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PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS ANNOUNCED FOR

WOMADELAIDE 2005 March 4-6, Botanic Park, Adelaide

Highlights of the jam-packed line-up for the ninth WOMADelaide festival, now in its third year of annual presentation, were announced today. Presented by The WOMADelaide Foundation, WOMADelaide 2005 will feature over 300 of the world's most eminent artists, many in Australia for the first time, many exclusive to the festival.

Great musical traditions alongside cross-cultural fusions and new contemporary sounds underpin the WOMADelaide festival program more than ever before.

The festival's Artistic Advisor, Rob Brookman said, "WOMADelaide 2005 continues the eclectic journey we set out upon thirteen years ago and the extraordinary diversity that is at its core has never been more evident than in this program. From the centuries old classical vocal music of India brought to us by **Rashid Khan** to the brilliantly vibrant and absolutely African hip hop of Senegal's newest sensation **Daara J** or the powerful and political reggae of the Ivory Coast's **Alpha Blondy**, this program both respects the purity of great musical traditions and celebrates the rich and rapid evolution of contemporary music through global communication."

WOMADelaide Attendances

In 2004 WOMADelaide attracted record crowds of 70,000 breaking the previous record secured in 2003. The proportion of interstate visitors also increased from 34% to 41%. Given the steady growth in attendances over the twelve year history of the festival and another stellar line-up, organisers are again expecting capacity crowds.

Program Highlights

In 2005 it will be ten years since Belgium/Congo superstars **Zap Mama** seduced audiences at WOMADelaide 1995 with their irresistible acappella mix of pygmy songs and salsa sounds. In an exclusive WOMADelaide performance, **Zap Mama** and its charismatic leader Marie Daulne, will bring a fresh new sound to the stage that embraces hip hop, R&B, dub, and Afropop, whilst never letting go of their glorious harmonies.

Popular hero of the Woodstock generation, and 'living legend' **Richie Havens** makes his first ever Australian performance at WOMADelaide, as do African reggae superstar **Alpha Blondy** from the Ivory Coast; Senegal's multi-lingual rappers **Daara J**, exclusive to WOMADelaide; **Les Yeux Noirs** from France with their energetic interpretations of French, Yiddish and gypsy music, or 'Yiddish 'n' roll'; and the illustrious North Indian classical singer **Ustad Rashid Khan**.

MARCH 4-6 Botanic Park ADELAIDE

PRODUCED BY WOMADELAIDE FOUNDATION LTD ABN 55 106 584 230 & MANAGED BY ARTS PROJECTS AUSTRALIA & WOMAD LTD
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From the highlands of Scotland, comes the innovative **Capercaillie**, with their trademark fusion of ancient Gaelic songs with modern contemporary grooves. The immensely talented and breathtaking Maori songstress **Mahinarangi Tocker**, a popular performer at WOMAD New Zealand, will make her first WOMADelaide appearance in 2005, as do the electrifying and eclectic **Kronos Quartet**, who have remained at the forefront of avant-garde music for over 30 years.

Australian pioneer and ambassador of Aboriginal rock music **George Rrurrambu** who began his career with the internationally acclaimed Warumpi, returns to WOMADelaide this time with reggae band Birdwave; **Nadya's 101 Candles Orkestra**, weave many influences in a rich brew of gypsy, blues, folk, latin, klezmer, and Eastern European music; and from Broome, come Kimberley icons, the **Pigram Brothers**, whose music reflects the exotic cultural mix of their homeland, their indigenous ancestry, and the 'saltwater country' which surrounds them.

WOMADelaide's Popular Site Program gets even bigger!

Year after year the off-stage activities around the festival site are becoming increasingly popular. Free on-site workshops, a spectacular roving artist program, Kidzone, over 100 exotic market stalls all combine to give WOMADelaide its distinct and colourful atmosphere. One of the highlights of last year's festival for many, the illuminating **La Compagnie Carabosse** will return in 2005 with a new and spectacular fire installation. Victoria's cheeky street theatre artists, **Snuff Puppets** will perform three shows: "Cows", "Boom Family" and "Seagulls", and for the first time, the local **Kaurna Aboriginal community** will host a 'Knowledge Centre' teaching stories, arts and crafts.

In an exciting new visual arts project, Cuban artists **The Mora Brothers**, papier-mâché inventors extraordinaire (whose work includes a domestic sized car immortalising members of the Buena Vista Social Club as passengers) will work with South Australian artists from the Community Arts Network and Carclew Youth Arts to create specially designed pieces for the festival.

Comprehensive media kit available on line www.womadelaide.com.au. Full program details announced in January.

Booking Details

Weekend tickets now on sale from WOMADelaide's new ticketing partner, The Event Shop, via Venue*Tax or participating Australia Post outlets (see www.womadelaide.com.au) for details); by phone Australia wide 1300 30 40 72. Weekend tickets: Adult \$168; Group \$145; Conc \$125. Children under 12 years admitted FREE when accompanied by a paying adult. Carers admitted FREE. Travel packages available from Travelworld Geelong on 1800 632 788, or for general information contact the South Australian Travel Centre 1300 366 770.

WOMADelaide 2005 is produced and presented by the WOMADelaide Foundation and managed by Arts Projects Australia and WOMAD Ltd. Presented in association with the Government of South Australia.

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