

SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE AND LIVE NATION PRESENT

# THE SUMMER OF SUSTAINABILITY: DIRTGIRL'S GET GRUBBY MUSICAL HEADLINES A SUMMER OF ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES

*"Loads of fun, catchy songs and a strong message of respect for the environment." The Age on Get Grubby TV*

*"Fans will dig this exercise in 'eco-tainment'" The Herald Sun on dirtgirlworld*

*"Packed with information and motivation about exploring and protecting the natural world"  
The Canberra Times on dirtgirlworld*

Spreading the spirit of sustainability to the smallest theatregoers, the Sydney Opera House is committed to offsetting the season of **dirtgirl's get grubby musical**, the theatrical spin-off of international smash-hit animation dirtgirlworld. The Emmy Award-winning ABC show for kids aged 3 to 11 has its world stage premiere from 22 to 24 January. Dirtgirl's get grubby musical will be a green event as the CO2/carbon emissions generated will be offset through planting native, biodiverse forests through **Greenfleet**.

The World Heritage-listed Opera House, which this year was awarded 4 Star Green Star – Performance rating by the Green Building Council of Australia (GBCA), made 2015's Vivid LIVE a green event by offsetting emissions through the use of green power, carbon credits and other programs. Now the national icon is growing its environmental program to support the next generation of green thumbs.

Inspired by dirtgirl, her rakish recycling sidekick scrapboy and their trusty gnome, Costa (Gardening Australia's beloved presenter **Costa Georgiadis**) the Opera House has joined with Greenfleet, the Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney, Junior Landcare, Greening Australia, Edible Kids Gardens, The Jitterbugs, Kiki and Pascal and a host of others to offer kids natural craft workshops, conservation activities and sustainability superhero initiatives during this world-first eco-musical production that will get children (and their grown-ups) to get away from their screens and back into the dirt.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE SUMMER PLAYGROUND?

Greenfleet Pop-Up Forest  
Wild Animal Encounters  
Edible Kids Gardens' Bug Hotel  
Royal Botanic Gardens' Leafy Critter Workshop  
Performances by Heidi Hoops, Kiki and Pascal, The Jitterbugs and Rosie Catalano

Created by **Cate McQuillen and Hewey Eustace**, with an all-Australian cast, **dirtgirl's get grubby musical** is a timely conversation about conservation. Australians spend seven hours on screen for every hour they spend on outdoor recreation, according to Planet Ark's 2013 survey *Missing Trees: The Inside Story of an Outdoor Nation*. Spurred on by this imbalance, the creators of **dirtgirl's get grubby musical** set out to encourage the next generation to reconnect with nature – through love and laughter.

Characters from the hit TV show will share a uniquely Australian eco adventure live on stage, encouraging everyone to nurture their little patch of the earth. Meet **dirtgirl** the eco-actionist, who lives by the motto 'live simply, sing loudly,' her adventurous sidekick, **scrapboy**, who loves to turn old scrap into new inventions, and their trusty garden gnome, **Costa**.

Forget boring chores, grubby kids will learn how to get funky in the compost, take the Bucket List challenge at the get grubby fair and follow the honey trail to solve the mysterious disappearance of the local bees. Kids will leave the Opera House ready to hit the outdoors, eager to spread the message of sustainability at home and at school.

Broadcast in 129 countries, this Australian show has inspired a groundswell of kids' action, including dirtgirl

community gardens and recycling programs in local NSW councils and schools. And where better for the stage show to premiere than at the Opera House, which recently achieved a rare environmental achievement, especially for a heritage building, a 4 Star Green Star – Performance rating?

McQuillen and Eustace had this to say about debuting hit show on stage: "We're super excited to be heading to the Opera House this summer for a hilarious hour of eco-musical fun. It's such a joy to bring these much-loved TV characters to life on stage, with award-winning music, spectacular dancing and maybe a giant vegetable or two! Get ready to get grubby!"

Sydney Opera House Head of Children, Families & Creative Learning, **Bridgette Van Leuven**, says: "The Opera House is committed to protecting and renewing this iconic venue for future generations. The building has recently been awarded a 4 Star Green Star – Performance rating by the Green Building Council of Australia (GBCA) and we consider the environmental impact of everything presented on stage. Dirtgirl's get grubby musical represents a unique opportunity to involve the next generation in taking responsibility for of their local environment, including the Opera House, with lessons in sustainability through action. And of course, it is always fun to get grubby in the garden!"

Parents can take the 'go play outside' mantra a step further with dirtgirl's practical take-home ideas. So take back the backyard with dirtgirl and friends and let your love of nature bloom this summer!

Dirtgirl's get grubby musical is part of the Opera House's Kids at the House program, a year-round series of performances and creative experiences for young people. Keep up to date by joining us on our Facebook page: [Kids at the House – Sydney Opera House](#).

Images are available to download [here](#).

#### **DIRTGIRL'S GET GRUBBY MUSICAL**

**Dates:** 22 – 24 January 2016  
**Venue:** Playhouse, Sydney Opera House  
**Ages:** 3+  
**Bookings:** 02 9250 7777

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