



MURUNDAK

The Black Arm band

Black Arm Band Featured Artists & Key Personnel

David Arden *Featured Artist, Co-Musical Director*

David Arden has worked with many Aboriginal artists, from Hard Time Band and Koori Youth Band to Bart Willoughby and Mixed Relations (including Building Bridges). As a guitarist with Archie Roach, he has toured extensively both nationally and internationally. He has also written and performed songs for numerous albums and worked alongside music director Chong Lim and members of Goanna, Crowded House, Not Drowning Waving, Hunters and Collectors, and Wedding Parties Anything. He has just completed a new album *Googatha/Gunditjmarra Clan* which is available soon.

Mark Atkins *Featured Artist*

Mark Atkins is a descendant of the Yamijti people of Western Australia and also of Irish–Australian heritage. He plays the didjeridu and is also a storyteller, songwriter, drummer and visual artist. He has performed around the world, working with musicians including Donal Lunney, Peter Sculthorpe, James Morrison, Jenny Morris, Philip Glass, Christine Anu, Tiddas, John Williamson and members of Led Zeppelin. In 1996 he performed with the London Philharmonic at London's Festival Hall. He is also a prolific instrument maker, making and painting didjeridus.

Lou Bennett *Featured Artist*

As a member of the group Tiddas, Australian Indigenous performer and songwriter Lou Bennett has performed to audiences in Australia and overseas. In 1999–2000 she joined US singer Jewel and female ensemble Sweet Honey in the Rock on their Australian tours, and performed at the world music festival WOMAD in the UK. She released her debut album *Time Out* in 2002 with her band Mama Lou's Sweet Cheeks and the Crazy Baldheads' Tim Prince and Peter Lawler. She has performed with numerous Australian and international musicians, including Archie Roach, Ruby Hunter, Christine Anu, Bangarra Dance Theatre, Bob Geldof, Arlo Guthrie, Weddings Parties Anything, Mark Seymour, Billy Bragg, Powderfinger and Jimmy Little; and has composed music and performed songs for film, television, theatre, and public events. She has also acted in three local theatre productions: *Magpie*, *Conversations with the Dead* and *Yanagai! Yanagai!*.

Aaron Choulai

Piano, Musical Arrangements

Papua New Guinea-born Aaron Choulai has worked as a music director and pianist for Kate Ceberano, recorded in New York for Sunnyside Records, headlined at festivals and performed with artists such as Clarence Penn, Ben Monder, David Shea and Allan Browne. He leads and writes for several original projects, including Vada and The Aaron Choulai Sextet. He has worked on several film scores, gaining nominations for the APRA Young Composers' Award and for Tropfest's Best Film Score in 2003. His latest album *Korema* is recorded with The Aaron Choulai Sextet and features a number of Melbourne musicians. The recording was made as part of the band's residency for Umbria Jazz Melbourne in 2005.

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Emma Donovan *Featured Artist*

Originally from northern New South Wales, Emma Donovan grew up in a musical family. She was a founding member of vocal trio, Stiff Gins, and has also appeared on a number of Australian Indigenous compilation CDs. She has sung alongside many of Australia's most respected Indigenous performers, including Frank Yamma, Archie Roach and Ruby Hunter, Kerriane Cox, Christine Anu, Tiddas, Yothu Yindi and Jimmy Little. In 2004 she travelled to Greece to perform for the opening of the *Indigenous Australia Now* exhibition prior to the Olympics, and then to Palau for the 10th Festival of Pacific Arts. In 2005 she recorded her debut solo album *Changes*. This year she has performed at the inaugural Dreaming Festival, the Perth International Arts Festival, the Australian Performing Arts Market in Adelaide and the Waitangi Day Ceremony in New Zealand; and has also toured to Paris.

Kutcha Edwards *Featured Artist*

Kutcha Edwards is a Mutti Mutti man born in Balranald in New South Wales. He was 'stolen' at 18 months of age and denied his birthright to grow up with his family, to experience his culture and to live his identity. As a teenager he was reunited with his family and so his journey began to retrieve his identity and reclaim his family and his community. For many years he was the lead singer in Blackfire. He has since formed Kutcha Edwards and Band. He has travelled to China, Mexico and Japan. His second album, co-produced by David Arden, is due out this year.

Joe Geia *Featured Artist*

Joe Geia is a north Queensland Aboriginal composer, guitarist, singer, traditional dancer and didgeridu player. His best-known song 'Yil Lull' has been recorded by numerous Australian artists. If there was an anthology of Aboriginal music Joe Geia's compositions would feature often as his songs a large part of the soundtrack of contemporary Indigenous music.

Shane Howard *Featured Artist, Co-Musical Director*

Shane Howard has recorded numerous albums as a solo artist and as part of the band Goanna, and his songs have been recorded by musicians including Mary Black, John Farnham and Lene Siel. He has worked for many years with Aboriginal musicians, as well as touring Ireland and forging Irish–Australian connections. He has produced albums for numerous artists, as well as for the Jimmy Chi musical *Corrugation Road*. In 2000 he was awarded an Australia Council fellowship. In 2001 he was an Australian representative at the North American Folk Alliance convention in Vancouver. He is also a founding member of the Tarerer Gunditj Project Association – a group of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people committed to cultural and environmental restoration in south-west Victoria.

Ruby Hunter *Featured Artist*

Ruby Hunter is an Aboriginal woman of the Ngarrindjeri clan of South Australia and the first Aboriginal woman to record her own album. She has recorded two albums, *Thoughts Within* and *Feeling Good*, and toured extensively in Australia and overseas. She performs regularly with long-time partner Archie Roach.

