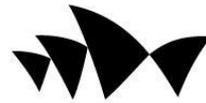


PRESS RELEASE: Monday 12 October 2015



PRINCIPAL PARTNER



Sydney Opera House presents  
**Homeground free festival of First Nations music, dance and arts  
returns November 2015**

**November 21 – 22 | Western Broadwalk, Sydney Opera House**

**Homeground**, the **Sydney Opera House's** free immersive festival of First Nations culture, returns to the Western Broadwalk on **21 – 22 November 2015** bigger and better than ever, with an expanded program of music and dance, the Homeground Arts Market and inaugural Dance Rites competition.

This year's line-up includes Canadian innovators A Tribe Called Red, Brisbane singer/songwriter Getano Bann, Tibetan throat singer Tenzin Choegyal, fusion stars OKA – the hit of Homeground 2014 – plus Pataphysics and the iconic Archie Roach, along with a rich and diverse dance program that includes eXcelsior, Jannawi Dancers, Koomurri, Malu Kiai Mura Buai Dance Troupe, Rako Dancers (Rotuma/Fiji) and Wagana Dancers.

Sunday 22 November also features the grand final of [Dance Rites](#), a ground-breaking new competition open to community dance groups from across Australia, that aims to reinvigorate vanishing Indigenous cultural practices. The winner of the competition will receive a \$15,000 prize and the opportunity to perform at Homeground 2016.

The Homeground Arts Market will be open throughout the weekend under the Opera House's Monumental Steps, offering indigenous crafts from across Australia and the opportunity to meet their creators. Free music, dance and arts workshops will be held for children in addition to weaving workshops and "Meet the Makers" sessions for the whole family.

**Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Leslie Williams** said: "NSW has the largest Indigenous population in Australia. Bennelong Point has been a sacred gathering place for Aboriginal people for 60,000 years, making Sydney Opera House the perfect home for this significant celebration of First Nations culture."

**Sydney Opera House Head of Indigenous Programming Rhoda Roberts** said: "This year we've created even more opportunities for audience members to get involved and share in the free, family-friendly experience that is Homeground. Alongside artist meet and greets, market stalls and workshops, the Opening Ceremony on Saturday night will kick off the event with a bang."

**Managing Director, AMP Capital Office & Industrial, Louise Mason** said: "AMP Capital is very proud to support Homeground, a celebration of Indigenous culture that is an important marker of the long and rich heritage we all share. We encourage everyone to come along and join in the experience."

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### **Homeground 2015 Line-up**

In five short years, Canadian based **A Tribe Called Red's** electric powwow has packed a powerful punch. Last year their second album, *Nation II Nation*, was nominated for two JUNO Awards (Canada's Music Awards), winning for breakthrough artist of the year. It was the first time an Indigenous artist had ever won outside the aboriginal category. Mixing traditional powwow vocals and drumming with cutting-edge electronic music, they've fast become a fixture on the festival circuit across North America, and the face of an urban Native youth renaissance.

**Getano Bann** is a singer, songwriter and music therapist who works with children on the streets, in drug rehabilitation and in detention centres. Of Scottish and Torres Strait Islander descent (his mother the daughter of warrior Chieftain Kebisu of Iama Island), Getano's performances are infused with a taste of the islands, his family, and his outreach work.

**Tenzin Choegyal** came to Australia in 1997 with little more than a bag, his dranyen and a voice full of passion for Tibet. His raw talent didn't go unnoticed by the music world; Tenzin is a regular at Woodford Folk Festival, WOMAD and has played at several Concerts for Tibet at Carnegie Hall, New York.

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Sunshine Coast collective **OKA** return to Homeground in 2015 with their signature blend of house, reggae, roots, jazz and world music. With independent album sales of more than 150,000 albums to date, they have

played festival stages around the world, sharing the bill with everyone from Arrested Development to Santana and Yothu Yindi.

Producer, MC and trumpet player **Pataphysics** has built a reputation for his unpredictable and energetic live performances. Listed in MTVs 'Top Ten Breakout Bands of Australia' and with a Mercury Prize under his belt, Pataphysics sound is a fresh, original blend of hip hop, jazz, and bass music which incorporates improvisation, live MPC jams, trumpet, wailing guitars, powerful political flows, and freestyles.

It is 25 years since Australia's trailblazing Indigenous singer / songwriter **Archie Roach** captured the hearts and minds of a nation with his debut album *Charcoal Lane*. Roach returns to the Sydney Opera House to mark the momentous occasion, joined on stage by friends including Emma Donovan, Adam Briggs and a very special guest.

Since making their electric debut in February 2014 at *Clancestry*, dance group **eXcelsior** have thrilled audiences around the country, opening for the Chooky Dancers and performing at the Asian Football Cup draw.

Under the direction of former Bangarra principal dancer and choreographer Peta Strachan, Sydney based **Jannawi Dancers** put a contemporary spin on traditional dance styles. They have toured internationally, performing at last year's Commonwealth Games in Glasgow.

With more than 30 years experience in Aboriginal education and entertainment, **Koomurri** represent NSW nations from the Yuin to the Gamillaroy and Bundjalung, under the guidance of song man Cecil McLeod.

Hailing from Boigu Island, the most northerly inhabited island of Australia separating Cape York Peninsula from the island of New Guinea, **Malu Kiai Mura Buai Dance Troupe** share traditional songs and dances based on everyday island life.

**Rako Dancers** are a collective of artists of Rotuman, Fijian and Pacific Island heritage, who blend ancient art forms and stories with innovative new works.

**Wagana** perform contemporary and traditional Aboriginal dances inspired by the beautiful Blue Mountains and Darug, Gundungurra & Wiradjuri peoples.

**Dance Rites** is a groundbreaking new dance competition aimed at revitalising Indigenous cultural leadership and dance practices. Community dance groups from around the country will compete for the inaugural title, and \$20,000 in total prize money, at the grand final on Sunday 22 November.

For more information visit [www.sydneyoperahouse.com/homeground](http://www.sydneyoperahouse.com/homeground)

## EVENT DETAILS

### Homeground

**WHEN:** Saturday 21– Sunday 22 November

**WHERE:** Western Broadwalk, Sydney Opera House

**TICKETS:** Free. For further information visit [www.sydneyoperahouse.com](http://www.sydneyoperahouse.com) or call 02 9250 7777

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Images are available to download [here](#). View highlights from [Homeground 2014](#).

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## MEDIA CONTACT:

Kasey Glazebrook: +61 3 9534 0585 | +61437 306 381 | [kasey@bridgespr.com](mailto:kasey@bridgespr.com)