

Festival Village Music

Early Evening at The Famous Spiegeltent

Led Kaapana & Mike Kaawa / Jessica Pratt / Olivia Chaney / Iva Bittová / #1 Dads / Senyawa / Za! / Lace Curtain



Photo: #1 Dads © Louise Agnew

Two Spiegel tents - The Famous Spiegel tent and the Aurora Spiegel tent - will turn up the volume in Hyde Park this summer, showcasing the biggest line up of musical talent Sydney Festival has ever seen. For three weeks, the Festival Village will play host to back-to-back nights of exclusive and unique one-night-only international and Australian performances, spanning diverse cultures and genres.

Doubling in diversity this year, the contemporary music program invites the audience to experience exciting new and established talent bringing world-class performances to this uniquely intimate setting. Experience everything from South American hip hop and cumbia to some of the most hypnotic female voices in the music scene.

Early evenings to late balmy nights, the Festival Village opens its doors to bathe you in the rhythms of summer. An irresistible opportunity to create your own musical experience.

Ease into your evenings and chill out after work, listening to the early-evening Festival sounds in The Famous Spiegel tent, including:

Led Kaapana and Mike Kaawa (Hawai'i) – Australian premiere
The Famous Spiegel tent, 8 & 9 Jan – 5.45pm, \$39 General Admission.

“Ledward Kaapana is a master slack guitarist.” The New York Times

A master of the slack key guitar (ki ho'alu), Led Kaapana has been one of Hawai'i's most influential musicians for four decades. His virtuosity across stringed instruments and extraordinary baritone to leo ki'eki'e (falsetto) vocal range have made him a musical legend. With easygoing style and kolohe (rascal) charm, he has built a loyal corps of “Led Heads” from Brussels to his birthplace on the Big Island of Hawai'i. Led is joined by long-time collaborator Mike Kaawa, Hawai'i's finest 12-string guitar player and one of its most highly regarded musicians..

sydneyfestival.org.au/led

Jessica Pratt (USA) – Australian premiere

Famous Spiegeltent, 10 Jan – 5.45pm, \$39 General Admission

“Warm, intimate folk numbers that escape the tyranny of history.” Robbie Buck (ABC Radio National)

With a collection of dreamy, unadorned songs that put her hypnotic voice front and centre, San Francisco based singer-songwriter Jessica Pratt makes her Australian debut at Sydney Festival. Delicately beautiful acoustic guitar melodies are all that accompany Pratt’s warm and soulful voice, as she captivates audiences with heartfelt, folk-inflected tales tinged with melancholy. Her pared-down style has drawn comparisons to Vashti Bunyan and Joanna Newsom, while The Big Issue has noted that “she holds such absorbing sway over the listener that it’s almost eerie”.

sydneyfestival.org.au/pratt

Olivia Chaney (UK) – Australian premiere

The Famous Spiegeltent, 11 Jan – 5.45pm, \$39 General Admission.

“A star in the making.” The Independent

Ahead of her debut release on the esteemed Nonesuch label, English singer-songwriter Olivia Chaney brings an intimate evening of other-worldly folk tunes to The Famous Spiegeltent. The classically trained multi-instrumentalist performs her own sophisticated, poetry-tinged compositions, alongside traditional British folk songs, showcasing her substantial musical chops on guitar, piano and harmonium. Her rich, pure-toned voice has drawn comparisons to Joni Mitchell and gained the admiration of critics and artists worldwide, with Ray Davies opining that Olivia “transports the listener to another time”.

sydneyfestival.org.au/chaney

Iva Bittová (Czech Republic) – Australian exclusive

The Famous Spiegeltent, 21 Jan - 5.45pm, \$39 General Admission

“She has the soul of a gypsy, the voice of a troubadour, and the mind of a genius.” NPR

Idiosyncratic violinist and singer Iva Bittová brings extraordinary musicianship to The Famous Spiegeltent. With a sound that traverses Moravian folk, classical music and avant-garde improvisation, Bittová is an incredibly unique composer and performer. She has collaborated with the likes of Marc Ribot and John Zorn and drawn comparisons to Laurie Anderson and Meredith Monk, but it’s her masterful ability to combine violin, vocals and theatrics that highlights her genius. For her solo Sydney show, Bittová plays songs from her latest album *Entwine/Proplétám*, along with improvised work in an uninhibited display of both skill and passion.

sydneyfestival.org.au/iva

#1 Dads – Australian premiere

The Famous Spiegeltent, 22 Jan - 5.45pm, \$29 General Admission.

