

# JUNCTION ARTS FESTIVAL

## MEDIA RELEASE

### LAUNCESTON BECOMES JUNCTION OF UNEXPECTED ART ADVENTURES THIS SEPTEMBER

**Junction Arts Festival celebrates its fourth birthday with five days of art and music from 10 – 14 September, 2014**

**LAUNCESTON, TUESDAY 12 AUGUST, 2014—** Junction Arts Festival returns to energise Launceston, Tasmania from **Wednesday 10 – Sunday 14 September, 2014** with five days of unexpected art adventures weaving through the city. From a one minute birthday party, to bands playing in household backyards, to 7 metre-tall inflatable bunnies and bicycle-powered karaoke machines, Junction Arts Festival offers intimate one-on-one encounters, high energy spectacles and an all manner of things in-between.

Providing a completely unique event in Tasmania, Junction Arts Festival proves that art doesn't begin and end at theatres, museums and galleries. Featuring a bold program of engaging performances by local Tasmanian, national and international artists and musicians, Junction Arts Festival aims to highlight, celebrate and redefine the way people see the city of Launceston, creating site-specific works for seldom used spaces and interactive works, in which anyone can get involved and help create the art.

"Junction Arts Festival works closely with artists year-round to commission and produce new live art and performance that create unique experiences and mini adventures for audiences," **said Junction Arts Festival Director Natalie De Vito.** "We seek out and present work in nooks and crannies and unusual places – laneways, parking lots, rooftops, forgotten attics, biker clubs, and more – alongside those we walk by daily but never notice. Our artists highlight Launceston's architecture, history, character and spectacular vistas and turn the city into the best playground in Tasmania."

Audiences at Junction Arts Festival will be surprised, touched, moved and inspired by meaningful works by established artists from London to Toronto, Iran to Australia, as well as the first major presentation by emerging artists from Launceston and Tasmania.

Now in its fourth year, Junction Arts Festival is proud to have established itself as one of the premier annual events in Tasmania's thriving festival calendar and flourishing arts scene. Presenting works in all stages of creation by artists in all stages of their career, Junction Arts Festival aims to present contemporary art in a welcoming environment to all communities that is accessible to all ages.

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Highlights at Junction Arts Festival 2014 includes:



***Intrude* by Amanda Parer (Launceston):** Follow very large inflatable white rabbits, illuminated in stark white light, as they invade and take over Launceston's historic parks and city centre sites. The bunnies of *Intrude* stand tall, yet relaxed at 7m high and appear to be quite at home in their new patch. *Intrude* represents the fairy-tale animals of our childhood – a furry innocence, frolicking through idyllic fields, while revealing their more serious and large-scale effect on the environment.



***Evolutionary StraitJacket = Climate Change Karaoke* by Selena De Carvalho (Hobart):** In collaboration with a climate scientist, Selena has created a bicycle powered karaoke and video machine. An exercise in collaboration, climate change education and ridiculousness, audience members are invited into a karaoke lounge with drawings of evolutionary beings, costumes of evolutionary creatures and invited to wear costumes and sing karaoke.



***half empty, half full* by Kim Lehman (Launceston):** a series of photo-journalistic images of empty retail spaces that make up the current landscape of Launceston's CBD. Presented digitally and looped on large monitors and installed in three empty shopfronts, the project highlights the concentration of empty tenancies, reinforcing the need to activate disused spaces and engage in discussion about alternate uses for empty buildings.



***My Best Friend* by Malcolm Whittaker (Sydney):** Inspired by the passing of his family's long-time pet dog Winnie, *My Best Friend* is a walking performance orchestrated by Malcolm in memory of deceased and departed pet dogs of Launceston. Walking together, audiences and performers alike will share stories of dogs lived, loved and lost. The walk is a playful eulogy that is both bittersweet and a celebration of our non-human family members.



***On Dancefloors* by Abigail Conway (UK):** *On Dancefloors* is a durational, one on one, interactive performance, a celebration for people who like to move, watch, or listen to loud music in contained spaces. Audiences are invited one at a time to choose a song to dance to. When your tune starts to play, enter the discotheque made for two and share a dance with Abigail. Will you join her?

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**Confetti by Big One Little One (Melbourne/Sydney):** A one-minute performance party for a single audience member. The audience member is brought into a small room: inside is a big frenetic party where they are the guest of honour. They're sung a song, given a shot and a cake with a candle, pose for a 'selfie', dance the night away, and get confetti thrown on them – all in the space of one mad minute.



**Backyard Bands featuring Lulu and the Paige-Turners and The Embers:** A rare adventure into the backyards of two of Launceston's spectacular historic buildings for an intimate live music concert. Enjoy a sexy cabaret-esque performance at Hatherley House, a National Listed 1830's grand mansion with an expansive English-style parkland garden with snowy mountain vistas or catch some seedy blues swings while perched high on the hills of West Launceston at the early 20th century electrical sub-station with dramatic views.



**Cypher by Nick Power (Sydney):** Step into the cypher, a circle where b\*boys come together to battle and where style, energy, competition and celebration evolve. Witness a ground-breaking performance by some of the best b\*boys on the planet with choreography by Hip Hop legend Nick Power.



**One Tacky Tree by Anthony and Ella Crowley (Melbourne):** a joyful experiment in cross-generational collaboration between a father and his 12 year old daughter with material that ranges from original songs to pop, rock, blues and folk covers, (using two pianos, a violin, mouth organ, xylophone and various garden implements).

Anthony Crowley will also lead **Ordinary Moments of Extraordinary Bliss**, a unique community event that invites families of all shapes, ages and sizes to create a cabaret together over the weekend of the Festival and then perform it for Festival audiences.

Junction Arts Festival was first presented as a one-off event annexed to the 2010 Regional Arts Australia National Conference, Junction 2010, hosted and organised by Tasmanian Regional Arts in Launceston. Junction Arts Festival was established in 2012 and became an independent not-for-profit organisation, which in 2014, is now presenting its fourth festival.

For more information and tickets visit [junctionartsfestival.com.au](http://junctionartsfestival.com.au) or call 03 6331 1309.

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High resolution images available via [DropBox](https://www.dropbox.com). For more information or interviews please contact: Timothy Jones, Publicist / e: [t.layton.jones@gmail.com](mailto:t.layton.jones@gmail.com) / m: 0412 620 003

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