other unique locations around the area.

CARMAN'S TUNNEL will house international beatboxing sensation **Tom Thum** and lyrical genius **Jamie MacDowell**, direct from a sold-out Edinburgh Fringe season. MacDowell's brand of heartfelt songwriting and melodic finger-work combines with Tom Thum's heavy hitting world-class beatboxing and musicianship in an hour-long subterranean gold mine of resonance and stupid banter.

HOME OF HARVEY MITCHELL will host **Simon Tedeschi** as he performs a classical program, including works by Prokofiev, Debussy and Schubert, in the home of Harvey Mitchell. Simon will play the famous Bosendorfer Imperial, thought to be made in Vienna in 1899, and renowned for its sonorous qualities.

PERFORMANCE

OLD CASTLEMAINE GAOL will premiere work created for one of the gaol's former inmates. **Going Through** is a premiere Castlemaine Created commission written by one of Australia's most respected playwrights, Castlemaine-based **John Romeril**. It is written for and dedicated to **Aboriginal Elder Jack Charles**, a renowned talent, charismatic performer and former inmate of the gaol. Jack's great grandfather was a Dja Dja Wurrung (local) man, and the development of this work for the Castlemaine State Festival will enable Jack to pay homage to his ancestral roots. Directed by Maude Davey, Rachael Maza as dramaturg, Jack Charles himself will perform, joined by central Victorian artists including actors Sue Ingleton and James Benedict, musical director Nigel MacLean, audio design director Peter Worland and other local crew.

THE WOOLLEN MILLS will host three diverse Castlemaine Created premieres.

In Plan is a porthole in time and place that draws the audience into the quirky and intimate performance world of director, choreographer and performer Michelle Heaven. From the wondrous set designed by Ben Cobham, audiences will experience a magical world of optical illusion to the accompaniment of composer Bill McDonald.

The world premiere dance piece **kekai – beyond fixed boundaries** is co-production between Korean-based Theatre Nottle's AD Won Youngoh, and Australian Malaysian Tony Yap, in collaboration with composer-musicians Madeleine Flynn and Tim Humphrey, and visual artist Naomi Ota. The work utilises a deeply atmospheric distilled, integrated palette of performance, live and recorded music and sound, and visual installation exploring the Japanese concept 'kekai', meaning 'tied or bounded worlds'. The artists inviting festival-goers to meet with them through workshops and artist talks during their residency in Castlemaine.

#wanderingcloud is a playful and imaginative new theatre work created by local performance maker, poet and sound artist Klare Lanson, with renowned Brisbane-based contemporary musicians, Clocked Out Duo, Castlemaine songstress Andree Cozens, and Bendigo-based artist Jacques Soddell. This captivating multi-artform performance that combines live performance, film, soundscape, song and imagery pays homage to those affected by flood in Central Victoria. Dancing through the transformative cycles of rain, this enduring work harnesses the radiance of our much-loved small towns and speaks of the importance of collective experience within local communities.

PERFORMANCE (continued)

SENIOR CITIZENS HALL is the setting for the premiere of Castlemaine Created festival commission, **The Freda Experience**, an evocative live physical experiential performance. This immersive performance event follows in the footsteps of young Australian adventurer and mountaineer, Freda Du Faur, who pushed her way through the glass ceiling in the early 20th century to become the first woman to climb New Zealand's Mt Cook (Aoraki). Audiences will undertake an exercise class in the style of the Dupain Institute, where Freda trained for her climb and met her lover, Muriel Cadogan. Following the session, the audience will be roped together in small groups and be guided through the performance to learn about aspects of Freda's life – from literary salon to deep-sleep sanatorium.

THE RED ROOM THEATRE will be the venue to experience the enthralling, mesmeric and intense world of premiering production **Purgatorio**, by celebrated author Ariel Dorfman (*Death and The Maiden*). *Purgatorio* is an intimate duet that tackles themes of retribution, forgiveness, memory and love, raising questions of our possibilities and limits in the face of terrible things. Directed, designed and performed by Kenneth MacLeod and Kate Stones.

