

Far From Folsom SYDNEY EXCLUSIVE

Australia

Tex Perkins heads behind bars to embody the spirit of Johnny Cash



"Tex Perkins, one of the most electrifying front men of Australian rock 'n' roll, brings the hard-living country legend to life." **The Daily Telegraph**

*"After seeing Tex Perkins perform as Johnny Cash in *The Man in Black*, I feel as though I've almost seen the real thing."* **ABC**

"A voice like dark chocolate coloured velvet." **Aussie Theatre**

In an unforgettable music experience, **Tex Perkins** delves into the dark repertoire of **Johnny Cash** to recreate his seminal 1968 Folsom Prison shows in the haunting surrounds of Parramatta Gaol.

Set in Australia's oldest serving prison, the recently decommissioned Parramatta Gaol reopens its doors to the public for the first time in the world premiere event *Far From Folsom*. Staged in the gaol's former exercise yard, the outdoor performance is dramatically framed by the former prison's towering razor-wired limestone walls.

Parramatta Gaol has been empty for three years but signs of its violent past are everywhere. Graffitied walls, barbed wire and prisoner warnings quietly hint at a multitude of stories.

Perkins lends his gravelly baritone and rugged charisma to a performance of songs from the *At Folsom Prison* album, widely considered one of the greatest live albums of all time; ranked number 88 on *Rolling Stone's* list of the 500 greatest albums of all time and one of only 50 recordings chosen by the Library of Congress to be added to the National Recording Registry. Perkins is joined by his band **The Tennessee Four** with **Rachael Tidd**, who will reprise the vocals of **June Carter**.

Johnny Cash made many comebacks during his 71 years. The biggest, however, was undoubtedly the live album *At Folsom Prison*. Nearly five decades ago, in January 1968, Cash recorded the live concert to an audience of nearly 2000 convicted criminals in the high security Folsom Prison cementing his reputation as an outlaw. The prison concert later became a best-selling album despite the scepticism of Cash's record company, Columbia, and marked a definitive moment in his career after years of decline into drug addiction and public obscurity.

Widely considered one of the greatest live albums of all time, *Far From Folsom* gives audiences the one off chance to relive the pivotal moment Cash turned into the towering Man in Black; a haunted troubadour singing songs of crime, conflicted conscience and doing hard time.

Established in the Rum Corps heyday of 1798 and repurposed as the Parramatta Correctional Centre, the Parramatta Gaol was decommissioned in 2011. At that time it was the oldest serving jail in Australia. It has recently been used as the setting for high profile film and television shows including Channel Nine's *Underbelly* and the ABC's *Rake* and *Redfern Now*.

MEDIA RELEASE

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*Seated tickets only.

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