

womadelaide

SOUNDS OF THE PLANET 2008

Media Release

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THE WONDERFUL OFF-STAGE ARTISTS AT WOMADelaide 2008!

Without much effort, just about everybody at WOMADelaide can have a front row seat for some form of arts activity, no matter where they are in Botanic Park. Whether it's sitting enjoying some of the delicious food on offer, or chilling out in a quiet space under a tree, the audience could find itself in prime position for a passing street theatre performance, a cooking session or an art exhibition.

A host of out-of-this-world roving performers will liven up the festival experience beyond the seven stages. **Born in a Taxi** from Victoria will present their absurd and comically surreal *Boat of Faith* featuring Michael Leunig's famous Mr Curly, and also the lush and leafy characters from *The Garden Party*, a moving garden landscape.

Recently a huge hit at the Tour Down Under, Queensland's **Cyclogists** will return for WOMADelaide. Cycling around the Park and stopping for impromptu musical performances, the lycra-clad trio use only their bikes and accessories as innovative instruments. Crowd favourites at WOMADelaides past, Victoria's **Snuff Puppets** return, this time with the seven-tonne Kareem the African Elephant who, carefully guided by her trainer, will perform tricks to dazzle all (but beware of her trunk, or you may get wet!)

dotComedy, led by the UK's Richard Stamp and featuring eight South Australian performers, will present the Australian premiere of *The Chain* in a WOMADelaide exclusive. dotComedy are renowned for their cutting-edge street art shows and unique take on reality, and the audience at WOMADelaide will be both confused and amused when they encounter the troupe's secret performances during the festival weekend ... The musician-actor-singers of the nine-piece French outfit, **Zic Zizou** will present *Le Kiosque*, where an abandoned kiosk comes to life and takes everyone on a wild musical ride.

KidZone will be bursting at the seams with countless activities for children, including Uganda's **Pedson Kasume** who will present percussion workshops on the grass with his embaire – a giant wooden xylophone-like instrument that can be played by up to eight people at a time. And the **Samba Parade** at 6pm on Sunday evening will feature around 500 people winding their way through the Park for 20 minutes of Brazilian beats and colour.

Capping off all the wonderful experiences away from the stages will be the eight sessions of **Taste the World**, where artists and other festival guests cook up a storm, and the visual feast of France's **La Compagnie Carabosse**, the UK's **Angus Watt** and the Tiwi Islands' **Pwanga Womens Enterprises**. At sunset each night **La Compagnie Carabosse** will illuminate Botanic Park, creating a spectacular flame sculpture using hundreds of candle pots and a 60+ tonne crane. **Angus Watt's** flags will again provide the fluttering backdrop festival-goers have grown to love since 1999 – this year there will be 150 new flags, called 'Chuntney's', 'Aguas' and 'Edens', made using only solar and wind power at Angus's home in the mountains of Spain. The unique screen-printed fabric and sewn garments of the Tiwi Islands will also be a highlight with **Pwanga Womens Enterprises** creating their bold and timeless designs on site. They will also bring some ochres and 'paint up' visitors to their marquee, tell stories and teach dreaming dances.

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