

The Noosa Longweekend Festival starts spreading the news at official 2010 program launch

Australian actor, television personality and singer **Tom Burlinson** launched the official *The Noosa Longweekend Festival* program at *The J Theatre* in style today with a rendition of *That's Life* from his highly acclaimed show, *Frank – A Life in Song*. The show is 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 the Noosa opening night act for 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**.

At the launch, 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 residents and visitors to enjoy the colour, creativity and culture of the festival.

"This year's *Noosa Longweekend Festival* program is our most ambitious and prestigious to date, Ian said.

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

Whilst the 2010 festival included some big name acts, Ian stressed that the emphasis was on affordability and accessibility to the arts for all.

"We have worked diligently to ensure that this years' 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 Sarah** 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 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.

continued 2/...



- 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 Barne, 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. 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 Noosa events will be on sale at The J Box office phone (07) 5455 4455 or online at www.thej.com.au
- Tickets for Caloundra events will be on sale at The Events Centre, Caloundra phone (07) 5491 4240 or online www.etixdirect.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
- Special festival accommodation packages are available. Visit www.noosalongweekend.com for details.

-ENDS-

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

Trena-Louise Lyons, National Noosa Longweekend Festival Publicist 0423 764 260 or trena@newsroompr.com.au

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.

