

WAKAKIRRI

Australia's Largest Performing Arts Event for Schools

**MEDIA RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

WAKAKIRRI TO INSPIRE NEXT GENERATION AT PERFORMING ARTS CAREERS DAY

Prominent members of the entertainment industry will be sharing insights with the next generation of Australian stars at Wakakirri's Performing Arts Careers Day at The Australian Centre for Contemporary Art in May 2018.

A free event for secondary students in Victoria, schools are invited to bring along a team of students and teachers to a special day where they will be inspired, encouraged and informed about what it takes to succeed in the entertainment industry.

Joining the panel are actor Michala Banas (*Upper Middle Bogan, Nowhere Boys, McLeod's Daughters*), stage and screen star Joshua Horner (*Dancing With The Stars*), actor, writer and singer Alex Papps (*Play School, Home and Away*), and dancer and choreographer Jason Coleman (*So You Think You Can Dance*, Choreographer for the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games Opening and Closing Ceremonies). More special guests are yet to be announced.

These industry professionals will reflect on their careers, discuss career pathways and talk about how the students can use an event like the Wakakirri Story Dance Challenge to enhance their own career prospects.

Also joining the panel will be the inspiring founder of Spark Youth Dance Company and Wakakirri alum Alex Dellaportas along with Min Pakoo and Wada Kwan, who were awarded scholarships to Jason Coleman's Ministry of Dance after their breakout 2017 Wakakirri performances.

"At Wakakirri we believe that participation in the arts is essential if young people are to develop confidence in expressing themselves," said Wakakirri's co-founder and Festival Director Adam Loxley. "This event is an opportunity for secondary students to explore possibilities and pathways to careers and enhance their understanding and appreciation for the arts. Wakakirri has taken care to develop panel discussions that will have value for all students, from those who've just begun high school through to HSC students."

Wakakirri are hosting this free event with the support of the Victorian Government and Youth Central.

Event Details

Venue: ACCA (Australian Centre for Contemporary Art), 111 Sturt Street, Southbank VIC

Date: Monday 28th May

Time: 10am to 1pm (TBC)

Registration & info: <http://www.wakakirri.com/careers-day/>

-ENDS-

MEDIA INQUIRIES

**For further information, interviews, hi-res images & event media accreditation
please contact:**

Alannah Maher at WAKAKIRRI

E: info@wakakirri.com | Ph: 1800 650 979

Thanks to our sponsors



WAKAKIRRI

Australia's Largest Performing Arts Event for Schools

NOTES TO EDITORS

What is Wakakirri?

The Wakakirri Story Dance Association Incorporated is a not-for-profit organisation that uses storytelling, the oldest form of learning, as it's focus for providing innovative educational programs to schools in a manner that resonates with contemporary youth culture.

Established in 1992, the **Wakakirri Story Dance Challenge** is Australia's largest performing arts program for schools, involving over 20,000 students across every State and Territory each year. Schools across Australia create Wakakirri productions that reflect their students' thoughts, ideas and aspirations. These stories are performed in professional theatres in front of the official 'Wakakirri Panel' who are searching for 'Story of the Year'. Over 1 million people watch Wakakirri performances each year.

<http://www.wakakirri.com/>

Major Partner – The Victorian Government & Youth Central

The Victorian Government is proud to be the major partner of the Wakakirri Secondary School Challenge in Victoria. The Wakakirri Secondary School Challenge makes a real difference to the lives of young people, enabling and empowering them to participate in society in productive and creative ways. Through Wakakirri, young people develop leadership, production, communication and performance skills and are also recognised for their team work, commitment and creativity.

<https://www.vic.gov.au/>

Youth Central, the Victorian Government website for young people, includes stories of a number of young people undertaking career pathways both in front of and behind the camera in the media, arts and entertainment industry.

<http://www.youthcentral.vic.gov.au/>

Thanks to our sponsors

