

MEDIA RELEASE

EMBARGO: 22 APRIL 2008



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LIVING, BREATHING, CELEBRATING DANCE AT THE 2008 NOOSA LONGWEEKEND

The Noosa Longweekend has incorporated dance events in its program for the first time in its seven year history and they will help festival goers immerse themselves in a range of dance styles.

The Noosa Longweekend festival runs during school holidays from 4 to 13 July, with tickets available from 28 April. It will offer up ten fantastic fun-filled days and nights with more than 220 performances and activities across theatre, literature, music, dance, forum, film, art and cuisine in the breathtaking setting that is Noosa.



“With a background in and passion for dance, I was really keen to have some dance featured in the festival and I’m very excited to introduce a number of dance events for the first time”, said The Noosa Longweekend festival’s new General Manager, Gail Hewton.

“There is little Colin Peasley doesn’t know about Australia’s national ballet company and at The Noosa Longweekend festival he’s going to share his life with The Australian Ballet – on and off stage – and his close encounters with the world’s classical dance legends in *A Dancer of Character*,” said Gail.

Colin was a founding dance member in 1962, then served as the company’s Ballet Master and teacher for 20 years. At seventy-something, he now manages The Australian Ballet’s education program while continuing to perform character roles with the company.

“Colin Peasley is one of this country’s best character dancers, has performed in hundreds of productions, has toured internationally with the company, and shared the stage with the world’s greatest dancers like Rudolf Nureyev, Frederick Ashton, Margot Fonteyn, Eric Bruhn and Robert Helpmann. Colin is a great raconteur. No doubt, with his infectious sense of humour his conversation with ABC’s Peter Thompson will make for a highly entertaining and enlightening lunch,” she said.

The Noosa Longweekend festival will also celebrate the art of dance on film.

“Festival goers can experience some of the best new dance films and videos made around the world, exploring diverse dance forms from the popular through to the cutting edge experimental, including works by today’s greatest choreographers with the 5th biennial ReelDance Festival being presented at The Noosa Longweekend,” Gail said.

“Whatever dance genre you like, you’ll find it in this innovative program with six different screening sessions over five days focusing on dance and movement in everyday life.”

THE NOOSA LONGWEEKEND Suite 13, 10 Arcadia Walk, Noosa Junction P.O. Box 2200, Noosa Heads 4567
Phone: 61-7 5474 9941 Fax: 61-7 5474 9940 Email: info@noosalongweekend.com www.noosalongweekend.com



“This electrifying celebration of dance has films that include ballroom, mambo, hip-hop and burlesque – dance films for every age group and taste,” Gail said.

A unique event, ReelDance celebrates the fusion of dance and film by showcasing the best contemporary local and international dance shorts and movies.

“Patrons can also purchase a ReelDance festival pass to see all five separate ticketed sessions for \$40, a saving of \$20.”

And the kids don't miss out either with KidsReels – a free program of enchanting international cinema for 3 –12 year old children – and their minders. This truly engaging session, screens children from diverse cultural settings, dancing - in films from India, The Netherlands, UK, Norway and New Zealand, with festival kids encouraged to join in live dance activities.

If you are new to dance and want to learn more about it, there is *Dance Demystified* with Shaaron Boughen, Head of Dance in the Creative Industries Faculty, Queensland University of Technology offering a workshop to explore and demystify some of the enigma surrounding dance performances.

“When you see dance performances, have you ever thought ‘I didn't really understand what was happening’ or ‘I liked it, but I don't know why’, said Gail.

“Shaaron will explain why certain styles or themes of dance are more popular than others and how to increase your appreciation of dance as an art form. A wide range of performances on dvd and video will help you understand various dance styles and spark your enthusiasm to see more!” said Gail.

In addition to this great introduction to dance, The Noosa Longweekend festival has political satirist Max Gillies, leading theatre actress Amanda Muggleton; journalists and social commentators Barrie Cassidy, Paul Kelly, Geraldine Doogue, Hugh Mackay and David Marr; authors Christopher Koch, Blanche d'Alpuget, Alice Pung, Robyn Davidson, Stephanie Dowrick, John Buchanan, Kaz Cooke and Venero Armano; the physical theatre of Circa; actress Kate Fitzpatrick; food-guru Maggie Beer; a celebration of Indigenous art; lots of free community events and much more including Noosa's award winning restaurants.

To request a program visit www.noosalongweekend.com email info@noosalongweekend.com or phone 07 5474 9941. For bookings please call The J box office on 07 5455 4455, or visit at 60 Noosa Drive, Noosa Junction or check out www.noosalongweekend.com from 28 April.

For media inquiries, including photos and footage, further press releases and interviews with artists contact:

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- Sunshine Coast media can contact local media managers Casey McNeil, 07 5446 6945 / 0402 993 688 casey@macneilmarketing.com.au or Angela Takats on 0422 933 198 angela@macneilmarketing.com.au

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