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Rachael Maza- Long Featured Artist

Originally from the Torres Strait Islands, Rachel Maza comes from a family of actors that spans three generations. She is a graduate of the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts. She has had an impressive career in theatre, film, television and radio since graduating in 1999, with credits including the films *Radiance*, *Cosi* and *Blood and Ash*, and television appearances in *Sea Change*, *Stingers* and *Marshall Law*. She has also narrated ABC Radio National's recording of *Rabbit Proof Fence* by Doris Pilkington (Nugi Garimara). In 1994 she was nominated for the Corner Award by the Sydney Theatre Critics' Circle, for Best Performance in *Radiance*, and in 2002 she was awarded a Green Room Award for Best Performance by an Actress in a Leading Role for her role in *Holy Day*.

Shellie Morris Featured Artist

Shellie Morris is an Indigenous Darwin-based singer-songwriter. Adopted out to Ian and Dorothea Dixon at an early age, she has traced her roots back to a Wardaman (Katherine area) grandfather remembered for his skills with guitar and voice, and a Yanyuwa (Borroloola area) grandmother who was taken from her family at eight years and brought up in Darwin's Kahlin compound. Her performance highlights include the Closing Ceremony of the Arafura Games in Darwin and the Adelaide Cabaret Festival; and she has shared the bill with touring artists including Yothu Yindi, Grinspoon, Vicka and Linda Bull, You Am I, Tiddas, Jimmy Little, Bluehouse, Rebecca's Empire and Magic Dirt. She was nominated for a Deadly Vibes Award in 2002. She also works with Indigenous communities and youth throughout Australia, helping young people to write music about their experiences.

Stephen Pigram Featured Artist

Stephen Pigram is a singer and musician who plays acoustic guitar, harmonica, requinto, vahlia, ukulele and dulcimer. He is one seventh of the country folk/rock band The Pigram Brothers, whose album *Saltwater Country* was voted Best Debut Album at the National Indigenous Music Awards in Sydney in 1998. Stephen has been a member of legendary Broome bands Kuckles and Scrap Metal and he was musical director for the original production of the first Aboriginal musical, Bran Nue Dae.

Steven Richardson Conception and Realisation

Steven has a broad experience in the arts spanning twenty years in a variety of artistic, producing and programming roles. He holds a Fine Arts degree in visual arts and also studied dance at Victorian College of the Arts before working professionally as a dancer with Dance Works and Dance Exchange. Steven joined Circus Oz in 1987 and toured with that company locally and internationally until 1991. Since that time Steven has worked in programming at the Victorian Arts Centre, as Director of Contemporary Music Events, Artistic Director of Big West, Executive Producer for Next Wave Festival, Artistic Director for *Eureka 150 – Diversity, Dissent, Democracy* (which brought him into contact with many Black Arm Band artists). He is currently Artistic Director of Arts House, Meat Market and North Melbourne Town Hall - a City of Melbourne contemporary arts initiative. He is also Deputy Chair of the Dance Board of the Australia Council for the Arts.

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Peter Rotumah Featured Artist

Peter Rotumah began performing in Melbourne in the early 1970s. As a member of the band Hard Times he wrote and performed several original songs. He studied music at the Centre for Aboriginal Studies in Adelaide and went on to play bass in Djaambi and various community bands before setting up his own band, 3 Gubbas & Me (later known as The Peter Rotumah Band). After touring the USA, he ventured into theatre, composing for and performing in numerous plays. His work earned him a nomination for a Green Room Award for Sound Design. He has also produced and played music for Koori children's circus, Circus Tarrangoss.

Dan Sultan Featured Artist

Dan was born with pure and extraordinary talent and is quickly gaining the momentum and recognition that he deserves. Winner of the 2007 Deadly Award for Single Release of The Year for "Your Love is Like a Song, he was also nominated for a 2006 Award "Most Promising New Talent. Dan was invited by Paul Kelly to contribute to the Kev Carmody tribute album and identified by John Butler who has funded Dan's debut album through The JB Seed program. Created with Scott Wilson, the debut album Homemade Biscuits is an accomplished album displaying versatility of talent with exceptional vocals that range from deep and velvet soulful yearnings to soaring heights reminiscent of Jeff Buckley. Each hook laden track finds its influence in Dan Sultan's soulful brand of roots-blues-country rock and delivers something unique.

Bart Willoughby Featured Artist

Bart Willoughby was the first Aboriginal artist to appear in and write lyrics for a docu-drama, the first to score a feature film and the first to sign a record deal. In 1978 he formed the band No Fixed Address and toured Australia and the UK. No Fixed Address are acknowledged as the tip of the spear of contemporary Aboriginal music and opened the door for many artists that followed. He also starred in the Australian film Wrong Side of the Road. He performed at the Edinburgh Festival with the band Coloured Stone before re-forming No Fixed Address and touring the USA with Yothu Yindi. In 1989 he formed a new band, Mixed Relations, and toured extensively in Australia and overseas. Bart has also worked with artists like Don Walker and Goanna and continues to tour internationally.

Ursula Yovich

Ursula Yovich has emerged as one of Australian theatre's most impressive young talents, and her recent appearance in Company B's production of Capricornia only further confirms that this young woman is a talent with a huge future. At the 2007 Helpmann Awards Ursula was named Best Actress for her performance, Ursula was also nominated for a Helpmann Award in 2006 for her performance in the Belvoir Street Theatre smash, The Sapphires. Ursula has a growing number of film and theatre credits to her name. Last year Ursula appeared in the acclaimed film Jindabyne, and she is currently working on Baz Luhrmann's film Australia, in which she plays a significant role. Ursula's music career includes her performance as Little Ragged Blossom in the musical The Adventures of Snugglypot and Cuddlepie and Little Ragged Blossom and her continuing solo music career.