



HOT INTERNATIONAL ARTISTS AT KULCHA IN MARCH & APRIL



Chris Smither (above), coming to KULCHA in April.
Iranian Short Films (below) at KULCHA in March.



I hope you were able to see at least one KULCHA event during the summer months! We have plenty more wonderful performances coming up at the KULCHA Venue and as part of our ever-growing events program.

KULCHA's partnership with Fairbridge Festival in the presentation of high quality entertainment continues with a swag of international acts – Ged Foley and Kevin Burke, Chris Smither, Alistair Hulett & Dave Swarbrick and the Mammals from New York. Local acts at the venue include Peter Brandy, Grace Barbe and a celebration of Iran with three events including *Norooz*, a short film night and a photographic exhibition by Reza Jahan Panah.

On the dance front, we're all set to celebrate International Dance Day with our good friends at Ausdance WA. The third annual *TasteDanceJam* event will light up Perth with a celebration of movement and rhythms on Sunday 29 April. Join us for the dance workshops during the day and stay to witness the performances by an incredible array of talent from WA's dance scene. Don't miss the three live music collaborations choreographed by Premala Sangarananda, Lee West and Lynn Martlew, and supported by the Office of Multicultural Interests.

KULCHA's *Discover the World* Education program continues in 2007 and the celebration of Harmony Week in March is a busy time for in-school workshops and performances across the metropolitan area. KULCHA is also proud to present the Narasirato Pan Pipers in a series of school performances, in collaboration with local musician Peter Keelan. If you'd like to book a culturally diverse act for a school near you, let us know!

Special thanks to the Film and Television Institute for inviting KULCHA to participate in their wonderful Fremantle Outdoor Film Festival in February. I'm sure that everyone in attendance enjoyed the special evening in Fremantle and we look forward to developing this partnership with FTI who are fostering an innovative and diverse independent screen community and culture throughout WA.

I hope to see our members at the AGM in March and thank you for your ongoing support.

Loretta Martella
GENERAL MANAGER

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is full steam ahead under the stewardship of our General Manager, Loretta Martella, and her team has programmed a plethora of exciting, inviting and entertaining events for your pleasure during March and April.

Welcome to a new member on staff, albeit temporarily, Jenny Simpson, who is undertaking the marketing role. She comes with a bucket load of experience and is forging KULCHA's presence in our Western Australian community.

We have some exciting projects in the pipeline and are continuing to work across a variety of art-forms including music, dance, theatre, visual arts, and film. The photographic exhibition *Sudan – Waiting for the Future* generated a lot of interest with many people dropping into KULCHA to view the exhibition throughout January and February.

Our partnership with the Film and Television Institute (FTI) to present a film as a part of the Fremantle Outdoor Film Festival was successful and an enjoyable evening was had by all. We were thrilled that film makers, Shirin and Reza Jahan Panah were able to join us on the night for the screening of their short film *The Eclipse* and we look forward to celebrating *Norooz* (Persian New Year) with them and the Iranian community in March.

KULCHA is continuing to broaden its reach with the very successful offsite programs – *Living Cultures* at Rockingham, *Touch the Sun* in Mandurah and *KULCHA on Swan*. We thank these program partners for their ongoing support and commitment to the celebration of cultural diversity.

I would like to bring to your notice the upcoming AGM on Tuesday 27 March 2007 at KULCHA commencing at 6.30pm. Your support is needed for the ongoing management of KULCHA and this year sees all four elected Board positions up for re-election or election. These are the President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

After four years on the Board in the capacity as Treasurer and President, I am stepping down at the AGM to make way for a new Board membership to continue to take the organisation from strength to strength. I have enjoyed the journey thus far which could not have been possible without the support of the great staff along with Board colleagues. I wish all members, friends and the Board all the success for the future.

Alan Abraham
President, Board of KULCHA

PSSST.....GUESS WHO IS HAVING A BIRTHDAY SOON?

