

MEDIA RELEASE

Level 5, 10 Hickson Road The Rocks
Sydney NSW 2000 Australia
Phone 61 2 8248 6500 Fax 61 2 8248 6599
sydneyfestival.org.au



Free at Meriton Festival Village

Hyde Park North, entry near the Archibald Fountain



Photo: **Osadia** at The Hair Salon

The Meriton Festival Village returns to Hyde Park for its third year with more than double its free entertainment offerings. While the Magic Mirrors Spiegeltent still plays home to a range of ticketed cabaret, music and comedy events, the village's new outdoor stage will host 21 days of free festival fun.

Hosted by the ebullient **Bob Downe** (aka **Mark Trevorrow**) and with more wigs than you can poke a curling wand at, **The Hair Salon** features *The Big Hair Show* – a cross-between Kath & Kim and Steel Magnolias with a touch of Hair Spray, created especially for the Sydney Festival Village, featuring a heady mix of cabaret, colour enhanced acrobatics, dance, music and special Sydney Festival guest artists. *The Perm Set* – a live music program featuring an amazing line up of Sydney's disco, soul, funk, and latin bands, and Spanish hair sculptors **Osadia**: incredible art performance hairdressers from Barcelona who create sensational hair sculptures on volunteers from the audience.

The **Orszaczky Budget Orchestra** will play a loving tribute to one of the most beloved and influential figures in Australian music. A crack team of his collaborators including singer and partner, **Tina Harrod** & bass-player **Dave Symes** (Prop, Boy & Bear) will channel the funk & soul fuelled energy of Orszaczky's iconic Tuesday night residencies.

A one-off, special event and a call-back to 2016's impromptu explosion of dancing in the Village to remember the music of the original Rocketman: **Let's Dance** celebrates the life of David Bowie with an evening of DJs, dancing and public participation inspired by the video-clip that was shot in Sydney in 1983.

Saturday afternoon around the Archibald Fountain, **Roller Jam** will be a roller-disco in the round. Sydney Festival is calling on all roller skaters of any age to strap on a pair of skates to glide, boogie and shake. For those of you without wheels, find a spot on the lawn around the skate circle and take in the tunes as the roller-skaters whirl around one of Sydney's iconic landmarks.

For the younger participants, please remember to bring your safety gear. All children under 14 must wear a helmet to participate. Full skater guidelines and more information will be available closer to the event.

MEDIA RELEASE

Level 5, 10 Hickson Road The Rocks
Sydney NSW 2000 Australia
Phone 61 2 8248 6500 Fax 61 2 8248 6599
sydneyfestival.org.au



Complete your free weekend at ***Soul Of Sydney***, which happens each Sunday afternoon. Everyone is invited to join in on the party vibes and dance-floor fun unearthing gems from afrobeat, New York disco, roller boogie, to early Chicago house and 90s hip-hop.

On Australia Day, ***Breaking Ground*** will be a funk-filled afternoon for the whole family. Australia's best B*boys and will B*girls battle it out. Featuring live performances by the cream of Sydney's hip-hop talent alongside DJs spinning the freshest beats, from the old to the new, Breaking Ground will be an old-school dance battle judged Australian hip-hop heavyweight and director **Nick Power** (*Cypher*, Sydney Festival 2016).

The Village Stage will also feature a stellar daily line-up of bands and DJs, which will be announced closer to the festival.

Where Hyde Park North, entry near the Archibald Fountain

When 9 – 29 January (closed Mondays)
Tue – Fri open from 4.30pm
Sat & Sun open from 12pm
26 January open from 10am
27 January open from 12pm

*Licenced venue. Under 18s must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

For interviews and further information contact:

Jessica Keirle, Publicity Manager jessica.keirle@sydneyfestival.org.au
Julia Barnes, Publicist julia.barnes@sydneyfestival.org.au
Georgia McKay, Publicist georgia.mckay@sydneyfestival.org.au