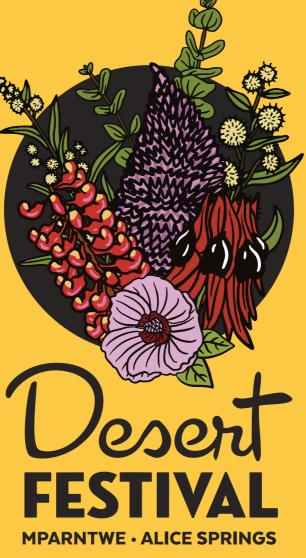
Red Hot Arts presents



21 SEPT - 1 OCT 2023

PROGRAM







Chansey Paech Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage

Welcome to the Desert Festival, a spring time celebration of our creative, culturally diverse community.

This year's program is filled to the brim with live music, performances, arts, and crafts, offering a wide range of opportunities for locals and visitors to appreciate the talent on offer here in the Red Centre.

The Territory Labor Government is a proud sponsor of the Desert Festival which is a highlight of the Alice Springs social calendar and I implore everyone to become involved.



Pennu McDonald Chair, Red Hot Arts Central Australia

Desert Festival is a great opportunity for arts lovers from all over to engage with unique arts events in Alice Springs.

This award-winning festival only happens with the incredible support of partners and sponsors and the hard work of many individuals, including artists, arts workers, volunteers, and the staff of Red Hot Arts Central Australia.

On behalf of the Board, we thank all involved, and are very proud to present the 2023 festival. We look forward to welcoming you over a festive 11 days and nights!

Message from the festival team

September is by far the most delicious month on the Central Australian calendar. Not only does the warmth of springtime arrive on our doorstep, but so do a smorgasbord of events that let our desert spirit shine.

Continuing to bloom this September is our very own Desert Festival, now in its 22nd year.

Every year, the festival team looks to push the envelope and deliver enthralling and thoughtprovoking shows to audiences. And this year is no exception.

Over 11 balmy days, catch a sensational program of local and national artists across more than 18 events.

We're also beyond excited to present two national award-winning fringe acts, ROUGE and Jamie MacDowell & Tom Thum this year, along with three Northern Territory Music Award winners.

There is something for everyone to enjoy this spring so, on behalf of the Desert Festival team, dive in and enjoy!

Rosie Denton. Festival Producer

2023 Desert Festival Team

Director of Program & Events Maru-Jane Warfield Festival & Project Seed Producer Rosie Denton

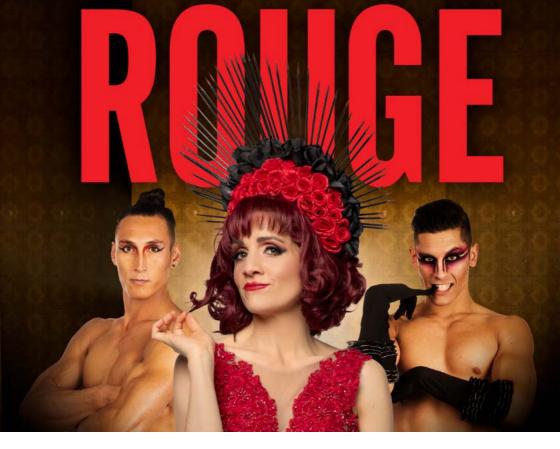
Luke Cadden Festival Marketing Tamlyn Neck

Graphic Design Gap Road Design Co.

Production Manager

Wildflower Artist Melanie Rose Gunner General Manager Angie Stahl Administration Officer Anthea Brescianini





ROUGE

All the spectacle of a circus with a deliciously deviant, adults-only twist - *ROUGE* is a mind bending blend of death-defying acrobatics, grandiose cabaret and deeply twisted burlesque. A titillating celebration of astonishing proportions that's surprising, subversive and supremely sexy.

