Alice Desert Festival to get $180,000

Arts Minister, Gerry McCarthy today announced that the 2011 Alice Desert Festival will receive $180,000 funding towards this year’s event.

Minister McCarthy said the Territory Government is proud to support Central Australia’s premier arts and cultural festival.

“The Alice Desert Festival is a vibrant program featuring artists, dancers and musicians from Alice Springs and some of the remotest communities in Central Australia performing alongside some of the country’s hottest acts,” said Mr McCarthy.

“The Festival attracts audiences of around 50,000 people from around Australia to over 50 events across 10 days of stories, songs and the unique lifestyle of Central Australia.

“I look forward to this year’s line-up which includes local artists Warren H Williams and Desert Divas teaming up with the Darwin Symphony Orchestra to perform orchestral arrangements of contemporary Indigenous desert music.”

The 11th Alice Desert Festival is an initiative of Red HOT Arts Central Australia and will be held from 9-18 September.

2011 program includes new initiatives:

• Darwin Symphony Orchestra performing orchestral arrangements of contemporary indigenous desert music with Warren Williams and Desert Divas
• First Garden theatre project at Olive Pink Gardens – a site specific theatre piece about Olive Pink written by local writers Chris and Natasha Raja in development with national dramaturg Peter Matheson.

Signature events of the Alice Desert Festival:

• Wearable Art Awards (including collaborative works by established textile artists from NT and international artists as well as schools and community groups)
• Sunset Street Parade (annual arts based community parade encouraging community inclusiveness and participation)
• Pod Space at Anzac Oval (open air community multiarts celebration, free community events)
• Bush Bands Bash (one of Australia’s biggest indigenous music showcases presenting the best of Central Australia’s indigenous remote community bands in partnership with Music NT, CDU and several remote indigenous media centres)
• Kids Day (arts workshops, performances and interactive multi arts activities)
• Desert Voice (collaboration between Central Australian multicultural choir Asante Sana, choir master Morris Stuart and several indigenous community choirs presenting contemporary gospel and freedom songs)
• Festival Club
• Wild Bush Foods
• ‘Cinema by the River

For more information visit www.alicedesertfestival.com.au

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