

Media Release

2014 GREAT SOUTHERN FESTIVAL

Now in its 12th year, the **Great Southern Festival** offers world-class arts events in a region renowned for breathtaking landscapes and award-winning food and wine.

The Great Southern program offers a diverse selection of the Perth Festival alongside events exclusive to Albany. The enthusiastic regional audiences continue to sell out show after show of their Festival, the only regional festival in Australia of such international depth.

The 2014 Great Southern Festival will take place over nine magical days in summer.

Perth Festival Artistic Director Jonathan Holloway said: "There are three elements to consider when curating or engaging with a festival: quantity, quality and intensity."

Every year for more than a decade we have presented work of high quality and in large measure, making the Great Southern Festival a wonderful cultural destination over three weeks in February. This year we are trying something different: we've programmed the same quantity and quality of work, but we've crammed it into nine summer days. The result is the intensity that makes the difference between a festival and a program."

For those nine days we ask you to throw yourselves into the Great Southern Festival as many times as possible, knowing that you can recover for the other 50 weekends of the year.

In return we promise you some of the world's great artists engaging with you in one of the world's most beautiful places.

A full program of events including a **Lotterywest Festival Films** selection is available by registering on 6488 5555 or perthfestival.com.au

Highlights of 2014 Exclusive Festival Events in the Great Southern:

WELCOME TO COUNTRY

Parade St, Albany
Friday 21 February, 5:30pm

Join dancers, actors and artists in a poignant and playful recreation of the 'deadman dance', a moment in Albany's very early history when local Minang people marched with officers of Major Lockyer's garrison. Here, we faithfully recreate a plan drawing of the original Albany settlement superimposed onto the lawn of Foundation Park.

PLAYMAKERS: THE CELLO

Saturday 22 – Sunday 23 February
Please check the brochure or website for full details.

Playmakers brings some of the finest Australia's players and makers to celebrate the versatility, joy and inspiration of one of the most sublime voices in the musical world - the cello.

Whether it is heard as a solo voice, as the bass voice that underpins a string quartet or in majestic unison as part of an orchestra, the cello provides its player with unlimited capacity for musical expression and artistry. The role of the cello constantly evolves and it is no surprise that it has resounded throughout history from the European Baroque to American neo Bluegrass, from Bach to the Beatles and from Mendelssohn to Metallica.

PERTH WRITERS FESTIVAL IN THE GREAT SOUTHERN

Sunday 23 February – Tuesday 25 February
Various Venues

Perth Writers Festival in the Great Southern brings a selection of leading international and Australian writers to Albany in 2014. Join us at the Vancouver Arts Centre for two days of dynamic conversation, debate and exclusive workshops to help recharge your creativity.

Snacks and lunch boxes will be available on site courtesy of Vancouver Café (cash sales only). Enjoy a coffee and relax in the outdoor courtyard or browse through the selection of books on offer in the Paper Bark pop-up shop.

An Evening with Philipp Meyer

Philipp Meyer burst onto the international stage to critical acclaim with his debut novel, *American Rust*. His second book, *The Son*, tells the epic story of three generations of a Texan family spanning 150 years from the wild frontier to the modern day. Philipp speaks with Warren Flynn.

BOOKINGS AND FESTIVAL INFO: 08 6488 5555 • perthfestival.com.au • Ticketek outlets

Great Southern Principal Partner



Supported by



**SOUTHERN LIGHTS
DONORS**

**Indigenous Program
Partner**



**Family and Education
Program Partner**





For further information, interviews or images please contact:

WA MEDIA: Rania Ghandour
+61 8 6488 8618 / 0403 025 535
rghandour@perthfestival.com.au

NATIONAL MEDIA: Miranda Brown
+61 3 9419 0931 / 0411 568 781
miranda@mbpublicity.com.au

Perth International Arts Festival

Founded in 1953 by The University of Western Australia, the Perth International Arts Festival is the longest running international arts festival in Australia and Western Australia's premier cultural event. The Festival has developed a worldwide reputation for excellence in its international program, the presentation of new works and the highest quality artistic experiences for its audience. For 61 years the Festival has welcomed to Perth some of the world's greatest living artists and now connects with over 700,000 people each year.

Jonathan Holloway is the Artistic Director 2012-2015.

-ends-

