

WHAT IS IT ABOUT SOUTH AUSTRALIA?

Across the arts spectrum, South Australia has a reputation for producing the very best in style and genre, and nowhere is this more apparent than in the field of contemporary music. Whether it be the punk rock of The Hot Lies, the chart-topping pop of Australian Idol Guy Sebastian, or the country-flavoured songcraft of WOMAD-bound newcomers The Audreys, there's little that compares for sheer exuberance and raw talent.

Taking the time to look at a little broader canvas, the musical excellence can be seen underpinning a wider range of artistic endeavour, such as contemporary dance and theatre composers such as Stewart Day (he's worked with State Theatre and the acclaimed Leigh Warren Dance), the vivacious Heather Frahn and wildly talented multi-instrumentalist Zoe Barry.

South Australia's Festival Of the Arts and associated Fringe Festival are widely regarded as the two best events of their kind in the Southern hemisphere, and their model for success is copied across Australia. Partly, their success is the product of this scene, and the fact that Adelaide possesses a design and appeal which is unmatched, from its Mediterranean climate, brilliant summer days and evenings, to its strong and nurturing infrastructure. It's a recipe for success: nowhere perhaps is this more apparent than in the yearly WOMADelaide Festival, held each March in the luscious and spacious parklands within the city confines. No other city can boast such a superb site for a potpourri of music and culture.

In South Australia's hot regional centres the focus is more likely to be on country music, and we have produced a crop of the very best in recent years: among them Beccie Cole and Kasey Chambers. Watch out for newcomer Jedd Hughes from the town of Quorn, in the state's mid-North wheat growing belt. It's not just country music, mind: Central Deli Band brought their blend of rock and hip-hop to the Big Day Out all the way from Whyalla, while punk stalwarts The Vermen still call Port Lincoln home.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MUSIC FESTIVALS

BIG DAY OUT

www.bigdayout.com.au

By the time it hits Adelaide the bands have all become firm friends, and Australia's biggest and best music festival is a sight to behold. The Big Day Out guarantees a sold out occasion at the Showgrounds at the end of January, when 30,000 fans descend on the site just South of the city centre for a full day and night of music, dance and fun.

WOMADelaide

www.womadelaide.com.au

Now held every year in March, WOMADelaide plays host to the biggest stars of World Music and the best of local and Australian artists. Consistently voted the best festival on the WOMAD calendar by both the artists and their audiences (many of whom travel to Adelaide from abroad), this high summer weekend brings together colourful crowds and the best music this planet has to offer in a setting whose ambience has to be experienced to be believed.

THE FUSE FESTIVAL

www.fuseconference.com

Formerly Music Business Adelaide, the Fuse Festival is held every November in Adelaide as a weekend of activities for the serious practitioner of music. Music business professionals enjoy the relaxed atmosphere and an easy diet of seminars, conference events, one-on-one business meetings with key players and showcase events over a three day period (winery tours are very popular!).

THE BAROSSA MUSIC FESTIVAL

Combining fine music (orchestral, string, chamber) with fine wine and superb food in the gorgeous settings in and around the wineries of the Barossa Valley, the Barossa Music Festival is held each year in the heart of the valley, a short one hour drive North of Adelaide. Featured artists have included Shirley Bassey, Rod Stewart, and Dame Kiri Te Kanawa.

WILDELOO

This day long rock festival in Cummins on the Eyre Peninsula draws a huge audience from Adelaide, as well as from SA's rural and coastal towns. A strong mix of national and South Australian bands (with many coming from the region) makes for an exciting and vibrant event.

2005 has also seen a few new festivals hit Adelaide: Two Tribes has added SA to its national touring schedule, and the Riverland held the inaugural Handpicked festival in Loxton during March.

VENUES

ADELAIDE ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE

www.theaec.net

THEBARTON THEATRE

NORWOOD CONCERT HALL

HEAVEN

FOWLERS LIVE

GRACE EMILY HOTEL

THE VINES HOTEL, NUIROOPTA

THE GOVERNOR HINDMARSH HOTEL

SIR ROBERT HELPMANN THEATRE

www.countryarts.org.au/helpmann

THE SA FOLK CENTRE

www.folk-sa.asn.au

ENIGMA BAR

www.enigmabar.com.au

THE JADE MONKEY

EXETER HOTEL (RUNDLE ST)

AUSTRAL HOTEL

ADELAIDE UNIBAR

SURFING SOUTH AUSTRALIA

www.musicca.com.au

Launched last year, this is a site which shows some promise, and claims it will build into a 'one stop' for contemporary music in the state. Resources and contact details and band biographies are included, and more are being added. It's a good starting point to get you to other information and in contact with musicians and their websites.

www.musicindex.com

For contacts, contacts and more contacts, this is the most comprehensive and accurately updated website for all aspects of the South Australian music industry and related business, be it legal, technical, managerial, financial, venues etc.

www.dbmagazine.com.au

Online version of Adelaide's best and most respected music and entertainment magazine, this website reflects the identity and culture of the printed medium from which it sprang. It covers music from metal to orchestral and all in between, theatre, cinema, dance, independent and mainstream, and has a comprehensive news section and full gig guide, and CD review section. Easily navigable, no pissy pop-ups!

www.ripitup.com.au

Also a website based on a street magazine, published weekly in this case. Updated weekly, this is fast, flashy and easily read. Good for a quick browse.

WHO'S FROM SOUTH AUSTRALIA?

The Masters Apprentices, The Twilights, Cold Chisel, The Angels, The Superjesus and The Mark Of Cain all called SA home, and the state's musical legacy is being upheld around the country and the world by the likes of Guy Sebastian, Bit By Bats, Home For The Def, Fruit, Wolf & Cub, The Hot Lies, Day Of Contempt, Special Patrol and The Hilltop Hoods.

WHAT'S NEW OUT OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA?

August Falls, Baby Doll, Bad Girls Of The Bible, Blow Up Betty, Brillig, Heather Frahn, Hit The Jackpot, I Killed The Prom Queen, The Jerks, Leigh Stardust, Liam Gerner, Mere Theory, Michael Dixon & The Rest, No Through Road, The New Pollutants, Pharoahs, Red Monika, Sumi, Tidal, The Trafalgars, The Vandas, Virgin Black, The Yearlings, The Zero Kelvins.

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