



**River film: Festival artistic director Shelagh Magadza and the barge at Applecross last night.** Picture: Nic Ellis

# Bumper Festival ends

**STEPHEN BEVIS**  
ARTS EDITOR

A successful Perth International Arts Festival wraps up this weekend with free showings of a classic children's film on a big outdoor cinema screen anchored around waterways.

Nearly 5000 people were at Jeff Joseph Reserve on the Applecross foreshore for the first screening last night of *My Neighbor Totoro*, the 1989 animated film by Japanese master Hayao Miyazaki. French street performers Zic Zazou entertained them before the sun went down and lights went up on the screen on a barge in the river.

Bayswater City Council has sprayed against mosquitoes for the Floating Films move to Riverside Gardens, Bayswater, tonight. The film will be shown at Hillarys Boat Harbour south beach tomorrow night.

There have been bumper crowds at more than 250 theatre, dance, music, visual arts, film and writers events in three weeks. The \$11.6 million Festival exceeded its \$3.3 million break-even ticket sales target by taking more than \$4 million at the box office. The rest of its income came from grants and private sponsorship.

With many shows sold out, performances still to come this

weekend include the dance of *Borrowed Light* and Ballet at the Quarry, Trad and *The Turning* in the theatre, American jazz saxophonist Chris Potter and the Sunday night closing party with soul diva Sharon Jones at the Music Box on the Esplanade.

First-time PIAF artistic director Shelagh Magadza said the strong response from audiences encouraged her and her team to aim for bolder and better things next year.

"There is a great diversity now in the audiences and that is really heartening to see, from the boppers at the Music Box to the kids at the open day at the Writers Festival," Ms Magadza said.