“Wholly captivating.” Sydney Morning Herald

Big Scary frontman Tom Iansek makes his live debut in solo mode as #1 Dads. With a knack for crafting golden nuggets of slow-burning bedroom pop, Iansek is one of the finest young songwriters in the land right now. His new release ‘About Face’ was named “one of the records of this year” by the Sydney Morning Herald, and followed on from Big Scary’s album ‘Not Art’ taking out the esteemed Australian Music Prize.

As #1 Dads, Iansek uses sparse instrumentation to create delicate songs replete with understated beauty. Hear them brought to life for the first time with a live band, plus guest vocals from Tom Snowdon (Lowlakes) and Ainslie Wills.

sydneyfestival.org.au/dads

Senyawa (Indonesia)

The Famous Spiegeltent, 23 Jan – 5:45pm, \$29 General Admission. Standing tickets only.

“Mind-blowing.” **Vincent Moon**

Jogjakarta’s Senyawa rough up traditional Javanese music with a punk attitude and avant-garde aesthetic. The band’s neo-tribalist sounds veer from twisted folk to experimental metal. Rully Shabara’s extended vocal techniques alternate between bloodcurdling screams, manic throat singing and choirboy incantations, while Wukir Suryadi is mesmerising on his handcrafted “Bamboo Spear”. This stringed invention allows for both rhythmic percussion and melodic bowing and plucking, creating a fusion of sound that is both traditionally Indonesian and incredibly progressive. Fearless on stage, Senyawa has toured the world with its sonically explosive sounds, and now unleashes them on The Famous Spiegeltent.

sydneyfestival.org.au/senyawa

ZA! (Spain)

The Famous Spiegeltent, 24 Jan – 5:45pm, \$30 General Admission.

“One may say it’s anarchy. Sweet, sweet anarchy.” MTV Iggy

Zany Barcelona two-piece ZA! brings a musical circus to town with a frenetic and euphoric take on experimental music. The duo mines Cuban jazz, post rock, Jamaican dancehall, grunge, industrial noise, mathrock and even Balinese polyrhythms to create multi-layered musical mayhem.

With a dozen instruments in play, the pair has toured the world with its high energy live show. Sitting somewhere at the juncture of Lightning Bolt and Can, ZA! elicits both unbridled joy and complete disbelief in equal measures.

sydneyfestival.org.au/za

Lace Curtain (AUS) – Australian exclusive

The Famous Spiegeltent, 25 Jan - 5:45pm, \$29 General Admission. Standing tickets only.

“Uniformly outstanding.” **Dusted Magazine**

Melbourne musical wizards Mikey Young and David West take a sidestep from their respective work in Total Control and Rat Columns to explore the electronic landscape as Lace Curtain. Tapping into synth pop, Kraut, new wave and Italo disco, the pair’s recorded output to date consists of three impressive EPs released on heavyweight labels DFA Records and Mexican Summer. The pair’s dance floor jams are a far cry from their previous work but there’s a distinct punk/DIY sensibility in the dark rhythms and broody beats created by these prolific musicians.

sydneyfestival.org.au/lace

Where The Famous Spiegeltent, Festival Village in Hyde Park

MEDIA RELEASE

Level 5, 10 Hickson Road The Rocks
Sydney NSW 2000 Australia
Phone 61 2 8248 6500 Fax 61 2 8248 6599
sydneyfestival.org.au

SYDNEY FESTIVAL 2015

8-26 JAN

Hyde Park North, Entry near Archibald Fountain

Multipacks are available for all Sydney Festival events except *Disco Dome*. Book 3 or more events and save. Discounts apply to full price A Reserve or General Admission tickets.

For interviews and further information contact:

Jessica Keirle, Publicity Manager, 02 8248 6525 / 0438 805 109 jessica.keirle@sydneyfestival.org.au
Anna Shapiro, Publicist, 0417 043 205 anna.shapiro@sydneyfestival.org.au
Gabrielle Wilson, Publicist, 0433 972 915 gabrielle.wilson@sydneyfestival.org.au

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