



## SUMMER GROOVES AT KULCHA



Images from top: Grace Barbe, Sham and WALA.

KULCHA kicks off summer with our popular free concerts across the metropolitan area – *Touch the Sun* in the City of Mandurah; *Living Cultures* in the City of Rockingham; and *KULCHA on Swan* in the City of Swan.

These events are great examples of what can be achieved with partnerships between local government and the arts sector. The concerts are accessible to all ages and reflect the vitality and diversity of contemporary cultural life in Western Australia. They are a unique opportunity to see a quality program of world music ... at no cost! I would like to thank our program partners – the City of Swan, City of Mandurah, and City of Rockingham – for their innovative approach to including cultural activities into their program, and look forward to a dynamic and exciting series of events. There are plenty of musical styles to choose from so I hope you join us at a few of these concerts.

In another exciting partnership, KULCHA joins forces with the Film and Television Institute as part of their Fremantle Outdoor Film Festival. We are pleased to present the beautiful film, *Live and Become* by Radu Mihaileanu. The evening will be made even more special with live performances from artists from the Ethiopian community prior to the film screening. Please see the back page of this newsletter for more information or check our website.

Enjoy your summer at a KULCHA event!

Loretta Martella  
GENERAL MANAGER



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members

Another year has passed as we forge ahead to 2007, after an extremely successful year at KULCHA. It would appear that we have turned the financial corner, but success is not measured in financial terms alone and the artistic and community development work that has happened to take KULCHA to this point of success has been through the hard work and dedication of a strong team led by our General Manager, Loretta Martella.

The KULCHA Board is mindful of the efforts these dedicated individuals give to the organisation in the pursuit of excellence in multicultural arts and for that KULCHA and its members are so very lucky. It is one thing to have staff, but another to have staff with passion about what they do.

I would also like to thank our sponsors, without whom their assistance makes the journey much more difficult. A special thanks to Jubilee Mines, who have a long-standing relationship with KULCHA that is greatly valued, through their support of the KULCHA World Music Carnival and the most recent *Bleu Blanc Rouge* French Soiree, which was a resounding success.

You may have noticed that the Board is reshaping itself to take on the challenges of the year ahead and we welcome Alicia Castillo to the Board. We also say goodbye to Sue Rolinson and Tracey Cinavas who, given heavy work commitments in 2007, have decided to step down. We are grateful to both Sue and Tracey for their time and valuable contribution to KULCHA and wish them well for the future. I have taken on the President's role following the resignation of Suresh Rajan, and I look forward to playing a part in leading KULCHA into the exciting time ahead.

As members of KULCHA, you are always welcome to our venue in Fremantle and it would be great to see our members supporting the extensive program of events the team at KULCHA program each month.

## Dance DANCE DIALECTS

KULCHA is pleased to partner with Ausdance WA to present *Dance Dialects 2007* – a professional development project for multicultural dance artists that will result in a dynamic new performance work.

The project involves workshops for the dance community with Premala Sangarananda (Indian Classical Dance), Lynn Martlew (Spanish Dance) and Lee West (Indigenous Dance); which will culminate with performances at the third annual *TasteDanceJam* event on Sunday 29 April.

**If you would like to get involved in the *Dance Dialects* workshop series or would like information on auditioning for *TasteDanceJam* in January, please contact AusdanceWA on 9322 6101.**

## ARTIST PROFILE



### JIM MCGRATH DRUMS & RHYTHMS OF THE WORLD

Californian percussionist Jim McGrath has spent over 30 years learning drumming techniques from around the world. In 1992 he started his own music label *Talking Drum Records* and has since released five solo albums, the latest of which – *Submerge* – has been largely produced from his Floreat studio. Having made the move from Los Angeles to Perth 18 months ago, this talented musician is now focused on sharing his passion for percussion with a newer, younger audience.

Jim has been specialising in children's percussion workshops for the past 12 years. Using 'boom whackers', shakers, tambourines and cow bells he has crafted a hands-on musical learning experience that gives children the opportunity to see how different sounds and rhythms are created.

"Drumming is such a great way to ground yourself and feel in touch with your body," says Jim. "Aside from improving skills in rhythm and coordination, the community of a drumming circle promotes respective listening, group bonding and self confidence."

Having learnt percussion from some of the best LA-based drumming masters, Jim is able to demonstrate the diversity of drums and rhythms from a variety of countries including Brazil, Cuba, Peru, Ireland and India. After spending years focusing on percussion workshops for young children, Jim has now developed workshops for young adults.

"Working with young children is a magical experience because it's often the first time they've had an opportunity to really explore their sense of rhythm and how sounds are created. With young adults, however, we can obviously go a lot further rhythmically - learning different techniques and more sophisticated rhythms."

**For the school holidays, Jim will be running two drumming workshops at KULCHA - one on Wednesday 17 January for children and the other on Wednesday 24 January for young adults. With limited places, bookings are essential ~ phone (08) 9336 4544 or visit [www.kulcha.com.au](http://www.kulcha.com.au)**

"The collective energy of group drumming is a powerful experience. I encourage people to come along and have some fun – at the end of the day that's what it's all about."

For more information on Jim's workshops please visit [www.drumsandrhythmsoftheworld.com](http://www.drumsandrhythmsoftheworld.com)



## DISCOVER the world

KULCHA's *Discover the World* education program continues in 2007

### BACK TO SCHOOL

From African percussion to flamenco dancing, KULCHA's *Discover the World* education program offers a wide range of in-school workshops and performances for both metropolitan and regional areas. If you're a teacher or community worker interested in promoting cultural diversity and artistic development in your school, please give us a call on (08) 9336 4544.

