

Festival brings 'Queen of Crime' back to life

In the year 1954 the first, sub four minute mile was run by Roger Bannister, the Premier of Queensland was Vince Gair, Marilyn Monroe married Joe DeMaggio, Rising Fast won the Melbourne Cup, the price of a dozen eggs was around 50 cents and the fourth and final Agatha Christie (aka the Queen of Crime) radio play *Personal Call* was broadcast on BBC Radio. The radio play was one of four Agatha wrote between 1937 and 1954 (*Three Blind Mice, The Yellow Iris, Butter in a Lordly Dish, Personal Call*).

Fast forward to 2010 and audiences will once again be able to enjoy the entertainment and intrigue of those halcyon days as **The Noosa Longweekend Festival** brings the **Agatha Christie** radio plays back to life at the **J Theatre Noosa** and **The Events Centre Caloundra** as part of the 10 day, 130 event, festival to be staged from June 18-27.

Agatha's radio plays (a selection of three radio plays) will be performed by professional actors from **The Lux Radio Theatre** using recently rediscovered radio scripts. The talented troupe will play a wide range of roles whilst reading their lines, performing their own commercials and even inventing their own sound effects as they act out the plays on stage and into the microphone.

"Audiences really enjoy being in on the joke," **Lux Radio Theatre** director **Don Mackay** said.

"The actors run on gravel, blow train whistles and suggest all kinds of unlikely locations while acting vigorously in front of a microphone."

The Noosa Longweekend Festival Director, **Ian Mackellar** promised audiences that they would be in for an old fashioned treat with the talented ensemble including veteran of radio and theatre, **Beverley Dunn**; actor, singer and television funny man (*Thank God You're Here*) **Simon Russell**; actor and children's theatre company owner, **Rosalind Mackay**; and two TDK/National Library Audio Book Award winners, actors **James Wright** and **Jenny Seedsman**.

Ian said that as 2010 commemorated the 120th anniversary of the birth of the famous crime writer that it was only fitting that Ms Christie's radio plays be included as part of the 2010 festival program.

"Agatha Christie's stories have lost none of their appeal over time and with a remarkable 80 novels and short story collections and 19 hit plays penned in the lady's lifetime - it's no wonder that she is considered such an artistic genius".

According to the official Agatha Christie Limited website, it is estimated that over two billion copies of Agatha Christie's books are in print (many of which have been adapted for the stage or screen) which are outsold only by the Bible and Shakespeare. Not bad for a 120 year old!

AGATHA CHRISTIE RADIO MYSTERIES PERFORMANCES

The Events Centre, Caloundra

- Saturday, 19 June – 1 pm and 5pm
- Sunday, 20 June - 1pm and 5pm
- Wednesday, 23 June - 1pm and 5pm - *subject to public demand*

The J Theatre, Noosa

- Monday 21 June – 4.30pm and 8pm

Tickets:

- Seats \$38 and \$30 concession (*Pensioner/Students – card must be presented*)
- Group discounts are available



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2010

18th-27th
June

Some more 2010 festival highlights include –

- the world-premiere-preview of **David Williamson's** latest play *Rhinestone Rex and Miss Monica* starring **Georgie Parker** and the world premiere of the new children's play, *Hurry Up and Wait* as presented by the **Queensland Theatre Company** in association with deBASE productions; a showcase of 'award winning'-one-act plays and **Acrobatica's** gravity-defying physical theatre.
- two, exclusive, Australian performances entitled *International Stars of Ballet* as performed by seven members of the **San Francisco Ballet**.
- musical performances including Australia's own **Tom Burlinson** in *Frank a Life in Song*; cabaret and supper club performances with **Caroline O'Connor, Caroline Nin, Carita Farrer, Blossom Goodchild, Elizabeth Cousemaker, Tom Sharah** and Australian musical theatre legend **Toni Lamond**; the *Dame Joan Sutherland (opera) awards*; a return festival appearance by guitar maestros **Slava and Leonard Grigoryan** accompanied by **James and Joseph Tawadros** as *Band of Brothers*; the *So-la Voce Chamber Choir*; a Japanese piano recital; **Virginia Gay**, and local bands, *The Vitals* and *Dva*.
- a celebration of short films and a *Slow Food with Film* event with food prepared by leading local chefs; the now famous progressive food events hosted by top restaurants in Noosa and the Sunshine Coast hinterland including a *Seafood Saunter, Hinterland Gourmet Safari, Beachside Promenade* and the traditional festival favourite, the *Duck Waddle*.
- literary events featuring media personality **Ita Buttrose**, politician and pharmacist **Terry White**, social commentator **Karen Brooks**, high profile journalists and authors such as **Paul Kelly, Margaret Simons** and **Anne Summers** and sportswriter **Mike Colman**; the writers who inspired *Underbelly*, **John Silvester** and **Andrew Rule**; animal behavioural specialist **Dr Paul McGreevy**; author and former journalist **Iola Mathews**; former pop star and author **Michael White**; University lecturer and sci-fi buff, **Gregory Nash**; and, **Dr Karen Hitchcock** – medic and super mum.
- celebrity lunches featuring comedian and author **Tim Ferguson**, celebrity chef **Kylie Kwong**, **Ita Buttrose**, Australian cabaret sensation **Toni Lamond** and a celebrity breakfast with **Andrew Ettingshausen (ET)**.
- a full day children's festival.
- engaging and insightful forums exploring topics such as: *China, Should we be worried?; America, in decline?; The changing media game and internet journalism*; **Barrie Cassidy** and the *Insider's* take on politics, **Griffith REVIEW's** *Food chain sustainability* and *30 years of State of Origin*. Forum participants include **Julianne Schultz, Mark Scott, Eric Beecher, Margaret Simons, Dr Don Russell, Dr Michael Fullilove, Paul Kelly, Peter Hartcher, Peter Thompson, Warwick Smith, Geremie Barme, Fran Kelly, Steve Renouf, Kerrod Walters, Mick Hancock** and **Martin Lang**.
- workshops featuring Bollywood dancing and African drumming and singing and a full day, comedy writing master course with **Tim Ferguson**

TICKET SALES AND FESTIVAL PROGRAMS

- Tickets for all festival events are on sale NOW. Visit www.noosalongweekend.com for details.
- Tickets for Noosa events are on sale at The J Box office phone (07) 5455 4455 or online at www.thej.com.au
- Tickets for Caloundra events are on sale at The Events Centre, Caloundra phone (07) 5491 4240 or online www.etixdirect.com.au
- Interested parties are encouraged to register to receive festival news, updates and special offers on The Noosa Longweekend Festival website - www.noosalongweekend.com
- Special festival accommodation packages are available. Visit www.noosalongweekend.com for details.

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For information, interviews or images regarding The Noosa Longweekend Festival artists please contact: Trena-Louise Lyons, National Noosa Longweekend Festival Publicist PH: 0423 764 260 or trena@newsroompr.com.au



The Noosa Longweekend Festival is proudly presented by **MACQUARIE**

NB: Whilst all events listed as part of media communication are accurate at the time of release, The Noosa Longweekend Festival program is subject to change without notice due to circumstances outside of the event organizer's control