



CELEBRATE THE WORLD WITH KULCHA EVENTS

As the year draws to a rapid close, activities at KULCHA continue to roll on. Any look at the KULCHA program of events shows that we are just warming up! As well as a bumper program of venue performances, November sees the culmination of months of planning for three landmark KULCHA special events involving important partnerships and artistic collaborations.

We combine with the West Australian Opera to present the *Bleu Blanc Rouge* French Festival on 26 November. This event, supported by the East Perth Redevelopment Authority (EPRA), and taking place in Northbridge, is a free event celebrating all things French. The project is a collaborative artistic partnership with the West Australian Opera to develop an arts audience for culturally and linguistically diverse groups.

KULCHA's involvement in this year's Fremantle Festival sees us embrace our home in the port city with two very special events, both supported by the City of Fremantle. The first of these events, Mediterranean 05, will give the local audience the opportunity to see a variety of performances reflecting the diversity of this culturally rich region. We are fortunate to have been introduced to the internationally acclaimed Egyptian oud player, Joseph Tawadros, now based in Sydney and visiting Perth for the first time. Joseph is a rising star who has received wide-ranging professional acclaim for his music. He will present a solo concert and workshop at the KULCHA venue, and will combine with his brother James and a wealth of local talent in a special collaboration at the Town Hall as the highlight of the event. KULCHA is committed to fostering and promoting multicultural talent, and will continue to work to develop opportunities for artists and audiences alike to experience the best on offer.

KULCHA proudly presents the international event, *VISIBLE* – a photographic exhibition by Bangladeshi street children. This project has been sponsored by AusAID and Bangladeshi Non-Government Organisation, PSTC (Population Services and Training Centre), with extra support by the Office of Multicultural Interests, the City of Fremantle and KULCHA.

This unique project showcases photographs taken by six street children who live in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Featuring their life stories, the event aims

to raise awareness about the issue of child rights in the majority world. It will also celebrate Bangladeshi culture and demonstrate the diversity of this rich culture to the local community.

This is an important project for many reasons. Bangladeshi street children are one of the world's most marginalised groups. In a country where 50% of the population is living below the poverty line, they represent the bottom of the social hierarchy. They are denied an identity and frequently subjected to violence in some form or another – be it public humiliation, harassment, or in more extreme cases, physical and sexual abuse.

As Bangladesh's urban population increases at an alarming 9% per year, so too does the number of street children. Illiteracy and poverty prevent these children from having a voice in the international community. If the problems facing street children are going to be overcome on a long-term basis, it is imperative that they are heard. It is a process that not only empowers them with a sense of identity and self-worth, but one that will help ground development programs and policies in the reality of their day-to-day lives.

The *VISIBLE* project seeks to develop a sense of self-worth amongst street children and offers a rare opportunity for self expression, creativity and self development. The project teaches the children about the power of visual imagery and how photographs can be used to express feelings and ideas. By listening to these children and by valuing the work they produce, the project is building a level of confidence and self-value the children have never had the space to develop.

The first stage of the project will culminate in two exhibitions – firstly at the KULCHA venue, then at the National Museum, Dhaka, Bangladesh – that will showcase photographs taken by street children. The exhibitions will raise awareness of the issues facing street children in Dhaka and provide advocacy support to the primary project partner, PSTC. Money raised at the exhibitions will help strengthen the service capacity of the PSTC's two street children programs.

In the lead-up to the launch of the Fremantle exhibition, the *VISIBLE* project will be running a series of workshops sponsored by the City of Fremantle in selected Fremantle primary schools. The workshops will raise awareness about the issues faced by children worldwide and promote a cross-cultural dialogue between Australian school children and Bangladeshi street children.

Footage taken from the *VISIBLE* project and Fremantle school workshops will be shown throughout the exhibition at KULCHA. The launch, on Sunday 20 November (Universal Children's Day), will also provide an opportunity for those who attend to record a video message for Bangladeshi street children. These messages will be screened at the Dhaka *VISIBLE* exhibition and throughout street children drop-in-centres in Dhaka.