Here's a sample of some of the workshops and/or performances we can organise for your school:

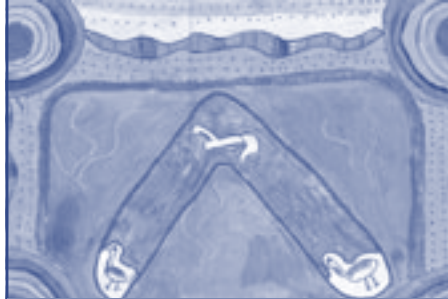
- Mudhra Dance Company – Classical Indian Dance
- Wadumbah – Aboriginal Dance Group
- Akwaaba – West African Drumming, dancing and handicraft
- Balvinder and Vick – Classical Indian sitar and tabla
- Belyssa Academy of Dance Orientale – Arabic, Turkish Persian & fusions with pop Arabic, Indian, Latin & Spanish (belly-dancing)
- Capoeira Muzenza Group – Afro-Brazilian music
- Pascale – French singing, acting & dancing

### CALLING ALL ARTISTS!

If you're an artist who is interested in sharing your cultural artform through school and/or community workshops we'd love to hear from you. With bi-monthly artist profiles, weekly event emails and the KULCHA website, we can offer some great promotional opportunities for your work. Please contact our Program and Events Officer Brooke Kelly at [programming@kulcha.com.au](mailto:programming@kulcha.com.au)



## VISIBLE – SHARING STORIES



Samples of artwork on -route to Bangladesh from the art students at White Gum Valley Primary school.



Amar desh Australia! – Beaconsfield Primary



Talking pictures – Fremantle Primary

A cross-cultural exchange between students at White Gum Valley Primary School and street children living in Dhaka, Bangladesh, is still underway more than a year after the VISIBLE project visited the school.

In November 2005, KULCHA organised for the VISIBLE project to visit four schools in the City of Fremantle. This project had been using digital photography with street children in Bangladesh to create an opportunity for them to share their thoughts and stories.

As part of the VISIBLE workshops, project coordinators Melissa Hurd and Ara Jerejian shared some of the photographs and stories from the Bangladeshi children who participated in the project. This prompted a wider discussion on the issues facing children in the developing world.

After the workshop, the Fremantle children had the opportunity to record video messages that were sent back to Bangladesh and played at the drop-in-centres. These messages were received with much enthusiasm – especially the ones in Bangla – and the Dhaka children responded by sending artwork back to Australia for display in the schools.

Art Teacher, Catherine Henderson from White Gum Valley Primary, found the workshops provided endless material for discussion and use in art classes. The mid-year arrival of the artwork from Bangladesh provided a great opportunity to re-visit the workshops and over the past term her students have been creating artwork and letters to send back to Bangladesh in time for the Eid celebrations in December 2006.

"This has been an amazing project. The stories, photographs and artwork sent by the Bangladeshi children have had such a big impression on these kids," said Catherine. "This sort of dialogue creates awareness about how the majority of children in this world live. Fostering that awareness at a young age is vital if we're going to effect real change in the way we engage with the rest of the world."

*The VISIBLE workshops were funded by the Office of Multicultural Interests and the City of Fremantle.*





## kultour – Touring Australian Multicultural Arts

## FREMANTLE FILM FESTIVAL

The Fremantle Outdoor Film Festival (FOFF) is an annual summer film festival coordinated by the Film and Television Institute (FTI) in Fremantle.

Each night, the best local short films are screened prior to the feature film, showcasing Australian talents both behind and in front of the lens.

FOFF 2007 runs from Friday 2 - Saturday 24 February and includes the popular 'WASA Wednesdays' showcasing the finalist entries in the 20th WA Screen Awards.

As part of this year's festival, KULCHA is thrilled to present the film *Live and Become* and supporting short film *The Eclipse*, with food, market stalls and live music from 6pm. Get down to Princess May Park in Fremantle on Saturday 3 February for a cultural evening under the stars. Tickets are \$20 / \$18 concession and available from BOCS (08) 9484 1133.

### Short film: *The Eclipse*

(unrated, 8.5mins)

*When Daniel asks his Iranian girlfriend, Hanna, to join him in travelling to photograph the Lunar eclipse he is faced with her disapproving Mother.*

### Applications for 2008

kultour is a national, not for profit company dedicated to touring multicultural performance and visual art. The network was established by the Australia Council in 2001 as an initiative of the Arts in a Multicultural Australia policy.

With the support of the Australia Council kultour develops an annual national multicultural touring program. These annual programs aim to educate, inspire and entertain. They allow local professional artists to reach new audiences in new areas and, in turn, allow Australian audiences to gain insight into the exciting multicultural work that is currently on offer in the arts in Australia.

Each year kultour and its board of directors invites artists and art workers to apply for inclusion in the annual touring program. If you are interested in applying, the staff at KULCHA would love to help! Please call (08) 9336 4544 to discuss your application. KULCHA is responsible for presenting your application at the selection meeting and for representing you if your application is included in the final touring program.

For more information please visit [www.kultour.com.au](http://www.kultour.com.au)

Applications for kultour 2008 can be downloaded from the kultour website and should be submitted to the kultour Chief Executive Officer by email no later than 5pm Thursday 1 February, 2007.



Live and Become

### Feature: *Live and Become*

(M+, 140 minutes)

*At the end of 1984 the Israeli army airlifted 8,000 Ethiopian Jews from refugee camps in Sudan to Israel. Live and Become tells the story of a young Christian Ethiopian boy who is passed off as an African Jew to escape his ravaged country. Once in Israel, he is adopted by a Jewish family and renamed Schlomo. An emotionally searing film about culture and identity. Winner of 6 international awards.*

**Gates open at 6pm, entertainment from 7pm, films start at 8:30pm**

For the full FOFF program visit [www.fti.asn.au/events/fof](http://www.fti.asn.au/events/fof)

