

MEDIA RELEASE

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Food line-up and free Lake Street Dive show announced for Meriton Festival Village



Photo: Lake Street Dive, photo credit Danny Clinch

Opening this Friday 6 January, The **Meriton Festival Village** in Hyde Park will offer free and ticketed music and cabaret performances for 21 nights. Alongside a range of ticketed events in the Magic Mirrors Spiegel tent including the potent blend of drag, glamour and athleticism that is *Briefs: The Second Coming*, the free Village Stage presented by China Southern Airlines will deliver a diverse program of free events featuring cabaret, breath-taking acrobatics and aerialists, dance and music.

Just announced, **Lake Street Dive** will take to the free Village outdoor stage on Thursday January 12 to perform their perfectly balanced blend of rollicking soul, Motown pop, and knockabout R&B. Australia & New Zealand fell in love with *Lake Street Dive* on their debut tour last year and the Brooklyn based US band have since released their new album *Side Pony* on Warner/Nonesuch.

Lake Street Dive join a line-up of disco, soul, funk and Latin bands, providing Festival goers the party atmosphere to dance the summer evenings away in Sydney's Hyde Park. Featured in the line-up are denizens of dark romance **Spectres Of Love**, the pop rock sounds of **PIRRA**, the scuzzy pop of **Body Type**, the multicultural sounds of **Eastern Empire**, **Los Tones** bringing the garage rock, the bluesy talents of **Alice Terry** and the 15 piece orchestra and authentic Colombian singers of **Cumbiamuffin**. Out of Melbourne will be the colourful and eclectic trio **Broadway Sounds** and the calypso rhythms of **Mighty Duke & The Lords**.

Sydneysiders are invited to indulge their passions for quality food and beverages as Sydney Festival will serving up not only the highest quality art and big ideas, but some of the city's finest, hand-crafted and unique-to-the-festival flavours.

In 2017, vendors for the Meriton Festival Village will serve Japanese, Italian, Argentinian, Mexican and North American influenced dishes all made with the best local produce.

The renowned **Saké** chefs offer the very best in contemporary Japanese cuisine. Taking pride in creating innovative flavour combinations, the Sydney Festival menu will include "Japanese loaded fries" - crisp fried gobo chips with tonkatsu and kewpie mayo, Kirin braised lamb ribs with Furikake spice, kirin-ake sauce and

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Japanese slaw and their famous Prawn Shumai with spicy ponzu.

The heroes behind the very best of Italian cooking, **Fratelli Fresh**, will be offering crispy squid loaded hotdogs, fresh Caprese salad and duck ragu penne with orange and bitter chocolate, delivering the robust flavours, fresh produce and pasta options they are praised for.

Chefs **Ben Milgate** and **Elvis Abrahanowicz** have created two bespoke menus especially and exclusively for Sydney Festival's 2017 Meriton Festival Village. The **Porteño Pie Shop** riffs on the Argentinian influenced grill and updates an Aussie staple with hand-made pies filled with BBQ brisket with buttered peas and pickled jalapeño, grilled chicken, leek and tarragon and a tasty vege option: marinated peppers and eggplant with salsa verde.

The duo's magic inventiveness doesn't stop there: try South American street food with Milgate and Abrahanowicz's **Bodega Cantina**. The menu ranges from corn and cheese tamales to grilled chicken quesadillas and Chimichanga pibil, and they'll also be offering refreshing cold drinks and sweet ices.

Audiences are invited to indulge in their dude-food craving with juicy burgers and fried chicken courtesy of **Mary's**. The Mary's chefs use only the best quality O'Connor grass-fed beef on soft milk buns with real American cheese and house smoked bacon. Artisan gelato bar **Cow and the Moon** will also bring their house-made gelati straight from their "Gelato Lab" to Meriton Festival Village, with the world's best gelato makers catering for all sweet-tooth cravings. The **Double Roasters Caravan** will serve up hand-made pastries including cookies, brownies, lemon curd tart and gluten free gateaux perfectly paired with espresso coffees and cold juices created by **Trippas White Group**.

Festival goers can also enjoy a tittle from one of the Meriton Festival Village bars; with beer and cider from **Kirin** and a variety of wines from the Hunter Valley region including the perfect summer drink, Frose, on offer as a new menu addition from **James Estate Wines**.

In the Cutaway at Barangaroo Reserve, Newtown's #SausageQueen Chrissy Flanagan will be bringing her range of artisan sausages to Sydney Festival. **Chrissy's Cuts Sausage Dogs** are made with Chrissy's own sausages, which are hand-twisted from free range, prime cuts of meat - no leftovers, no preservatives, no mystery meat. With two menu offerings including a beef pastourma sausage and pork shoulder, crackling and cider sausage, audiences will be treated to only the best.

Also on the line-up are Roseberry's famous Da Mario with their '**Pizza da Mario Pop-Up**' – a bespoke shipping container designed by Victoria Hampshire, complete with a 3 tonne wood burning oven imported from Naples. The mobile container will be popping up at the Cutaway as an outdoor restaurant serving a selection of wood-fired pizza.

Catering to all your Middle Eastern Street needs, food vendor **Sundweesh** will be serving up its popular fillings of Kafta, tabouli, hummus or chicken with peri and slaw and more on custom sized Lebanese breads. **Bar Coco** will bring Alfio Coco's Italian heritage and undeniable passion to the Cutaway with barista-brewed coffee, gelato, soft serve cones and other delicious treats.

Where Meriton Festival Village, Hyde Park North & the Cutaway at Barangaroo Reserve

When Preview 6 January (Meriton Festival Village)
7–29 January



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