We are very grateful to have South Australian-based and highly acclaimed musician Akhter Jahan as a guest performer at the *VISIBLE* Photo Project launch. Akhter has kindly donated her time to this project,

The Visible Photo Project. Photo by Polly



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FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER (CONT'D)

recognising the importance of the event in raising global awareness of issues in her former homeland. We hope you can join us at this special fundraising event.

Special thanks to Melissa Hurd and Ara Jerejian, who have coordinated this event from Dhaka, Bangladesh, for their constant enthusiasm and incredible organisational skills across the miles.

Thanks also to all KULCHA members and supporters who participated in our recent survey. We will be collating information over the next few months and look forward to using the information to improve our services to members and stakeholders.

On another note, I would like to extend congratulations to Multicultural Arts Victoria and KULCHA member Wai Paki (on behalf of Te Rangatahi Maori Club), on the success of the recent Festival of New Zealand in Melbourne. The event attracted 50,000 people and showed how arts and cultural events can successfully unify communities and celebrate diversity.

Wishing you the very best for a safe, happy and culturally full festive season!

Loretta Martella
GENERAL MANAGER

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In writing this message, I am once again left wondering about the damage that the recent 'Bali Bombings' are doing to multiculturalism as a policy framework and the role of arts and culture in enhancing the concept. I was driven to look at the experience in Canada, always regarded as the bastion of multicultural policy and very much the leader in this area. I searched some Canadian websites that address this issue well and I have borrowed from their work in order to place the contextual setting for KULCHA. I shall quote from one particular website ...

"Aboriginal artists and culturally diverse artists are impressing Canadian and international audiences, and they are continuing to shape the cultural landscape of the country. Canada is one of the most diverse societies in the world, and by the year 2020 it is estimated that immigration will account for Canada's total population growth. Canada's approach to diversity is based on the understanding that 'respect for cultural distinctiveness is intrinsic to an individual's sense of self worth and identity, and a society that accommodates everyone equally is a society that encourages achievement, participation, attachment to country and a sense of belonging ... In keeping with this objective, and in an effort to increase arts audiences, the Council has identified the youth, Aboriginal and culturally diverse communities as strategic funding priorities."

(cited: http://www.pch.gc.ca/progs/multi/respect_e.cfm > accessed 4 October)

The three areas of strategic funding priorities identified as youth, Aboriginal and culturally diverse communities are very much the areas that KULCHA is seeking to develop. Our priority will be the youth of Australia and trying to ensure culturally significant experiences for all children in our community. Already, of course, our reason for existence is the culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) community. The Aboriginal communities do have some support structures in so far as arts and culture is concerned and we will work far more vigorously with these groups to ensure that we do not marginalise the original inhabitants of this country. But we recognise that the youth will play a major part in the future directions for this country. So stay tuned and ask your children to be more involved in our programming and development priorities.

Suresh Rajan, KULCHA President



ARTIST PROFILE

Alice Langa, MOZAMBICA

Alice Langa was born in Mozambique and has been living in Australia for 6 years. She learnt to dance and play music from her grandfather as a tradition passed on in childhood that was very much part of village life in Mozambique. Her grandfather travelled the world playing the timbila in jazz bands. He was invited to festivals in Germany and also travelled to Spain, Portugal and Holland to perform. Alice originally arrived in Melbourne and played music in Lismore. People who heard her music cried because they said it was so beautiful. As a consequence she was invited to teach at Southern Cross University. Alice said that she never thought her music was something special until she travelled to Australia and people responded to her. Alice moved to Perth from Melbourne and made contact with KULCHA.

Alice has been running the Mozambica workshops on Saturdays at KULCHA through September and October. Participants have been learning traditional Mozambican song, dance, and music with traditional instruments through a series of workshops. In the workshop the rhythms and movement of songs of the Shangane, Ronga and Shop people of Mozambique were explored and instruments such as the timbila, batuqueiros (drums) and shakers were introduced.

