

# DARWIN FESTIVAL

NORTHERN TERRITORY ARTISTS  
2021 EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST



TUTUP MULUT  
Malam (Night) | 2020



# DAVID GARNHAM

Streets of Darwin | 2020



Photo: Elise Derwin

## WHY WE LOVE LOCAL

Darwin Festival is an 18-day multi-arts festival held annually each August, delivering a program of free and ticketed events across genres including theatre, dance, music, comedy, circus, cabaret, visual arts, and words and ideas. The artistic program captures the spirit of Darwin and the Northern Territory: irreverent, provocative, diverse, engaging and inclusive.

Northern Territory artists are at the heart of our program and are presented alongside events by highly regarded national and international artists. Darwin Festival was one of the first Australian major capital city festivals to formally invite expressions of interest from local artists and we are passionate about showcasing the diversity of talent that exists in the Territory.

Since 2009, we have used this process to connect with local artists, companies and arts workers who have ideas, works in progress or presentation-ready works.

In 2020 due to the effects of COVID-19 we had an almost completely local program and engaged 372 NT artists in a variety of events across the Festival.

Darwin Festival accepts proposals that are:

- across any art form
- works in progress or presentation-ready
- projects involving collaborations with other artists (both local and outside of the NT)
- youth or community projects

Looking ahead to 2021 and beyond, we are on the hunt for new work or an existing concept with a new twist – this could be a first-time collaboration with other local artists or maybe you're embarking into a new genre.

We want things that Darwin hasn't seen yet, or at least not for a very long time – events that push boundaries and challenge perceptions.

### Application process

7 October 2020 – Applications open

20 October 2020 – Darwin in-person information session

4 December 2020 – Applications close

January 2021 – Shortlisted applicants notified

February 2021 – All applicants notified

August 2021 – Darwin Festival

To submit your application, please complete the online form at [www.darwinfestival.org.au](http://www.darwinfestival.org.au). You also have the option to submit a video application, please refer to the Frequently Asked Questions for more information. We encourage you to get in touch to discuss your work prior to submitting your application.

### Information session

If you are in Darwin on 20 October 2020, you can attend an information session with the Festival Programing team on hand to answer all of your questions. We will also livestream the information session for artists unable to attend in person.

### Access requirements

If you have any access requirements that make it difficult to submit an application, please get in touch either via email or phone to discuss options.

### Contact us

Please contact Vanessa Wright, Program Producer for any questions at [hello@darwinfestival.org.au](mailto:hello@darwinfestival.org.au) or by calling 08 8243 4200.

# THE EXPERIENCE



**JODIE KELL**  
Ripple Effect Band  
| 2020

"During Covid restrictions in 2020, we had interstate tours as well as local NT festival performances cancelled. We were locked down in Maningrida and even the music studio was shut. It was really sad as we had been working on new songs and a new show to present to audiences across Australia. This included our film projection *Njarra-djorrka wiba (we carry our country with us)* which aimed to share the beauty of the Maningrida region with our audiences.

When we got the call from Darwin Festival we were excited at the opportunity to be able to perform this year. Better still we heard the festival was focusing on local artists and we are so proud to be part of the NT music community."



**MANDY GARLING**  
Musician  
*Streets of Darwin* | 2020

"Performing in the final show for the Darwin Festival is something I'll treasure forever. The experience gained through the build-up, with long hours of rehearsals, plus juggling your normal lifestyle and work in between, can be very challenging. However, to perform on the night was an outstanding success.

Original music is the best way to show who you are as an artist, it brings the real stories of who the person really is. It was such a great feeling to be able to sing in front of a new crowd sharing my culture and my music.

Darwin Festival has given me inspiration to keep pursuing my song-writing dream and to continue performing as an Indigenous artist."



**NICK YATES**

Whistling Kite New Music | 2020

"I was able to invite Darwin Festival staff to concerts I put on before the NT Artists EOI process opened, and I would recommend doing that if you can. Demonstrating that you are a practicing artist will give the Festival confidence to program your work. I also found it helpful to attend the NT Artists information session and ask questions there.

For the application, I tried to describe the artist merits of the Whistling Kite New Music concerts in a lot of detail; pitching to the Festival why it would fit strongly within their program, and how it could sell tickets. I wasn't sure about every budgetary and logistical detail, so I was honest about those things too. The Festival has resources to help you put your show on, and it's OK to not have everything worked out nine months in advance.

I'm really proud to have been able to launch Whistling Kite New Music to sold out concerts in August 2020, when there was so little live performance happening anywhere else in the world. Thanks so much to Darwin Festival for making it possible!"



"PERFORMING WITH YILILA BAND IN FRONT OF AN ENTHUSIASTIC AND FAMILIAR AUDIENCE WAS VERY SPECIAL FOR US AND WE WANT TO THANK THE SUPPORTIVE DARWIN FESTIVAL TEAM FOR MAKING IT HAPPEN"

- JODIE KELL  
Ripple Effect Band



## A POINT OF DIFFERENCE



### I'LL TELL YOU IN PERSON

Theatre for headphones  
| 2020

Sarah Reuben and Jeffrey Jay Fowler applied to the Festival with a completely different project originally, but due to the reimagining of the 2020 Festival as a result of COVID-19 they worked closely with the team to devise a new work for limited capacity audiences. The outcome was a two-person theatre work designed to be listened to via headphones. I'll Tell You In Person was part of a series of intimate audience works presented in Browns Mart Theatre Courtyard and was received very positively by audiences, with the season selling out.