In May KULCHA will be celebrating 10 years in its magnificent Fremantle venue. There are whisperings and excited tones in the KULCHA office about a BIG celebration in the planning. Rumour has it that party hats and frocks will be donned around 10 May so mark your diaries and stay tuned...

ARTIST PROFILE

SHIRIN & REZA JAHAN PANAH



March brings us a very special photographic exhibition at KULCHA, featuring the talents of Iranian couple Shirin & Reza Panah.

From Iran, Shirin and Reza have lived in Australia for five and half years. Their journey to Australia started 25 years ago when Shirin's adventurous Uncle emigrated to Perth. Shirin's father visited and fell in love with Australia and soon he and the family followed. Shirin and Reza met as students in Iran and it was a few more years before they were able to marry and emigrate to Australia in 2001.

Since that time, both have remained passionate about their art and have continued to create. Shirin is a film maker and Reza, a photographer/cinematographer. At times the lack of support for the arts in Australia has been frustrating. *It is very different here to Iran. Iran is a country that is passionate about films and film making – films that are good art, not under so much pressure to be commercial entertainment. Just like some European countries are known for soccer, Iranians LOVE films! There are many more opportunities in Iran for young people to get involved and be supported in film making.* Both Shirin and Reza are encouraged by the way that audiences in Australia are developing a taste for artistic and international films through festival programs and independent cinemas.

Recently KULCHA and FTI had the honour of presenting one of Shirin's films, *The Eclipse* at the Fremantle Outdoor Film Festival. Shirin wrote and directed the film while Reza directed the cinematography. In writing *The Eclipse*, remarkably, Shirin had not intended for the script to eventually be produced. *It was a project for my studies and I had originally written it to be a much longer piece, not such a short film. I got a call one day to advise that it was one of three scripts selected for production from forty-two scripts that were submitted as study projects. It was a good opportunity.* In addition to the Fremantle Film Festival, Shirin has recently had films screened at festivals in Melbourne and Finland.

In March KULCHA is hosting *Bazgoff*, a photographic exhibition by Reza which has been curated by Shirin. *Bazgoff* means *retell* and is a photographic retelling of Reza's journey.

It is clear that Reza has a keen eye for storytelling through images. In *Bazgoff* he hopes to break some of the stereotypes that Australians associate with Iran. *People often do not realise how diverse Iran is in landscape, cuisine, climate and people. Every city/region in Iran is unique in so many ways; there are languages/accents, foods and customs. We are very proud of our diversity and value the uniqueness of different cultures within our country.*

On 16 March Shirin and Reza will be hosting an Iranian Film night. Most of the works screened are produced in Iran by the Documentary and Experimental Film Centre (DEFC), the Iranian Government's funding association that plays a major role in the success and growth of the country's film culture.

On 21 March, we hope that you will join with Reza, Shirin, KULCHA and the Iranian community to celebrate *Norooz*, Persian New Year, a very special evening that will feature Iranian music.

For more information about *Bazgoff*, the Iranian Film Night and *Norooz*, please go to www.kulcha.com.au





Premala

DANCE DIALECTS

Ausdance WA and KULCHA in partnership with Be Active and The City of Perth present International Dance Day, Sunday 29 April 2007 on The Landing at the Esplanade, Perth

From 3-5pm *Be Active* with free dance workshops, demonstrations and information about the exciting dance groups and activities WA has to offer - Latin, Tango, Hip Hop, The Lindy Hop, African and more.

From 6-8pm picnic with friends and family to watch the performances at sunset of WA Multicultural dance artists in *TasteDanceJam* - Chinese Folk Dance, Irish dance, contemporary Indigenous, Ukrainian Cossacks dancers, tribal Belly dance, Indian, Salsa, Spanish and more!

Enjoy the much anticipated new commissioned works with live music sponsored by Office for Multicultural Interests for 2007! For more information contact Ausdance WA 9322 6101 or via e-mail wa@ausdance.org.au



BO JANMAAT TO EXHIBIT AT KULCHA

Many of you will know Bo as KULCHA's ever-smiling, efficient and hardworking Venue Manager. But... did you know that Bo is an accomplished artist in his own right? In April KULCHA is thrilled to be presenting an exhibition of Bo's photographic work. This exhibition is a compilation of images taken on the streets and in empty buildings in the Fremantle area - things that you will often pass by without noticing graffiti, stencil/copy art, posters in various states of disarray.