PHEE BROADWAY THEATRE will be the setting for story telling works, including Castlemaine Created presented **Bilarni**, a story-show written and performed by storyteller musician Jan 'Yarn' Wositzky, with direction and dramaturgy by Paul Hampton. Jan tells of his adventures in the land 'up north', tracking the bushman who was known as Australia's greatest yarn-spinner and the 'expert' on Aborigines – Bill Harney (1895–1962). It was hearing Harney's voice on the radio that first set Jan off on this beautiful and brutal journey, an experience reflected in the script, which includes material from Harney's writing and radio broadcasts and the recollections of his associates, telling a story that is sharp, wise and ironic in the telling.

Well-known writer and performer Michael Veitch presents **Flak: true stories from the men who flew in World War II**. Based on his two best-selling books, *Flak* and *Fly*, Michael in this vivid solo performance brings to life extraordinary stories of combat in the air in the war of 1939–45. He inhabits the characters and voices of five men and recounts their breathtakingly true and largely untold stories. From stories of death and fear, to tales of humour and comradeship, Michael helps unearth the extraordinary stories of ordinary men living and fighting in extraordinary times.

In the Dark is a listening event that brings audio producers and listeners together. It aims to lift radio storytelling out of its traditional setting to create a dedicated space for deep listening. It's a public way to experience the intimacy and suggestiveness of stories told through sound. Hear a range of soundscapes and radio documentaries that lie between reporting and pure imagination; a set of sonic delights from Castlemaine, Central Victoria and regional Australia.

CONVERSATIONS AND STORIES

5@5: 5 Conversations over 5 days, 5 locations at 5pm

Some of history's most profound artistic works and influential relationships have evolved from the collisions between unrelated worlds and the analytical and creative challenges that emerge from a meeting of two curious minds.

Share in this series of intimate conversations between five pairs of significant artists, as they discuss how, when and where they met, and the effect this meeting has had on each of their creative processes. Find out how these intriguing, personal and sometimes unexpected meetings unfolded, and how a mutual acquaintance can impact art-making, ideas and sometimes even life trajectories.

Each creative duo will take to the stage, welcoming interaction from the audience, as they explore reflective questions that will reveal the private workings behind pivotal connections.

Organic and unfiltered, these heart-to-hearts offer insightful and playful new perspectives on the Festival.

Artists include:

Youngh-Oh Won (Theatre Nettle) and Tony Yap (TYC); Mark Penzac and Eliza Gilchrist; Massimo Scattolin and Stefano De Pieri; John Romeril and Jack Charles; Julien Poulson and Channthy Thy.

VISUAL ARTS

THE OLD WOOLLEN MILLS will host two compelling large-scale site-specific works that are both premiering as part Castlemaine Created festival commissions. Each presents a unique experiential encounter that draws together the past and the future.

RKM Collective is a group of Castlemaine-based artists who will develop and present the **Road Kill Mausoleum (RKM)**. They are Helen Bodycomb (mosaics), Jilli Rose (animator), Ulrike von Radichevich (set design) and Davide Michielin (filmmaker). The RKM will be an interactive public artwork that is spatially designed after the architectural cruciform footprint of the Mausoleum of Galla Placidia in Ravenna, Italy. Built from thousands of VHS tape memory vaults, RKM is a walk-through memento mori. It explores death as obsolescence, collective and genetic memory, and the relationship between the experience of being human and our inner beast.

Solar Mining by Yutaka Kobayashi is a large-scale site-specific installation that takes its inspiration from the cultural heritage of 'The Diggings', acknowledging both the diggers' toil and the inevitable past of a finite resource – gold. Looking beyond the past towards a future of infinitely renewable solar power, the installation will be a playful, interactive place where visitors can engage directly with clean energy to discover the benefits of sustainable resources. Inside the glass mounds of the installation will be a solar oven cooking delicious baked goods from our senior community members' best recipes. These tasty treats will be available to lucky visitors.

CASTLEMAINE ART GALLERY will be home to the **Museum of Holes**, a comprehensive exhibition of artworks and objects collected by the artist and selected from the entire range of both the Gallery's and the Historical Museum's collections by significant artist **Patrick Pound**. Thematically and symbolically, a hole can conjure up a vast and surprising variety of interpretations, also linking historically to Castlemaine's gold-mining past. This exhibition will be at once amusing and telling, and will redraw our attention to the things with which we have become too familiar. The selected works and objects will be found and made to work differently through this poetic exploration.