Winner: Best Circus & Physical Theatre Show ADELAIDE FRINGE 2020

"One badass sizzler of a show"
DAILY MAIL





Araluen Arts Centre, Theatre	
Fri 29 Sep	8pm
Duration	60 mins
Tickets	\$75
After Party Ticket	s \$20 for Ticket Holders

Presented by Highwire Entertainment in association with Red Hot Arts Central Australia and Araluen Arts Centre

NOTE Strictly 18+ - Sexual References, Nudity, Smoke Effects, Strobe Effects



About Our Festival Hub

Olive Pink Botanic Garden will be transformed into the main festival hub for this year's Desert Festival. Please make yourself welcome, bask in the beauty of the gardens and the transformed event space.

While we try to make the space as accessible as possible, please be mindful that the event is held outside and some areas may become boggy or rough if we experience rain.

Parking inside the venue will be limited to patrons requiring accessibility access, crew and artists. We recommend you walk, ride or utilise public transport to get to the event site.

There is limited parking along Tunks road and Barrett Drive. Please be mindful of our neighbours if uou do decide to drive.

There will be a licensed bar with a lovely array of beverages from 5pm each evening that there are

events on - including non-alcoholic options. Food will be available to purchase, but feel free to bring a picnic and sit-back with your family.

Most events are ticketed as a packaged evening. Please make sure you check our socials or desfest.com for any program changes.

Our dome space has limited capacity, so on some evenings you may have to wait to experience a show there. Please be mindful of all patrons and only view the show once.

Our goal is to make art accessible to all. If you have an accessibility request, or are experiencing financial obstacles to attending, please reach out to us at festivals@redhotarts.com.au.

Things we don't welcome: BYO, glass, pets (unless recognised service animals), unsafe behavior.

Acknowledgement of Country

Red Hot Arts Central Australia acknowledges the Central Arrernte people as the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we live and work. We pay our respects to their history, their living culture and their Elders past, present and emerging.

Please join us at 5:30pm on Friday 22 September at the Festival Hub for our official Welcome with Kumalie Riley.

Disclaimer

All details are correct as of printing, please see **desfest.com** / social media for updates.

Media Disclaimer

Please be aware that you may be filmed or photographed. Any footage or photos may be used to promote the Festival in future. Please reach out to us for any privacy concerns.





Night Markets / Visual Arts Program



ASTC x Desert Festival Night Markets

Live entertainment, food from across the globe, and unique crafts and culture will fill the Todd Mall. Come and check out great live acts by Super Raelene Harmonium Band, Michael Connell, The Holy Dimes and Valbaby Skates!

MUSIC // COMEDY // DANCE

Todd Mall, Alice Springs	<u></u>
Thu 21 Sep 5pm	

FREE | Family Friendly

interplay x Desert Festival **The Edge**

This immersive experience brings together a collaboration of artists in an experiential installation that integrates people, culture and lands by creating safe spaces that change the way people experience their surrounds and each other. Natural and synthetic materials and structures are combined with projected images, stories and performance to create conversations and perceptual shifts that challenge and intersect with our communities and natural surrounds.

IMMERSIVE

<u> </u>	
Olive Pink Botanic Garden	Ĩ
Friday 22 Sep - Sunday 1 Oct	

See website for details



It takes longer than you think

VISUAL ARTS // PROJECT SEED

67 Bath Street, Alice Springs

Thu 21 Sep - Ist Oct		Į
Mon to Fri	9am to 2pm	
Sat to Sun	10am to 2pm	
		_

FREE | See Page 9 for more info

ASTC x Desert Festival Public Art Walks

VISUAL ARTS

Meet at Todd Mall entrance sign, cnr Todd Mall and Gregory Terrace

Sat 23 Sep & Sat 30 Sep 10am-12pm

FREE | Registration Required

CDU x Desert Festival Paste-Up Passion Project

VISUAL ARTS // WORKSHOPS // YOUTH

CDU Alice Springs, 10 Grevilla Drive	
Tue 26 & Wed 27	10am-3pm print making workshops
Thu 28	2-4pm Paste-Up Project deliveru



Friday 22 September

MUSIC // DANCE // THEATRE

Olive Pink Botanic Garden

ði

Fri 22 Sep

5:30pm

FREE



Toni Lord X Brave Bodies

Toni Lord X Brave Bodies is a new contemporary Indigenous dance work by Yankunytjatjara dancer and choreographer Toni Lord. The work will be performed by local dance organisation, GUTS' Brave Bodies participants.

