

POP 2015

Parramatta Opening Party

A joyful open air summertime spectacle of soulful tunes headlined by Paul Kelly's soul revue *The Merri Soul Sessions*



"It is a rarity to pool all of these talented musicians together for a project, and the end result is impressive." **SpeakerTV**
(on Paul Kelly presents *The Merri Soul Sessions*)

Photo: Parramatta Opening Party Fire Garden. Courtesy of Michael Jones and The World Famous

Parramatta's favourite twilight get-together is back. Sydney Festival Parramatta opens in fine summertime style with a joyful, open-air street celebration unfolding around Parramatta Town Hall. The streets come to life with a star-studded line-up of soul divas and funky beats headlined by prolific Australian singer-songwriter Paul Kelly.

Paul Kelly brings to Sydney Festival the world premiere performance of his latest collaborative project *The Merri Soul Sessions*. Featuring a stellar list of award-winning artists and close friends, the new album and live performance feature the sweet, sultry sounds of kings and queens of Australian soul such as **Dan Sultan, Clairy Browne, Kira Puru** and the supremely talented sisters **Vika Bull & Linda Bull**.

Sydney Festival is thrilled to welcome Paul Kelly back with the first Australian performance of this widely anticipated next album. Undoubtedly one of Australia's most influential and respected artists of his generation, Kelly is a music industry veteran. Soul is, however, not something typically associated with the veteran of Australian rock. Working with some of Australia's most loved stars of blues and soul, Kelly brings a show of sublime dynamism and funky soulful swagger to Parramatta for the first time this summer.

Fall in love with the sweet and melodic sounds of musical powerhouse sisters Vika & Linda Bull. Be swooned by Kira Puru's controlled balance of dark and light and expect the always magnetic Clairy Brown to bring the house down. As the night sets in, the energy will be cranked up a notch or three with Dan Sultan's rich, deep grooves and his explosive and legendary on stage performances.

The funky beats continue as Parramatta Opening Party rolls out performances by a long line of much-loved artists guaranteed to have all ages on their feet moving to the music including **Radical Son, Christine Salem**, New York City DJ **\$small change**, street musician **"Uptown" Brown!**, and the **Waratah Drumcorps**.

Kick back with tasty treats and grab a bite to eat in Civic Place before you catch the **Stiff Gins** for a guaranteed goodtime on the La Toosh rooftop. Or for something truly different, explore the neighbourhood to find the funky **Soul of Sydney** crew for one of their infamous block parties.

As the sun sets, experience the flickering world of *Fire Garden*, created by artist **Mike Roberts**, accompanied by a sweeping soundscape by the **Spirit of Things Collective**.

MEDIA RELEASE

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SYDNEY FESTIVAL 2015^{8-26 JAN}

This is Parramatta at its balmy, summertime, toe-tapping best with a music spectacle that's not to be missed.

Where Centenary Square (near Parramatta Town Hall
Parramatta

When Friday 9 January, 6–11pm

FREE

sydneyfestival.org.au/pop

Family friendly and suitable for all ages. No alcohol, no glass. Food and beverages on sale throughout the event.

Leave the car at home. For detailed public transport information visit www.transportnsw.info or call 131 500.

All areas are wheelchair accessible.

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