As part of this cultural experience it is important that participants gained an understanding of how song and dance in Mozambique is part of everyday life. Mozambicans develop an understanding and sensitivity to performance from an early age by engaging with the community in learning dance and song as a natural part of daily life. Alice believes that for the music and dance to be meaningful, African music must be studied within the context of African life. The Mozambica group will perform as part of a multicultural dance event at KULCHA called *Women in Dance*. The project was funded through Community Arts Network Western Australia (CANWA) with a Catalyst grant.

WOMEN IN DANCE ~ Saturday 5 November, 8pm



COMMUNITY ARTS NETWORK FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

CATALYST: Community Arts Fund

Catalyst funding is for projects that are for Western Australian communities; provide opportunities for communities to work together to plan and develop arts projects; promote community participation in arts and culture; express communities' collective identity; communicate across cultures; integrate arts and culture into everyday life; have longer term spinoffs. Additionally, Catalyst funding provides experienced community artsworkers with professional development opportunities.

Closing date -10 March 2006 for projects commencing after 15 July 2006

SHARING STORIES: Community Sponsorship Fund

This fund is sponsored by Healthway to promote Relationships Australia's message *Make Time to Talk* and is managed by Community Arts Network Western Australia Ltd. Sharing Stories is a new developmental community arts sponsorship program which aims to encourage community participation and inspire creativity, with a particular focus on young people.

Closing date - There are no closing dates - refer to guidelines form for details. Please check out the website for the Sharing Stories, Community Sponsorship Fund at www.canwa.com.au

MEDITERRANEAN

For this year's Fremantle Festival KULCHA will be visiting the villages and shores of the Mediterranean over a series of linked events.

Our feature performer is Joseph Tawadros from Sydney, *'the Slava Grigoryan of the oud'*. Joseph was born in Cairo and immigrated with his family to Australia in 1986, bringing with him a personal style of oud playing based on Egyptian taqasim, a performing style akin to improvisation. Joseph maintains an active career both in Australia and overseas, performing with the Australian Chamber Orchestra, Neil Finn and Karin Schaupp. Joseph will be joined by his brother James, performing *req'*, a small hand held tambourine traditionally with skin covering and five pairs of cymbals.

Joseph and James will feature in our Mediterranean Showcase Concert at the Fremantle Town Hall, as part of special collaboration with local musicians Mark Cain, Lucky Oceans and Mel Robinson. Also appearing at this concert will be flamenco from Farida Rabih, Commedia Academy from Giri and Sanjiva, Bosnian accordion and a maelstrom of Mediterranean tunes from the Last Five Coins.

Joseph and James Tawadros will also perform solo and conduct a workshop. Younger KULCHA patrons can attend a guitar workshop with Tim Chambers and Simon Rovis Hermann.

KULCHA also invites you to celebrate the first anniversary of Fremantle businesses Le Forum bookshop and JJ's Cafe at their French Soirée. And the Mediterranean 05 festivities will kick off with an open air dance performance at the King's Square markets, featuring dancers and singers from France, Croatia and Spain. So run away with us to the Mediterranean ... if only for a few days.

Mediterranean 05 is supported by the City of Fremantle.

MEDITERRANEAN 05 EVENTS

LUNCHTIME DANCE AND SONG

Thursday 17 November, 12.30 – 1.30pm, Kings Square, Fremantle

JOSEPH TAWADROS

Thursday 17 November, 8pm, KULCHA

MEDITERRANEAN SHOWCASE

Saturday 19 November, 8pm, Fremantle Town Hall

FRENCH SOIRÉE

Thursday 24 November, 7.30pm, KULCHA

MEDITERRANEAN 05 WORKSHOPS

MEDITERRANEAN GUITAR, CHILDRENS WORKSHOP

Saturday 19 November 10 – 11am, KULCHA

JOSEPH TAWADROS WORKSHOP

Saturday 19 November, 1 – 3 pm, KULCHA



Joseph Tawadros

CROATIAN CULTURAL WEEK RETURNS TO KULCHA

The Croatian Community have again planned a series of events to take place throughout November to coincide with the Fremantle Festival. Two events will take place at KULCHA; an evening of song and dance and a Croatian language comedy drama. These will be complimented by an exhibition of Croatian Contemporary Graphic Art at the WA Maritime Museum and Croatian films to be shown at the Croatian Community Centre in North Fremantle.