Music that Moves

PROJECT SEED

Music that Moves is a collaborative performance between Dusty Feet Dance Collective and the World Chamber Orchestra, featuring four dancers and a string quartet. Set at the beautiful Olive Pink Botanic Garden, with composers including Elena Kat-Chernin, Max Richter, Romano Crivici and Karl Jenkins, Music that Moves takes performers and audience on a journey, through music that might just move.

The Sandy Straits

Five siblings locked away in their cult compound with only a secret stash of 60's films and music for secret entertainment. What could possibly go wrong? Only a hot mess of a confused yet brilliant family band with all manner of psychological problems but an undeniable devotion to the performance of 60's music! Fans of spy movies, Tarantino soundtracks, the Shadows, Dick Dale, Mancini and Morricone will be wetting their terrytowelling shorts. It's totally groovy!

Golden Orb

Golden Orb are an exploratory electronic duo that combine live beats, synth melodies, electric violin and vocals to create moments of contemplation, catharsis and groove. Enveloping curious thoughts with curious sounds, explore your own and other curious organisms of the universe.

Summer Road Trip - OUT!

A solo clown performance based on the annual Mparntwe exodus. A road trip - *OUT!* You will be taken on a journey to busier locations and more active Tinder options.

Curl Mokney

Kieran Gale's debut solo comedy show the most anticipated event in Kieran's personal calendar all year! 1 man, 3 characters, ∞ sillies.

"Reggie, Ashford, and Bird are sure to be household names" KIERAN GALE

Sunrunner

Join us for a captivating experience with **Sunrunner**, a live electronic artist whose music embodies the beauty of life, nature, and the Australian bush.

Jamie MacDowell & Tom Thum

LOOPING WORKSHOP

67 Bath Street 6:30-7:30pm





Saturday 23 September

MUSIC // IMMERSIVE

Olive Pink Botanic Garden		3°
Sat 23 Sep	7pm	
Adult	\$40	
RHACA Member	\$30	
Youth (15 -18)	\$20	

NOTE: Course Language, Sensitive Topics



Jamie MacDowell & Tom Thum

One is good with his fingers, the other is good with his mouth. Beatbox sensation, Tom Thum – best known for the most watched TEDx talk of all time: Beatbox Brilliance – joins forces with bohemian singer-songwriter Jamie MacDowell to create original, genre-defying music that is 'redefining musical parameters' (Nouse).

'Spellbinding talent and intoxicating onstage presence' CLIQUE MAG

Katanga Junior & the Mparntwe Queen

Katanga Junior is back with a brand new single *Mparntwe Queen* featuring Wirangu/Kokatha woman Kirra Voller. Join them as they perform it live for the very first time, backed by a full band of Mparntwe musical legends. Expect an hour of incredible music that seamlessly blends Katanga Junior's East African roots with a fresh new Central Australian sound.



Dem Arrernte Mob

Dem Arrernte Mob have been working with emerging Indigenous artists to develop a showcase of original music that breathes Central Australian life. Nookz, Villen and Vito have been assisting local artists to delve into the world of music production, collaboration and performance. Bringing it all together for this evening showcase.

Sunday 24 September

Swashbuckling Sunday Arrrrr-fternoon

Sea Shanty Workshop

The world's most terrible pirate, Captain Theodore Salmonbeard, is heading to Alice Springs in search of the finest sea shanties! In partnership with local buccaneering scallywags, The Fly Swats, the Captain is asking for your help to create and perform a unique sea shanty, born of Alice Springs, that can be sung by generations of pirates to come!