ON THE GRASSY KNOLL outside the IGA shopping complex, people will encounter **Anonymous**, a sculptural installation by playfully macabre visual artist Jessica Ledwich. The work explores the commemorative markings created to celebrate the life of someone revered and respected. It consists of a custom made concrete sarcophagus, with a taxidermy fox curled on top at one end. The fox's unexpected location gently challenges viewers to consider their own relationship with mortality and question contradictory notions of death and passing: absolute finality versus transition from one state to another.

PENNYWEIGHT FLAT CEMETERY will be the site of **Unsettled**, by Frank Veldze, Suzanne Donisthorpe and Kate Osborne. A major interactive sculptural installation, Dream Home by Frank Veldze, will be placed on site, transforming at night with light, soundscapes and projections of Kate Osborne's Ghost Colonial Woman, exploring challenges faced by the communities who have lived in the region since colonisation – from Indigenous, settler and mining communities through to today.

FILM

At the Edges of Meaning

Join us at the rear of the Town Hall for this film retrospective in which Castlemaine based Arthur and Corinne Cantrill will consider their fifty years of filmmaking collaboration, including their influences, the various film genres they explored, and the meanings behind their work. In a four part program, journey through the early first films made during the 1960s in Brisbane and London, followed by the early 70s back in Australia and then a considered time in the mid 70s on the studies of Australian Landscapes influenced by Walter Baldwin Spencer and finally their later films from 1988 to 2006 where their films became presented in film and theatre performance.

On the 90th anniversary of **Dall'Italia All'Australia's** maiden voyage, Castlemaine Festival will screen the 1924 film of the journey from Italy to Australia, by Italian film director Angelo Drovetti. The 60-minute B&W silent epic of the 8,000-nautical-mile adventure will be screened and performed to the accompaniment of Kavisha Mazella and folk band VIAGGIATORI, with a 1920s themed evening and dress.

Combining music and film, **Live Live** will present two cult gothic films - Herk Harvey's **Carnival of Souls** and Francis Coppola's **Dementia 13** - in a unique form where the concept of live cinema is pushed further into a radical immersive experience with a combination of spoken voice, digital sound and musicians.

Please note there are film elements included in music program events 'Pasaje' and 'The Cambodian Project'.

CHILDREN'S AND SCHOOL'S ACTIVITIES

In the historic surrounds of **THE OLD CASTLEMAINE GAOL** is a singular opportunity to share a surprising and delightful sensory performance with your new baby **Rain**, created by The Seam & Drop Bear Theatre. Audiences are invited to participate in this intimate experience that responds to the generosity of rain, where carers and their little ones will be immersed in an installation space full of opportunities to connect through sound, touch and performance. This imaginative experience will be brought to life through the music design of Edwina Cordingley, performed beautifully by Zoë Barry, Sarah Lockwood, Carolyn Ramsey and Edwina Cordingley, under the lights of Sophie Kurylowicz.

PHEE BROADWAY THEATRE will host these dedicated children's and school activities, while other family friendly performances and events also abound as part of the community celebrations on the opening and closing weekends.

In **Erth's Dinosaur Zoo** you'll meet awesome prehistoric creatures, from cute baby dinos to some of the largest carnivores and herbivores that have ever walked the planet. Erth's dinosaurs are unmistakably 'alive', mostly friendly and let audiences get up close and personal with an amazing array of beasts in an imaginative theatre experience unlike any other. Young audiences from age 5 and up will delight in this fun, educational world where they can connect to the real science of palaeontology and meet a menagerie of insects, mammals and dinosaurs that once roamed free around the world.

The Listies Make You LOL! is a hilarious romp from Australia's most sought after kids' comedians. Audiences will be LOLing and ROFLing in a performance that features alien attacks, toilet paper guns, spew, the rudest word in the world and the most disgusting pair of undies you have ever seen in your entire life.