TOUCH THE SUN

This year's *Touch the Sun* series, presented by KULCHA and the City Of Mandurah has been our most successful yet!

Touch the Sun is a series of summer concerts held on the foreshore in Mandurah every Sunday until the end of April. The concerts are usually held in conjunction with the local Mandjar Markets and the combination of beautiful scenery, markets and fine entertainment is proving to be a winner with the locals and tourists alike. To date these concerts have been attracting audiences in the vicinity of 400 people.





SCHOOLS & EDUCATION NEWS:

In March and April KULCHA is proud to be presenting Solomon Island's Narasirato Pan Pipers in schools. This inspiring group of musicians is set to delight young audiences with spectacular performances and workshops.

Surrounded by virgin rainforest and idyllic lagoons, the Narasirato Pan Pipers live at the end of a mangrove forest in Oterama Village, at the remote southern end of Malaita Island, in the Solomon Islands. Their village is only accessible by canoe, boat or overland by foot.

They are proud of their ArÈ ArÈ tradition of pan pipe music, together with their exciting contemporary music featuring dance, traditional costumes, singing, wooden drums and many unique bamboo instruments including pan pipes, thong-o-phones and stomping tubes.

Since forming in 1991 the group has astounded audiences in England, Taipei, Vanuatu, Canada, New Zealand and Australia. Most recently they thrilled audiences at the Queensland Music Festival in Australia and are now looking to share their music with the rest of the world.

Narasirato are touring Australia and you will be able to catch them at the Fairbridge Festival.

Fairbridge & KULCHA...the best time for music in the west!

Every year the Fairbridge Festival enables KULCHA to present a diverse array of international and national performers. 2007 is no exception and will see some old favourites and some hot new acts that are guaranteed to delight and entertain. These acts include Alistair Hulett and Dave Swarbrick (UK), Chris Smither (US), the Western Furphies (Vic) and, all the way from New York – The Mammals!

THE MAMMALS... SUBVERSIVE ACOUSTIC TRADITIONALISTS

From New York to KULCHA!

The Mammals made their Australian debut at the Woodford Folk Festival in 2005/6 and in a very short period of time garnered a reputation as being one of the 'must-see' acts of the event. They are a young band, describing themselves as 'subversive acoustic traditionalists' although a couple of the surnames of band members would give away the fact that these young performers have folk music flowing through their veins. Singer and gifted fiddler, Ruth Ungar is the daughter of Jay Ungar (of Ashokan Farewell fame) and confesses to being very surprised when that connection was constantly picked up during their first Australian tour. No prizes for guessing the clan from which banjo-playing singer/songwriter Tao Rodriguez-Seeger comes. He is a talented and engaging performer of whom Grandad Pete and Aunt Peggy must be proud.

The Mammals are lively, loud and utterly engaging. They travel America in a large diesel van filled with drums, amps, an upright bass, fiddle, guitars and banjos and have crafted a show that connects rock and traditional Appalachian music in a very organic way. Fine song writing pulls these players to the front of the pack, and their bold arrangements risk the outer boundaries of frenzy and calm.

"Music is music. People think that The Mammals have pushed and broadened the boundaries of folk music. I think we've barely even started. There are no boundaries. There are only conventions."

It's that wild-eyed attitude that has characterized the band from the beginning, and continues to attract new audiences today. Wielding the combined power of Appalachian fiddle-banjo alchemy, their own contemporary lyric poetry, and a dynamic rock-n-roll rhythm section, The Mammals look to the future with warm-blooded enthusiasm and their impending return to Australia is already generating excitement and will undoubtedly see east coast audiences descend in droves. Being The Mammals first trip to the west, WA audiences don't know it yet, but they're in for a great discovery!



The Mammals, coming to Fairbridge Festival and KULCHA.