Pirate Rock

Join Captain Theodore Salmonbeard and The Flu Swats for a swashbuckling, singalong adventure across the seven seas, and back again! Featuring a collection of traditional and original sea shanties, Pirate Rock is a fun, costumed romp for all ages that you most certainly arrrrrrr going to enjoy!



KIDS & FAMILY

Olive Pink Botanic Garden	
Sun 24 Sep	1pm-4:30pm
Kids & Youth Adults & Babies	\$25 FREE

Please note ALL children must be accompanied by an adult.



DANCE // MUSIC

Olive Pink Botanic Garden		ði
Sun 24 Sep	5pm	
Adult	\$25	
RHACA Member	\$18.75	
Youth (under 18)	\$10	
Family (2A and up to 5 youth)	\$60	

Mparntwe Bush Dance

Mparntwe String Band & Folk Song Collective

PROJECT SEED

Through a series of community workshops, Gleny Rae has founded a community folk band where people of diverse backgrounds come to develop instrumental, singing and songwriting skills. Workshops featured mentoring from well-respected local artists including Ted Egan, Katie Harder, Tim Rickards and Bill Davis.

Also featuring:

Mapo & Buzz Country Bluegrass Jam Music that Moves Billy Black



Project Seed Participants



Project Seed is a Red Hot Arts initiative to support local artists to develop new works and projects across a six month period. The incubated works are then presented within the Desert Festival program.

From inception to presentation, Project Seed offers support to artists by providing funding and rehearsal space, as well as creative, technical, and production expertise from Red Hot Arts and industry experts.

2023 Project Seed Artists

Dem Arrernte Mob

Vito Lucarelli, William Lowah, John Hodgson

Dem Arrente Mob created a space for emerging Indigenous artists to develop their music skills through recording and performing. Following a series of collaborative workshops, these artists will take to the stage to perform a dynamic hip-hop showcase.

Sat 23 Sep | Page 7

Mparntwe String Band & Folk Song Collective

Gleny Rae

Don't miss the folk collective at the *Mparntwe Bush Dance* (Page 8)

Sat 24 Sep | Page 8

It Takes Longer Than You Think

Gretel Bull & Jaxon Waterhouse

It takes longer than you think is a mixed-media exhibition investigating the multiplicities of temporal experience in expanded and multiple frames.

Drawing on Einstein's special theory of relativity, black holes, meteorites and event horizons, artists Gretel Bull and Jaxon Waterhouse unite sculpture, photography, video, and sound in an immersive experience exploring manifestations of time from the personal to the ecological.

Thu 21 Sep - Sun 1 Oct | Page 5



Music that Moves

Miriam Nicholls

Music that Moves is a collaborative performance between Dusty Feet Dance Collective and the World Chamber Orchestra, featuring four dancers and a string quartet. Featuring composers Elena Kat-Chernin, Max Richter, Romano Crivici and Karl Jenkins, Music that Moves takes the audience on a journey, through music that might just move.

Fri 22 Sep | Page 5 **Sun 24 Sep** | Page 8

Homostasis

Rita Khayat

Dancefloors have been places of healing, community and culture for eternity. Join queer songwriter and musician, Rita Khayta for a somatic dance club experience where pop and club music collide at

THE GUTTER After Party.