The Castlemaine State Festival's Children's Access Program will again involve more than 1500 primary aged children from every one of the 15 local primary schools in the shire. Children will engage with an extraordinary range of multi-arts and cultural events, including international theatre performances, inspiring artists' talks and hands on art-making with leading Aboriginal, local and international artists. This year, for the festival's 40th birthday celebrations, 'The Gift' Children's Project will encourage an artistic expression of giving and generosity, that aims to instil positive life skills and experiences. Artists Trace Balla, Jude and Alice Laycock, Margot Feast will be running workshops; Polynesian artist Bernard Mangakahia will be involving he children in storytelling and performance, and the theatre program will be led by Erth Visual and Physical Theatre.

Maia Takes Flight is a theatrical adaptation of Hans Christian Andersen's Thumbelina, first published in 1835. This gentle tale follows Maia as she encounters talking toads in a riverbed, a mouse that shelters her from the winter and a kind, but ultimately selfish, mole — all who try to impose their will upon her. Twelve wonderful musicians and actors from central Victoria, adorned with a variety of richly detailed costumes and accoutrement, bring to life Maia's voyage of self determination through live music, song and dance.

MENTORSHIP PROGRAMS

Castlemaine State Festival has established a strong mentorship program between international artists and 1600 primary and secondary school students, and the regional industries for each Festival. For 2015, the festival has commissioned two international artistic mentorships for young people, with the artists coming from the Caribbean Island of Cuba.

Since 2011 the Castlemaine community has been involved in an aid program with Cuba, sending much needed fine timbers, strings and luthier tools for instrument makers and musicians in the country's central Camaguey Province. Through the deep friendships and mutual cultural appreciation built over that time, the Castlemaine State Festival has worked directly with the Cuban Ministry of Culture to develop a performance and music mentorship program.

The Festival is privileged to have eminent Cuban musicians, composers and musical arrangers Michel Hernández, Daulyn W Aldana, Randy Veitía Godínez and Demis Yero Álvarez as the 2015 music mentors. Over a period of time leading up to the 2015 Festival, these respected artists will share the proud history of Cuban music through a series of workshops with Castlemaine Secondary College's young musicians.

The culmination of this mentorship and cultural exchange will result in the **2015 Dominique Segan Emerging Artist Mentorship Concert**. Featuring a spirited and energetic program of music influenced by Cuban roots and rhythms. The event will also include the announcement of the prestigious 2015 Dominique Segan Emerging Artist Mentorship Award. In memory of their late daughter the Castlemaine State Festival's founding patron Berek Segan and his wife Marysia will present the award together with a cash prize donated by them.

For the renown visual art mentorship program, Cuban artist **Edgar Hechavarría Ricardo**, and the artists of Melbourne's own **Slow Art Collective (SAC)** – Tony Adams, Chaco Kato and Dylan Martorell will join together for **Loomúsica**, at **THE OLD WOOLLEN MILLS** to create large-scale art making site that will bringing together 600 young people from Castlemaine Secondary College.

The works will be inspired by the surrounds of this former industrial site and will utilise materials and sounds from its past, embracing a methodology of recycling and upcycling that honours the heritage of the site and its manufacturing history. By employing these methods of repurposing, the collaboration will explore notions of value, what we value in our everyday lives. Materials will include remnant wool, architectural features, remaining machinery and discarded objects, to create an artwork that will resemble a slowly moving loom. It will incorporate kinetic sculptural, robotic components and basic electronics and will transform spatial elements into a musical instrument that the public can play and explore. The sounds will be created by 'playing' the room using elements such as hidden microphones, sound-triggering devices and percussive robotics.

The cultural exchange will be part of the entire artistic process, drawing on Cuban history, culture, food, music, literature, visual arts. Through historical materials and future technologies, Loomusika will unite the past and present of both cultures on this awe-inspiring historical site.

COMMUNITY

Arts and cultural activities are at the heart of our creative communities. Following a long tradition, the 2015 festival will once again showcase its local and community works alongside works from further afield. With more than 30 works, the Castlemaine Community Program is the festival's genuine acknowledgement and celebration of the creative and supportive community, which ensures the ongoing success of this festival. Come celebrate with us.