AN EVENING OF CROATIAN SONG & DANCE

Friday 25 November, 8.30pm

OUR STORY ~ NASA POSLA

Saturday 26 November, 8.30pm

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Multicultural Arts Officer Report

The suburban road trip between Perth communities has led me on a connection adventure. The distances I travel remind me of the vastness of Perth, its distances and its people.

Through my role as Multicultural Arts Officer I have been meeting, listening, engaging and sharing cups of tea with community agencies, groups and individuals. Many issues have arisen through these exchanges. One of the most important being the desire and need to create and develop relationships between people and the communities they live within.

KULCHA's focus is to provide activities to involve and link communities. The communities we are beginning to engage and re-engage with are responding with enthusiasm. Through the upcoming projects in the City of Stirling, the City of Wanneroo and the City of Fremantle we hope to inspire community discussions and provide an opportunity to discover artistic skills and ideas for future projects.

Sarah Wilkinson, Multicultural Arts Officer



TOURING OPPORTUNITIES

Kultour Deadlines

Kultour is a national network dedicated to touring Australian multicultural arts. Kultour's program of events is a microcosm of contemporary artistic practice in Australia. With the aim of creating new audiences for some of our most talented artists, it crosses genres, styles and cultures. Each year the members of kultour come together to select a program of events. The next kultour meeting is scheduled for March 2006. There are currently 11 network members and together they cover every State and Territory. KULCHA is seeking expressions of interest from multicultural artists and producers to apply for touring funding through the kultour network in 2006. The deadline for artists and producers to express an interest in touring programs after March 2006 is 9 December. Please email Rosie Johnstone on programming@kulcha.com.au or phone 9336 4544 for more details. Kultour is an initiative of the Australia Council for the Arts.



Country Arts of Western Australia

For touring opportunities in regional Western Australia please contact Touring Project Officer Julie Luxton at Country Arts Western Australia for *Shows on the Go*.

Alternative Funding Opportunities

ArtsWA	www.artswa.wa.gov.au
Healthway	www1.healthway.wa.gov.au
Western Australian Lotteries Commission	www.lottery.wa.gov.au
Australia Council	www.ozco.gov.au
Office of Multicultural Interests	www.omi.wa.gov.au



Zhiva Voda, kultour visiting artists, June 2005

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

International Human Rights Day is a significant event on the international calendar and highlights the importance of freedom and inclusiveness for all people. This event will endeavour to keep Human Rights issues at the forefront of people's minds, contributing to a more balanced and equitable community.

KULCHA Multicultural Arts of WA will collaborate with the City of Melville and the Western Australian branch of Amnesty International to present a free outdoor concert at Heathcote Reserve to commemorate the 57th anniversary of International Human Rights Day. The event will include performances, community activities, displays and an awards ceremony honouring local Indigenous activists.

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY CONCERT ~ Saturday 10 December, 3 – 6pm
FREE COMMUNITY EVENT ~ Heathcote Reserve



BLEU BLANC ROUGE FRENCH FESTIVAL ~ NORTHBRIDGE

Come and celebrate all things *très chic* and French at this special FREE community event presented by KULCHA and supported by the East Perth Redevelopment Authority (EPRA). The French language and culture are celebrated worldwide and KULCHA has developed an exciting and inspired program of events drawing on the *joie de vivre* of French cultural influences. *Titi-Parisien* cabaret singer Pascale performs a Tribute to Edith Piaf. The West Australian Opera perform songs from French composers Satie and Polenc and much more. Cajun band Catfish performs songs from Louisiana. Island band Seychelles Rhythms sing in French against the backdrop of reggae zouk. French dance group Souleïado perform dances from the Alsace region of France.

Plateia Hellas ~ 92 – 98 Lake Street, Northbridge
Saturday 26 November 4 – 7pm
FREE COMMUNITY EVENT



CHRISTMAS CHRISTMAS BREAK

The KULCHA administration will be closed from Friday 21 December, 5pm to Monday 9 January, 9am

There will be events in the venue on 30 & 31 December – check our calendar or website for details