Fri 29 Sep | Page 15

2023 Daily Planner

Page 6

Thu 21 Sep	Fri 22 Sep	Sat 23 Sep	Sun 24 Sep	Tue 26 Sep
ASTC x Desert Festival Night Markets feat. Super Raelene Harmonium Band, Michael Connell, The Holy Dimes and Valbaby Skates! Todd Mall 5-8:30pm Page 5	Opening Night Acknowledgement of Country feat. Toni Lord X Brave Bodies, Music that Moves, Summer Road Trip - OUT!, Sunrunner, The Sandy Straits, Curl Mokney, Golden Orb Olive Pink Botanic Garden 5:30pm-11pm Page 6	ASTC x Desert Festival Public Art Walk Alice Springs CBD 10am-12pm Page 5	Swashbuckling Sunday Arrrrr-fternoon Sea Shanty Workshop Pirate Rock Olive Pink Botanic Garden 1pm-4:30pm Page 8	CDU x Desert Festival Paste-Up Passion Project Workshop CDU 10am-3pm Page 12
	Jamie MacDowell & Tom Thum Looping Workshop 67 Bath St 6:30-7:30pm	Jamie MacDowell & Tom Thum Katanga Junior & the	Mparntwe Bush Dance feat. Mparntwe String Band & Folk Song Collective, Mapo	Bee Theatre - Hive Alive Songs of Spring - the Splinter

Dem Arrernte Mob Olive Pink Botanic Garden 7-11:30pm

Mparntwe

Queen

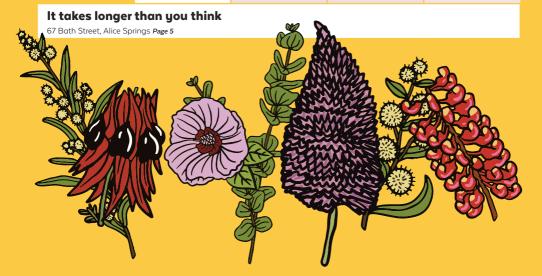
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Collective, Mapo & Buzz Country, Bluegrass Jam, Music that Moves, Billy Black Olive Pink Botanic Garden

5-10pm Page 8

Splinter Sisters **Espie Street AllStars**

Olive Pink Botanic Garden 5:30-9pm Page 12



Wed 27 Sep	Thu 28 Sep	Fri 29 Sep	Sat 30 Sep	Sun 1 Oct
CDU x Desert Festival Paste-Up Passion Project Workshop CDU 10am-3pm Page 12	Shadows of Prehistoric Past Megofauna Central, Todd Mall 10:30-11:30pm Page 14	ASTC x Desert Festival Pop-Up Park feat. Dan the Underdog, Karnage N Darknis & Dem Arrernte Mob Lyndovale Park, Larapinta 4pm-7pm Page 15	ASTC x Desert Festival Public Art Walk Alice Springs CBD 10am-12pm Page 5	Future Echoes Phantom Femme Fatale Olive Pink Botanic Garden 6.30pm-10.00pm Page 17
Ampe-mape Alyelheme (Childrens Ground) Olive Pink Botanic Garden 1:30pm-3pm Page 13	CDU x Desert Festival Paste-Up Passion Project Delivery Olive Pink Botanic Garden 2-4pm Page 12	ROUGE Araluen Arts Centre 8pm-9pm Page 3	Desert Divas Casii Williams Alice Cotton Olive Pink Botanic Garden 6pm-10.30pm Page 16	
Bush Foods Dinner with Rayleen Brown Olive Pink Botanic Garden 4pm-8pm Page 13	OUTLANDISH feat. Spindles, Who is sticking around? Phantom Femme Fatale, Wilful Mischeif Olive Pink Botonic Garden 6:30-11pm Page 14	ROUGE Afterparty feat. THE GUTTER, Madam & the Mafia & Homostasis Holey Cummunion Araluen Arts Centre 9.30pm-lam Page 15		

It takes longer than you think

67 Bath Street, Alice Springs Page 5

Become a Member of Red Hot Arts

Membership is a great way to show your support of the Central Australian creative community! By becoming a member, you will not only be helping Red Hot Arts Central Australia as a non-profit arts organisation to continue our vital work in the community. You will also receive some great member benefits too, including discounted event tickets, access to ausoicina, discounted advertising rates.

and the ability to vote at our AGMs, and become a board member (individuals only).