VICTORY PARK: Carnival of Community

Following a long tradition, the 2015 Festival will again showcase a suite of outstanding community events. **Carnival of Community** is a vibrant, dazzling smorgasbord of locally produced performance and spectacle running for three days during the first weekend (15 & 16 March), and then continuing on the final Saturday (21 March)

Featuring **Nightmare**, an unashamedly scary puppet show staged within the intimate confines of a repurposed horse float; **The Body Appliance Revival Experience**, a participatory interpretive-dance work; and vignettes from the newest clown kids on the block the **Castlemaine Circus School**, a wide range of short, sharp shows will be on offer.

Complementing the Castlemaine Created works will be an enticing range of highly entertaining events from further afield for kids and their adults – including bands, workshops, tricks and performances.

Drape yourself over a sun lounge, perch on the edge of a sofa or linger awhile on a hay bale, and enjoy performances by divas from Melbourne's hot-to-trot cabaret scene, local singer-songwriters and fabulous choirs. Refill with the best of locally produced food and drink, then stroll over to the workshop tent for a spot of artsy-fartsy hands-on action before resuming your languid Festival positions.

Carnival of Community is the ultimate family-friendly Festival hang-out which will include a total of 14 workshops and 43 shows jam-packed into three days of sheer joy.

COMMUNITY (continued)

BOTANICAL GARDENS: The Garden Party

On the final day of the Festival, celebrate with abandon amongst one of Central Victoria's most precious jewels, the Castlemaine Botanical Gardens.

The Botanical Gardens have functioned as a meeting place since the early 1800s, and the Festival carries on the proud tradition by gathering the entire community with a day of sharing and thanks.

Musical delights from sources near and far, and silly sessions to delight children (of all ages) will spring from the two stages set up for the day. The ever-popular **Castlemaine Artists' Market** will relocate to the Gardens to join in the festivities and there will be an abundant amount of fabulous food, fine wine, and much merriment and mirth.

Pack your picnic, your rugs and give thanks for another wonderful Castlemaine State Festival. Bring on the next 40 years!

Feature acts include:

- **The Chipolatas** internationally renowned performance troupe
- **The Mighty Buzzniks** - If Dr Seuss started a rock band - This would be it!
- **Lords of Strut** – Internationally renowned physical performers who combine acrobatics with a slick humour
- **The Dangles** – The girls are back in town! Introducing three daredevil, dynamo, diva's who are ready to rock! Join Cindy, Donna and Gloria for a first class circus and rock synthesis.
- **Low Res** - Melbourne's most entertaining and captivating men's choir
- **The Melbourne Mandolin Orchestra** - performing a wide repertoire of music ranging from Renaissance to contemporary
- **Perch Creek** - Melbourne's favourite family jugband

TOURIST INFORMATION

About Castlemaine:

Castlemaine is 120km north-west of Melbourne and 110 km from the Melbourne International Airport. Castlemaine is a sophisticated central Victorian community nestled between Bendigo and Ballarat. Home to the richest shallow alluvial goldfield the world has ever seen and now renowned for the arts, Castlemaine is a relaxed 21st century city in a stately 19th century setting.

The festival is held in autumn, a particularly beautiful season in the region, and has become synonymous with the intimacy, relaxed sophistication, vitality, and open creative spirit that so quintessentially define the town and the Goldfields region. Broad avenues and mature European gardens fit hand in glove with the primarily Victorian and Edwardian architecture, a haven for artists, tourists and locals. This richness and diversity is evidenced by the variety of private studios and galleries that display locally produced art works. Around 400 practicing artists have made the region their home.

Getting there:

Easily located in Central Victoria, the region is less than 90 minutes northwest of Melbourne and conveniently accessed by road and V/Line train. Stunning villages and towns are located close by, making the region an ideal base from which to explore Central Victoria.

Castlemaine Visitor Information Centre:

Historic Market Building, 44 Mostyn St, Castlemaine 3450
P: 03 5471 1795 E: visitors@mountalexander.vic.gov.au

Maps:

Can be obtained at the Castlemaine Visitor Centre.

Places to stay:

Mount Alexander Shire have a Free Accommodation Booking Service 1800 171 888 (approximately 65 accommodation properties throughout the Shire are part of this booking service). Other neighboring towns for accommodation include Bendigo, Daylesford and the Macedon Ranges.

Website resources:

www.castlemainefestival.com.au
www.maldoncastlemaine.com.au
www.visitgoldfields.com.au