

MEDIA RELEASE

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presents

GET 'REEL', GET ACTIVE AND BE INSPIRED WITH FILM PROGRAM AT THE 2008 NOOSA LONGWEEKEND

Film has always been an important part of The Noosa Longweekend festival and this year there's the ever-popular 24 hour filmmaking competition that is known as "REELmad", there's dance on film in "ReelDance", a kids' film program with 'KidsReels' and the crowd-pleasing "Heart of Gold" documentary festival.

"The film program is set to be more inspiring than ever at this year's Noosa Longweekend festival," said Festival General Manager Gail Hewton.

Now in its seventh year, 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.

"Hold on to your hats, and cameras - REELmad is back! On a Friday afternoon filmmakers are given a REELmad kit which contains several keywords and items that they need to weave into a 3-7 minute short film. On Saturday afternoon they must hand in their creation and on Sunday festival patrons are treated to an evening of short film magic," said Gail.

"It's developing quite a reputation amongst film and arts students giving them an opportunity to showcase their skills and creativity," she said.

This year comedian, actor and host of the ABC Sunday Arts program Michael Veitch will be one the judges and will also MC the final screenings.

"Entrants aren't quite out on a limb as REELmad is incorporating workshops and panel discussions by industry pros to support them," said Gail.

"As a former dancer and choreographer, I'm particularly pleased that The Noosa Longweekend festival is this year hosting the 5th biennial ReelDance Festival, celebrating the art of dance on film," said Gail.

This innovative program is focused on dance and movement in everyday life with films including ballroom dancing, mambo, hip-hop and burlesque – dance films for every age group and taste," said Gail.

"As part of ReelDance, we also have 'KidsReels', a free program of enchanting international cinema for 3-12 year old children and their minders, and kids are encouraged to join in live dance activities," she said.



THE NOOSA LONGWEEKEND Suite 13, 10 Arcadia Walk, Noosa Junction P.O. Box 2200, Noosa Heads 4567
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Another firm favourite of The Noosa Longweekend film program is the selection of uplifting documentaries from the 'Heart of Gold' film festival.

"These short films are guaranteed to warm your winter. They are stories of hope and passion with just the right amount of humour to leave you elated," Gail said.

"It's not often you get to eat great food at the movies but the success of our collaboration with Slow Food Noosa last year has led to another Slow Food Film event this year," said Gail.

"With Slow Food Noosa, we are presenting an opportunity to enjoy the work of five of Noosa's most revered chefs coming together to create a gourmet degustation inspired by their favourite movies in 'Film with Food', which will take place at Blue Angel restaurant across from Noosa River," Gail Hewton said.

In addition to these great film offerings for residents and school holiday visitors to Noosa, headline acts include 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; and much more including lots of free community events and 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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