



SPIRIT AND ENERGY RESONATE AS LOCAL COMMUNITY UNITES IN A CAPTIVATING FREE ARTS EVENT

Bringing Townsville (Gurambilbarra) to life through the power of dance, music, and storytelling, BAMBARRA-MA DARIBURU promises to be a key highlight of the North Australian Festival of Arts.

A free performance event for the whole family, **BAMBARRA-MA DARIBURU** takes place on Saturday 24 June and Sunday 25 June at Jezzine Barracks (Garabarra). A key highlight of the North Australian Festival of Arts program, the performances commence at 6.30pm, with Blak Arts Markets and pre-show entertainment from 5pm.

Sharing the stage once more following DUNGARRI NYA NYA NGARRI BI NYA, winner of the 2022 Performing Arts Connections Australia Impact Award, this latest collaboration between the **Wulgurukaba Walkabouts** and **Dancenorth Australia** created for the **North Australian Festival of Arts** is a spectacle of arts, culture, and community not to be missed.

Audiences will experience a world premiere dance performance by the Wulgurukaba Walkabouts, a dynamic performance of *NOISE* featuring Dancenorth's award-winning Ensemble alongside over 150 local volunteer drummers thumping out a scintillating score, and an exclusive live music set from Brisbane (Meanjin) based hip hop Artist **Lil Mase**, guaranteed to get everyone up dancing.

Wulgurukaba Traditional Owner and leader of the Wulgurukaba Walkabouts Ashley Saltner Jnr highlighted the significance of the event, which begins with a mesmerising nable (welcome) and bunu (smoking) ceremony, as an opportunity to heal and build community strength through arts and culture.

"Bambarra-ma Dariburu means 'it's good to make good'. This event celebrates the rich cultural heritage of the Wulgurukaba people and highlights the power of collaboration and togetherness. We are incredibly grateful to be supported to create a brand new work to feature at this event," said Saltner Jnr.

Dancenorth Artistic Director and Co-CEO Kyle Page emphasised the extraordinary opportunity the free event offers the Townsville community, acknowledging the significant involvement of over 150 local residents in the second part of the event - a dynamic performance of *NOISE*.

"The dedication and passion of over 150 local volunteer drummers, who have rehearsed over the past two months, will create a captivating atmosphere that resonates with the spirit of our community. We are honoured to be joined by internationally recognised, ARIA-nominated Guinea Djembe Master Drummer, Mohamed Bangoura, whose presence adds a truly extraordinary touch to this rhythmic journey," said Page.

The grand finale will see Wulgurukaba Walkabouts, Dancenorth, and renowned Brisbane-based hip hop artist Lil Mase coming together to transform the Jezzine Barracks into a mega dancefloor. Lil Mase's infectious and uplifting beats will get everyone on their feet, uniting the audience in a joyous celebration of movement and music.

"BAMBARRA-MA DARIBURU (It's good to make good) is a powerful collision and coming together of Gurambilbarra's Wulgurukaba Walkabouts and Dancenorth in a celebration of resonance, spirit, and energy. We are thrilled to be partnering with once again NAFA to share a work of this scale with Townsville. So bring your family and friends along for an unforgettable evening of arts, culture, and connection," said Page.

Townsville City Council Community and Cultural Development Committee chairperson Cr Ann-Maree Greaney said BAMBARRA-MA DARIBURU encapsulated the spirit of the North Australian Festival of Arts.

"BAMBARRA-MA DARIBURU marks an incredible effort from our city's arts community to showcase nationally significant arts and culture to Townsville locals and visitors. Council has worked hard to establish Townsville as the arts and culture capital of northern Australia, and Council is proud to support creative projects like BAMBARRA-MA DARIBURU, which help to build our region's collective identity and encourage social cohesion," Cr Greaney said.

BAMBARRA-MA DARIBURU is a free event and no tickets are required. To RSVP and register for event updates visit dancenorth.com.au.