By signing up as a member, you will get 12 months of benefits from Red Hot Arts Central Australia. If you have any questions about the benefits, please contact us for a chat.

redhotarts.com.au/get-involved

Tuesday 26 September

Bee Theatre **Hive Alive**Experiencing collective beings

Bee Theatre is a fun, engaging, self generating play to inhabit Hive life. You will 'Bee' the centre

of the theatre and immerse yourselves in the ever changing roles of the hive, move with the scent of flowers and be inspired by winged love notes. We will create a sweet utopia of cooperation and honey as we experience a diverse collective purpose.



MUSIC // THEATRE

Olive Pink Botanic Garden		_ Ži
Tue 26 Sep	5:30pm	
Adult	\$25	
RHACA Member	\$18.75	
Youth & Kids (under 18)	\$15	



Songs of Spring -The Splinter Sisters

The Splinter Sisters invite you to celebrate the new beginnings of Spring through song. From a Swedish love ballad about wrapping flowers around your heart, to a Spanish song opening doors to new beginnings, and closer to home with a Torres Strait Islander blessing. They will be joined by friends including their brothers in song, The Shavings.

Espie Street AllStars

Espie Street AllStars are local Mparntwe musicians who play Dixie/New Orleans/trad jazz on the trumpet, clarinet, keyboard, tuba and drums.

CDU Paste-Up Passion Project Workshop

Participants will be invited to join an exciting printmaking workshop to explore the world of poster making and then install their work at the Festival Hub. Printmaker Sally Mumford will facilitate a series of workshop sessions for youth hosted by the CDU printmaking studios using a variety of print techniques.

The Passion Project encourages exploration of critical, contemporary issues that participants are passionate about; providing the opportunity to communicate their messages through bold and eye-catching posters.

VISUAL ART // YOUTH

Charles Darwin University		3 i
Tue 26 & Wed 27	10am-3pm	



Wednesday 27 **September**



Bush Foods Dinner with Rayleen Brown

An evening of First Nations' food and yarns.

FOOD & DRINK

Olive Pink Botanic Garden

3

See website for details www.desfest.com

Ampe-mape Alyelheme

Children's Ground

Join Children's Ground to Jaunch our album of deadly, uplifting Arrernte songs for children: Ampe-mape Alyelheme! (Kids Sing!).

The first children's Arrernte language album of its kind - created by Arrernte artists, families and educators during this International Decade of Indigenous Languages.

MUSIC // KIDS & FAMILY

Olive Pink Botanic Garden

ði

See website for details www.desfest.com



interplay x Desert Festival Voices from The Edge

This immersive experience brings together a collaboration of artists in an experiential installation that integrates people, culture and lands by creating safe spaces that change the way people experience their surrounds and each other. Natural and synthetic materials and structures are combined with projected images and stories to create conversations and perceptual shifts that challenge and intersect with our communities and natural surrounds.

IMMERSIVE // EXPERIMENTAL

Olive Pink Botanic Garden

4pm





Thursday 28 September

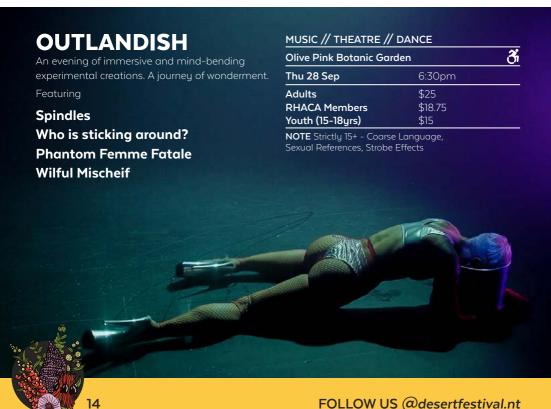
Shadows of Prehistoric Past

Come on a journey to discover some of the amazing prehistoric stories of the Northern Territory. In a delightful adventure for the whole family, world-renowned singing palaeontologist Professor Flint, helps bring to life the awesome fossils of Megafauna Central. Along the way, you'll learn about the remarkable creatures that once swam, slithered, crawled, and hopped, where we now livel

