

## **Tom Burlinson starts spreading the news at official 2010 festival program launch**



Australian actor, television personality and singer **Tom Burlinson** launched the official *The Noosa Longweekend Festival* program in style today with a rendition of *That's Life* from his highly acclaimed show, *Frank – A Life in Song*, a tribute to the late, great Frank Sinatra. Mr Burlinson, who flew in from Sydney as a surprise guest for the event, was revealed as one of the celebrity guests that will perform as part of the annual 10 day, arts and food festival to take place in Noosa and Caloundra from **June 18-27, 2010**.

Burlinson, along with his eight piece band will stage two performances of his show (one each in Noosa and Caloundra on June 18 and 19 respectively) with tickets for all festival events going on sale from 10am on Tuesday, **May 4**.

Festival Director, **Ian Mackellar** shared with the assembled audience of VIP guests details regarding the 130, free and ticketed literature, theatre, music, dance, film, workshop, forum, food and art events that will make up the 2010 festival program. A number of world premieres, Australian exclusive performances and free, community events will be included.

"For the first time in the festival's nine year history approximately ten percent of the festival's Noosa based events will be replicated at The Events Centre, Caloundra providing more opportunities for audiences to enjoy the colour, creativity and culture of the festival.

Ian said that in addition to the full Noosa program, The Events Centre Caloundra would host the *Frank – A Life in Song* show along with one of two, Australian exclusive performances entitled *International Stars of Ballet* by members of the San Francisco Ballet.

Caloundra audiences will also be treated to a series of *Agatha Christie radio mysteries* where in scenes reminiscent of the 1930's, actors including **Simon Russell** from TV's *Thank God You're Here* will read scripts whilst playing a host of characters and generating their own sound effects on stage. A performance by femme fatale songstress **Caroline Nin** in homage to Edith Piaf and the four piece classical strings and percussion ensemble *Band of Brothers*, comprising musically gifted brothers **Slava and Leonard Grigoryan** and **James and Joseph Tawadros** will also feature as part of the Caloundra program.

Ian said that he was confident that Caloundra audiences would enjoy the wonderfully diverse range of artistic performances available on their doorstep.

"We're delighted to be working in association with The Events Centre team in order to present this world class line up of talent that we have on offer for the 2010 festival, Ian said.

"This year's program is our most ambitious and prestigious to date, Ian added.

"Audiences are in for a real treat with performers such as **Tom Burlinson**, French chanteuse **Caroline Nin**, a world premiere- preview play by **David Williamson**, two Australian exclusive ballet performances as performed by members of the *San Francisco Ballet*, celebrity events featuring **Ita Buttrose**, **Kylie Kwong**, **Tim Ferguson**, **Andrew 'ET' Ettingshausen**, **Toni Lamond** and **Don Burke**, and a range of fantastic film, forum and foodie events with some of Australia's most respected actors, authors, entertainers, chefs and journalists participating".

Ian said that whilst the 2010 festival included some big name acts, the emphasis was on affordability and accessibility for all.

"We have worked diligently to ensure that this years' festival program provides something of appeal for all tastes, across all age groups, and for all budgets including a fantastic, free events program".

Some of the free events include an all day children's festival at Noosa Pengari Steiner School, heritage walks, a Macquarie art exhibition, street performances and a children's musical theatre event featuring 30 child stars as presented by the Noosa Professional Dance Academy.

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; *Acrobatica's* gravity-defying physical theatre; and, *Agatha Christie Radio Mysteries* performed on stage.
- 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*.

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- 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 everyone's favourite gardener **Don Burke**, **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 **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**, **Saul Eslake**, **Fran Kelly**, **Steve Renouf**, **Kerrod Walters**, **Mick Hancock** and **Martin Lang**.
- workshops featuring Bollywood dancing, African drumming and singing, Japanese puppet making, drama improvisation, Commedia dell Arte and a full day, comedy writing master course with **Tim Ferguson**

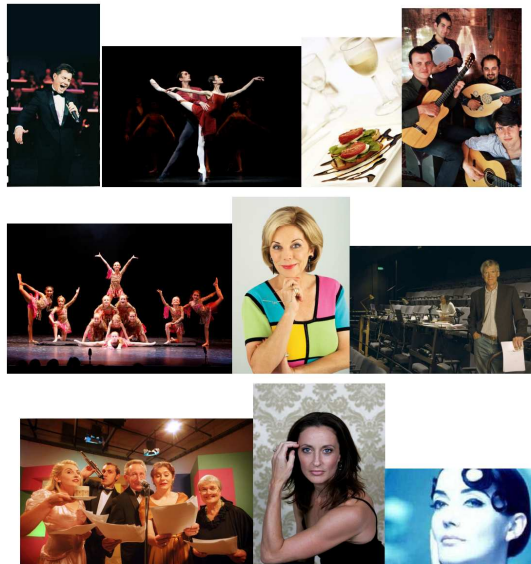
The full festival program can be viewed on line at [www.noosalongweekend.com](http://www.noosalongweekend.com). Printed versions are available by phoning the festival office on (07) 5474 9941.

#### TICKET SALES AND FESTIVAL PROGRAMS

- Tickets for all festival events will go on sale from 10am, May 4.
- Tickets for Caloundra events will be on sale at The Events Centre, Caloundra phone (07) 5491 4240 or online [www.etixdirect.com.au](http://www.etixdirect.com.au)
- Tickets for Noosa events will be on sale at The J Box office phone (07) 5455 4455 or online at [www.thej.com.au](http://www.thej.com.au)
- Ticket prices range from **FREE** admission to **\$185** (for a 'Blue Ribbon dinner and cabaret event')
- Interested parties are encouraged to register to receive festival news, updates and special offers on The Noosa Longweekend Festival website - [www.noosalongweekend.com](http://www.noosalongweekend.com)
- Special festival accommodation packages are available. Visit [www.noosalongweekend.com](http://www.noosalongweekend.com) for details.

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For more information, images or interviews with The Noosa Longweekend Festival artists or staff contact:  
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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.