

The Black Arm Band

2010 COMMUNITY TOUR

in partnership with The Fred Hollows Foundation

“...we sing up the land, we sing up the sun as it rises over the horizon, we sing up our stories so that we never forget, and we sing up our future so we are reminded we have one...” excerpt from *murundak*

Building on the success of the 2009 initiative to tour The Black Arm Band's *murundak* to remote Indigenous Australia, The Fred Hollows Foundation have invited The Black Arm Band to share the partner piece, ***Hidden Republic*** with Aboriginal audiences in a second remote community tour in 2010.

Through the pioneering vision and generous support of The Fred Hollows Foundation, ***Hidden Republic*** will visit remote Indigenous communities in the Northern Territory and Western Australia throughout July and August 2010. The large-scale tour of performances and music workshops includes community ovals, basketball courts and football fields in Maningrida, Manyallaluk, Wadeye, Fitzroy Crossing and Papunya.

The Black Arm Band began in 2006 as a project of Arts House, an initiative of the City of Melbourne dedicated to the development and presentation of the contemporary arts.

Where *murundak* honours Indigenous Australia's civil rights movement, ***Hidden Republic*** turns the collective gaze forward and reflects on the renewed hope and promise of a 'post apology' Australia. An uplifting and inspiring portrait of contemporary Indigenous life, ***Hidden Republic*** celebrates songs of hope and resistance from the open heart of Aboriginal Australia's songbook. ***Hidden Republic*** is the second major project of The Black Arm Band, which premiered at the 2008 Melbourne International Arts Festival and has since appeared at the Queensland Music Festival, Sydney Festival, and the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympics Cultural Program.

Hidden Republic features many of Australia's leading figures in Indigenous music including Mark Atkins, Lou Bennett, Emma Donovan, Leah Flanagan, Djolpa McKenzie, Shellie Morris, Stephen Pigram and Ursula Yovich, joined by guest percussionist Greg Sheehan and featuring musical collaborators Michael Meagher (bass), Rory McDougall (drums), Julien Wilson (sax), Ben Winkelman (piano) and UK guest cellist Ayanna Witter-Johnson.

With a shared vision to address the underlying causes of health inequity, this groundbreaking partnership between The Black Arm Band and Fred Hollows Foundation also shares the belief that music is a powerful vehicle for community change and social inclusion. Widely recognised for their international work in eye health, The Fred Hollows Foundation's Indigenous Health Program focuses on the physical, cultural and social health and wellbeing of Indigenous people in some of the most isolated communities in Australia. The Foundation takes a comprehensive approach to improving the health and life opportunities of Indigenous people.

The wealth of indigenous musical talent within The Black Arm Band ensemble combined with the work of The Fred Hollows Foundation, presents a rare opportunity to engage disadvantaged Indigenous communities with the peak figures in Indigenous music. The artists of The Black Arm Band have the ability to empower youth and community with a strong sense of self worth, self expression, self belief and self determination through music.

The Black Arm Band and The Fred Hollows Foundation are working closely together with community to deliver a program of music workshops and showcase performances which utilise music as an instrument of identity, hope, resistance and self-determination. These programs reflect The Black Arm Band's belief that music is a powerful vehicle for community change and social inclusion, in evidence at every performance and workshop.

"It was more than just a concert. It was . . . a ritual: a summoning of hope and possibility, a mourning and expiation, a gift of huge spiritual generosity, a Damn Good Time." Theatre Notes, 2008

TOUR INFORMATION

The 2010 Community Tour of ***Hidden Republic*** includes:

Community Workshops:

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|----------------------|----------------|
| Manyallaluk, NT | 20 – 22 July |
| Maningrida, NT | 27 – 29 July |
| Fitzroy Crossing, WA | 3 – 5 August |
| Papunya, NT | 3 – 5 August |
| Wadeye, NT | 10 – 12 August |

Performances:

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|----------------------|---------------------|
| Maningrida, NT | Wednesday 18 August |
| Manyallaluk, NT | Friday 20 August |
| Wadeye, NT | Saturday 21 August |
| Fitzroy Crossing, WA | Wednesday 25 August |
| Papunya, NT | Saturday 28 August |

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The 2010 Community Tour of ***Hidden Republic*** is proudly presented in partnership with The Fred Hollows Foundation, touring The Black Arm Band to remote and regional Australia. The Fred Hollows Foundation works towards beating preventable blindness and closing the gap in life expectancy between Indigenous and non Indigenous Australians.
www.hollows.org

Hidden Republic has received support from the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts, its arts funding and advisory body, through its Community Partnerships Section.

The Australian Government is proud to be associated with this tour through the national performing arts touring program, Playing Australia, which gives Australians across the country the opportunity to see some of our best performing arts.

The Black Arm Band performs, promotes and celebrates contemporary Australian Indigenous music to the highest possible professional standard as a symbol of resilience and hope and in the spirit and action of reconciliation.
www.blackarmband.com.au

The Black Arm Band is conceived and produced by Arts House; a City of Melbourne contemporary arts initiative. Arts House values arts and culture that help create a world where people are actively engaged, aware and empowered to participate, politically and culturally, to make positive change.
www.artshouse.com.au

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ARTS HOUSE



**The Fred Hollows
Foundation**
www.hollows.org.au



Australian Government
Playing Australia