### STORM DOG

360° virtual reality film  
| 2019

Caro Macdonald approached Darwin Festival to present her new 360-degree film work, Storm Dog, which had been created with the support of the Northern Territory Government's Creative in Residence program and the Northern Territory Archives. The content of the film in addition to its immersive presentation was really appealing to the Festival. The final installation of the work in Festival Park was an engaging and exciting way for audiences to experience VR, many for the first time.

"I felt very lucky to have Storm Dog selected to exhibit at Darwin Festival. The Festival team were endlessly supportive and enthusiastic, and were able to bring the artwork to life using innovative means. Personally, it was also just very rewarding being part of the community that is the Festival" – Caro Macdonald

Photos: Elise Derwin, Duane Preston & Caro Macdonald





Photo: Elise Darwin

**"DARWIN FESTIVAL IS AN AMAZING OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT WORK ALONGSIDE SOME OF THE MOST EXCITING INTERNATIONAL ART AND THE FESTIVAL DID EVERYTHING IN THEIR POWER TO ENSURE THAT MY WORK STOOD UP NEXT TO ALL THE OTHER PRESENTED WORK IN QUALITY AND SCOPE"**

**- SARAH REUBEN & JEFFREY JAY FOWLER**  
I'll Tell You In Person

## FAQS

### **Who can apply to perform at Darwin Festival?**

Darwin Festival is a fully curated international arts festival and invitations to perform are issued by the Programming team. We are always keen to hear from artists about their work and have a particular interest in Northern Territory works. If you are a Northern Territory artist, you can submit an expression of interest by completing the application form.

### **Can I submit an Expression of Interest through this process if I do not live in the Northern Territory?**

The Northern Territory Artist EOI process is specifically designed to support Northern Territory based artists. However, if most of your collaborators are based in the NT or your work is deeply connected to the NT community you can get in touch with the Festival to discuss your eligibility.

### **What type of work do you program?**

We are a multi-arts festival and will consider all art forms for programming. We are particularly interested in new work, or work with a point of difference that might not have been seen in Darwin recently. We enjoy artistic collaborations, free community projects and intimate performance works. We look for artists who have begun to build profile within their field and for whom a Darwin Festival performance would be the logical next step.

### **I'm a visual arts gallery that is presenting an exhibition in August 2021, should I submit an application?**

Yes, we would love to hear from you. Exhibitions that take place during the Festival dates will be considered for inclusion in the Darwin Festival program.

### **I'm a musician or a band and I want to apply, do I need to complete the application form?**

Yes, we would love for you to apply via the form. The information we need from you is contact details, a short description of who you are and links to your music. If you don't have any music recorded please list when you'll next be performing and we can try to attend.

### **How much money will I receive if I am successful?**

Your performance fee will be dependent on a number of factors including the scale of your project, whether it is a ticketed or free event and how much additional funding you are able to secure for the project. We encourage all artists to look at multiple funding sources for new projects and can provide advice on where to apply and how to build a budget. If your project is shortlisted, you may be asked by the Festival to submit a budget. If you are applying as a solo musician or a band, your performance fee will be dependent on what venue you perform at.

### **What happens after I submit my application?**

After you submit your expression of interest, you may be contacted by the Festival for further information. Shortlisted applicants will be notified in January 2021. If you are applying as a solo musician or a band, the timeline may be a bit longer and we will notify you closer to March/April 2021.

### **If I'm shortlisted does that mean I am programmed in the Festival?**

No. If you are shortlisted it means that we really like your application and we would like to discuss it further to determine if it is logistically and financially possible.



# FAQS

## **I submitted a proposal in previous years and was not successful, should I try again?**

Yes, we're always keen to hear about how your work has developed over time.

## **I don't have any online materials that I can share with you, so how do I tell you about my work?**

We highly recommend you film your next performance. Alternatively, let us know when you're next performing or presenting your work in the Darwin region and we will be there.

## **I would like to submit an application via video, what do I do?**

Applications presented in video format should be the applicant/s talking to-camera about their idea. You will also need to complete the Artist Contact section of the application form and upload your video.

Files should be uploaded in MP4, MPEG-4 or MOV format with a maximum file size of 500mb. Please name the file using your name (eg FirstnameLastname.MP4). Submission videos should not exceed 2 minutes in length. You also have the option to submit video footage of your work in addition to your application.

## **I have more questions, what should I do?**

If you are in Darwin on Tuesday 20 October 2020, you can attend an information session with the Programming team on hand to answer all your questions. The session will be livestreamed and recorded for those unable to attend in person.

If you are unable to attend or this date has passed, please email Vanessa Wright, Program Producer at [hello@darwinfestival.org.au](mailto:hello@darwinfestival.org.au) to arrange a time to talk about your project. We strongly encourage you to get in touch prior to submitting an application.

## ELISE DERWIN & HELEN ORR

Still Life in Lockdown | 2020



Photo: Elise Derwin