KIDS & FAMILY

Megafauna Central, Todd Mall		ð
Thu 28 Sep	10.30am	





Friday 29 September

ASTC x Desert Festival Pop Up Park Dan the Underdog, Karnage N **Darknis & Dem Arrernte Mob**

Join local Hip Hop legends Dan the Underdog, Karnage N Darknis & Dem Arrernte Mob for an evening of live music and festivities at Lyndavale Park.

There will also be a Youth Showcase. See some of the young rising stars in NT as they get their first opportunity to jump on stage and bring their music out to a wider audience.



Lyndavale Park, Larapinta Fri 29 Sep

FREE



ROUGE

CABARET // CIRCUS

All the spectacle of a circus with a deliciously deviant, adults-only twist. See Page 3 for more details.

ROUGE After Party feat. THE GUTTER: **Holey Cummunion**

The much anticipated second run of The Gutter Collective's Holey Cummunion will take audiences back into the sacred Church of Erotica, exploring themes of ritual, kink, queer eroticism, and an insight into the backstage world of a strip club and brothel.

Madam & the Mafia are joined by their filthy Gutter Family of hookers, gueerdos and arittu performance artists to create a new collective based right here in the Red Centre.

Supported by ROUGE Gone Rouge artists and Project Seed development -Homostasis



MUSIC // DANCE

Witchetty's, Araluen Arts Centre		ði
Fri 29 Sep	9.30pm	
Adults	\$30	
RHACA Members	\$22.50	
ROUGE Ticket Holders	\$20	

NOTE Strictly 18+ - Sexual references, Nudity, Smoke effects, Strobe Effects

Saturday 30 September



MusicNT x Desert Festival **Desert Divas**

Started in 2010 by local First Nations women, *Desert Divas* is a longstanding development program from MusicNT that links First Nations female songwriters with expert mentors. Be inspired as the 2023 Divas share their hopes, dreams, fears and goals through a diverse musical lens in this moving family friendly experience.

MUSIC

Olive Pink Botanic Garden		<u> </u>
Sat 30 Sep	30 Sep 6pm	
Adult RHACA Member Youth (12 -18) Kids (Up to 12yrs)	\$25 \$18.75 \$15 FREE	



Casii Williams

Casii is an award-winning Western Aranda musician from the remote community of Ntaria.

Experience this iconic desert voice as she sings songs from her new EP *High*, joined on stage with long-time collaborator Dave Crowe.



Sunday 1 October

THEATRE // MUSIC // DANCE

Olive Pink Botanic Garden		3
Sun 1 Oct	6pm	
Adult	\$25	
RHACA Member	\$18.75	
Youth (under 18)	\$15	

NOTE Strictly 15+ - Coarse Language, Sexual References. Strobe Effects





Future Echoes

Future Echoes unapologetically critiques resource extraction through mixed-methods art; blending hip hop, spoken word poetry and dance in a one-hour, call-to-action performance.



Check our Social Media for nightly DJ's

All tickets available
from desfest.com

Community Bank Alice Springs

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We reinvest **most** of our profits back into the Alice Springs community

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What We Do



Connecting

Maximising community connection to the arts

Supporting collaboration in the Alice Springs Arts Sector

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Contact Us

08 8952 2392 67 Bath St, Alice Springs, NT admin@redhotarts.com.au



Developing

Supporting local artists and arts workers

Incubating new local works

Coordinating professional development opportunities

Producing arts and cultural events and programs



Communicating

Promoting artists and arts opportunities to the community

Consulting with and using our voice for local artists and arts organisations

Improving awareness of the social value of the arts to the local community

www.redhotarts.com.au