



Victorian College of the Arts

MediaRelease2007

Thursday 29th March

WILIN WEEK – KEEP THE FIRE BURNING! Monday 23 to Friday 27 April 2007

Wilin Week is an annual festival hosted by the **Wilin Centre for Indigenous Arts and Cultural Development** at the **Victorian College of the Arts**. Featuring music, dance, food, film and debate, this year's **Wilin Week** will burn particularly brightly as the Wilin Centre and the VCA celebrate 10 years of commitment to Indigenous participation at the College and highlight Indigenous Australian activism; drawing on the strengths of *Justice, Equality, Freedom, Family, Language and Culture*.

The Wilin Centre for Indigenous Arts and Cultural Development is unique in Australian education, providing a holistic approach to supporting, encouraging and nurturing Indigenous students and practising artists. The Wilin Centre is located on the VCA campus at Southbank and offers student support, mentoring, tutoring, hosts artists-in-residences, cultural activities and celebrations.

Wilin Week features a stellar line-up of Indigenous guests including **Tom E Lewis (West Arnhem)**, acclaimed singer/songwriter and actor (*The Chant of Jimmy Blacksmith, 1977*), the **Watbalimba Dancers**, Singer **Fay Ball**, Activist, Film-maker and Singer/Songwriter **Richard Frankland**, Activist & Sports (Track & Field, Taekwondo) personality **Belinda Jakiel**, Didgeridoo player **Ron Murray**, Activist **Gary Foley**, Singer **Kutch Edwards** and more. Other featured events include the launch of **ILLUMINATE: Shining the light on VCA's Indigenous Alumni**, a publication highlighting the talented pool of VCA Indigenous Alumni and celebrating the VCA's ongoing commitment to Indigenous artists, an Indigenous lunch by Celebrity Chef (and VCA graduate) **Mark Olive**, a film screening, an opening ceremony with a Welcome to Country and a Wilin Indigenous art exhibition – profiling Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students on campus.

Tom E Lewis, along with **Trevor Nickolls (South Australia)**, an internationally renowned visual artist and VCA graduate will be this year's **Wilin Week** guest Artists in Residence.

Wilin Week 2007 will acknowledge and commemorate; the 40th anniversary of the 1967 Referendum (when Indigenous Australians got the vote), the 50th anniversary of NAIDOC (National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Day of Observance Committee) Week and the 10th anniversary of the Stolen Generations *Bring Them Home* report.

'Wilin' means 'fire' in Woi Wurrung language of the Wurundjeri, one of the five tribes of the Kulin Nation, the traditional owners of the land the VCA occupies. Throughout Wilin Week a fire is lit and kept alight, symbolising the centre's commitment to Indigenous artists and their creative flames.

Wilin Week 2007

When: Monday 23 to Friday 27 April

Where: The Victorian College of the Arts, 234 St Kilda Road, Southbank

Cost: All events are free

Program Enquiries: Kate Munro p: 03 9685 9324 e: klmunro@unimelb.edu.au

For Media Information or images please contact

Lisa Montague p: 03 9685 9371 e: montague@unimelb.edu.au

or Jon Myer p: 03 9685 9385 e: jmyer@unimelb.edu.au

Tom E Lewis and Mark Olive are available for interview by request

Victorian College of the Arts 234 St Kilda Road, Southbank, Victoria 3006, Australia
Telephone 61 3 9685 9300 Facsimile 61 3 9682 1841 www.vca.unimelb.edu.au

VCAARTDRAMADANCEFILM&TVMUSICPRODUCTION