

## Sydney Festival Parramatta 2015 Overview



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

**Sydney Festival Parramatta** returns in 2015 with a jam-packed line-up bursting at the seams. Featuring five world premiere performances, Sydney Festival Parramatta will host a dynamic program of theatre, circus, dance, and music in a range of free and ticketed events.

Hosting six events exclusive to **Parramatta**, western city will certainly be the place to be this summer. From the axe juggling, log throwing, circus spectacular of *Timber!* to a once off recreation of **Johnny Cash's** seminal Folsom Prison shows in *Far From Folsom* at Parramatta Gaol, this year's program is set to be like no other.

In 2015, the much-loved twilight get-together *Parramatta Opening Party* is back. Sydney Festival Parramatta opens in fine summertime style with a joyful street celebration unfolding around Centenary Square near Parramatta Town Hall. The streets will come to life with a star-studded line-up of award-winning artists and close friends playing soulful sounds. Australian music legend **Paul Kelly presents The Merri Soul Sessions** in a world premiere performance of his new collaborative project, alongside the kings and queens of Australian soul **Dan Sultan, Clairy Browne, Kira Puru** and the supremely talented sisters **Vika Bull & Linda Bull**.

In a world premiere and unforgettable music experience, **Tex Perkins** heads behind bars to embody the spirit of Johnny Cash in the Sydney exclusive performance of *Far From Folsom*. Delving into the country music star's dark repertoire, he recreates his seminal 1968 Folsom Prison shows within the haunting surrounds of Parramatta Gaol. Staged in the gaol's former exercise yard, the unique outdoor performance is dramatically framed by the former prison's towering razor-wired limestone walls.

At the Riverside Theatre, there'll be whip-cracking, wood-chucking, log-throwing and axe-juggling galore as Quebec's **Cirque Alfonse** makes its Australian debut performance with *Timber!* Blending circus with theatre, dance, live traditional music and folklore, this is circus with sweat, sawdust, beards and high spirits for the whole family to enjoy. Expect the circus skills displayed by three generations of this family of circus-performers, including the 67 year-old granddad, to be as sharp as the saw blades.

Shaking up the streets of Parramatta's CBD, *Disco Dome* invites you to lace up your dancing shoes and explore the suburb's forgotten hot spots. Revisiting a time (1979-95) that Parramatta shook its groove thing, **Information and Cultural Exchange** returns to Sydney Festival with an after-dark walking tour that will have audiences bumping and grinding through the city's disco history.

In a world premiere theatre work for younger audiences, **Eric Carle's** much beloved tale *The Very Hungry*

## 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](http://sydneyfestival.org.au)

# SYDNEY FESTIVAL 2015

8-26 JAN

*Caterpillar*, makes it way off the page and onto the stage. *The Very Hungry Caterpillar Show* combines a menagerie of 75 lovable puppets and all the timeless charm of Carle's original tales and illustrations.

And last but certainly not least, audiences are invited to witness the evolution of decades of dance in the world premiere of *PUNCTURE*. For centuries we have used dance to connect, seduce and play. In a special collaboration, **Legs on the Wall**, **Form Dance Projects** and **VOX –Sydney Philharmonia Choirs** turn the stage of the Riverside Theatre into a dance floor, taking audiences on a journey to embrace the risk and ritual around the art form.

**Deputy Premier and Minister for the Arts, Troy Grant**, said the NSW Government is committed to increasing the opportunity for people to experience high quality arts and cultural activities, no matter where they live.

*"The ongoing success of Sydney Festival's Parramatta program is a result of the NSW Government's three-year partnership with Parramatta City Council. This partnership ensures that people in Western Sydney have the opportunity to experience the exciting range of Australian and international acts that the Festival brings to Sydney."*

**Festival Director Lieven Bertels** says *"Sydney Festival is thrilled to be presenting another spectacular program of theatre, dance, and music at Parramatta. The 2015 Parramatta program is one of the biggest ever: hosting five world premiere performances exclusive to Parramatta. We have been presenting work in western Sydney for several years. With increasing popularity among audiences from wider Sydney it is rewarding to be able to build on that strong relationship."*

**Multipack tickets for the 2015 program go on sale on 24 October at 9am.** Discounts apply to full price A Reserve or General Admission tickets for a wide range of Festival shows. More information: [sydneyfestival.org.au/multipack](http://sydneyfestival.org.au/multipack) or 1300 856 876

**Single tickets go on sale 27 October at 9am.**

All media releases are available for download at [sydneyfestival.org.au/media](http://sydneyfestival.org.au/media)

When Friday 9 January – Sunday 25 January 2015

[sydneyfestival.org.au/](http://sydneyfestival.org.au/)

**For interviews and further information contact:**

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

