

MEDIA RELEASE

Melbourne
Fringe



15 August 2011

Banjo

Celebrating Australia's favourite word-smith

There was movement at Northcote Uniting Church for the word had passed around, that the words of AB Paterson were on their way. Banjo, co-produced by Cate de Carteret and Samantha Deasy, is a Melbourne Fringe premiere, where an eclectic mix of Melbourne singer songwriters will perform Paterson's poetry with the legendary Damien Howard & The Ploughboys as house band. This is Paterson as you've never heard him before: unmasked and rockin' out.

Revamp Artist Management presents Banjo, an inspiring show that melds Paterson's lyrical poetry with diverse and original musical compositions and narrative.

The show leaves audiences refreshed by Paterson the writer, as opposed to the stereotypical 'Waltzing Matilda' legend. Banjo re-discovers the social commentary behind a selection of Paterson's works, which portrays themes such as love, death, war, art and, of course, the bush. Audiences will be exposed to some surprises in the 'Australiana' image: Paterson could be subtle, rich and compelling, while his descriptions of country are detailed, considered, romantic and powerful.

Author and musician Paul Spurling will open the show with a narration of his short story 'The Librarian Strikes Back', which links the story of Mulga Bill's Bicycle to a young boy's obsession with Star Wars.

The Ploughboys then back the murderous rasp of rock 'n roller Suzie Stapleton, the Bowie-esque baritone of electronic craftsman Mildsparrow, the soft croon of folkster poet Tristan Pierce, the dulcet country tones of songstress Samantha Deasy and Wanda Jackson, wannabe Cate de Carteret, as they perform their original interpretations of Paterson's words as song.

In the beautiful surrounds of Northcote Uniting Church, a stage set with iconic images projected onto sheets, hung up as if on a clothesline, with lighting beaming off corrugated iron - the sole nod to Australiana, serving as a perfect backdrop from which to move Paterson's scribbles from bush folklore to contemporary 'bushranger chic'. This show is for lovers of words and music alike. Don't miss it.

"An episode of ABC series Sea Change featuring Banjo's As Long as Your Eyes Are Blue inspired Cate de Carteret to memorize the poem using a melody and some chords. And so began a love of song writing, the poetry of Banjo Paterson and the idea for this show" - Samantha Deasy

"If not for Banjo Paterson, the Aussie identity maybe no more than a pink prawn, a red rock and a white beach - it's an honour to put his words to song, and bring them into a current context and remind us of the beauty and harsh reality of this vast land" - Mildsparrow aka Matt Davidson

"He's much more willing to be vulnerable than I first understood. We've unearthed some gems for this show, which in truth is a tribute to the man, not our musicality" - Tristan Pierce

<http://www.myspace.com/thebanjoshow>

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Banjo-The-Fringe-Festival-Show>

Banjo

VENUE

Northcote Uniting Church
251 High St
Northcote, Victoria 3071

DATES: 7-8 Oct

TIME: 7.00pm (60min)

TICKETS

Full: \$20.00

Concession: \$18.00

Group: \$18.00

TO BOOK visit melbournefringe.com.au or call (03) 9660 9666

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