



Brisbane Festival 2010 begins with a bang! Opening Night

Brisbane's skyline, riverbanks, balconies and backyards will be illuminated and alive with activity on Saturday 4 September as Queensland celebrates the opening of Brisbane Festival 2010 with the annual QBE Riverfire.

The iconic fireworks display marks the commencement of Brisbane Festival's three week programme along with the official opening of the festival hub, QUT Spiegeltent, featuring 22 days of music, cabaret and festival mayhem.

New Brisbane Festival Artistic Director Noel Staunton said the opening night was an opportunity for all to celebrate their city and signalled the start of an action-packed festival programme of arts events across the city.

"Last year we welcomed a record 650,000 people to the banks of the Brisbane River to enjoy the QBE Riverfire festivities and this year promises to be another spectacular opening celebration," Mr Staunton said.

"There's no doubt that QBE Riverfire is one of the most loved events of the programme yet it is just the beginning of a three week celebration of art and this city. I'm very excited to deliver my first Brisbane Festival programme. "

The build-up to Brisbane's night of nights starts from midday with plenty of free entertainment including FM104.5 Triple M's outside broadcast and the Australian Defence Force Open Day featuring aircraft displays, drills and live music.

At 5pm all eyes will turn to the sky when the Roulettes* take off for a gravity defying aerial display. Then finally, when the sun goes down, the awesome F-111* strike jets will make their final curtain call to an inspiring soundtrack featuring drums, didgeridoo, electronic beats, classical masterpieces and contemporary and retro tunes.

Following the breath-taking fireworks, the festivities continue with the Opening Night Party at the QUT Spiegeltent.

People making their way into the city for the Brisbane Festival 2010 Opening Night are advised to take advantage of the special public transport services in place for QBE Riverfire. Details are available from TRANSLink 13 12 30 or www.translink.com.au.

ENDS

** Availability of ADF aircraft including F-111s and Roulettes is subject to operational requirements.*

QBE Riverfire Vantage Points

South Bank is a popular place for families to watch QBE Riverfire. The venue is fenced for public safety and will be closed once capacity is reached. Arrive early and enjoy the Australian Defence Force Open Day from 12 noon.

Please do not bring glass, alcohol and drink bottles with broken seals, including bottles of water or softdrink to South Bank. These items will be confiscated by South Bank security staff. QBE Riverfire at South Bank is an alcohol-free event.

Kangaroo Point Cliffs, Victoria Bridge, City Riverwalk (including Riverside Centre and Eagle Street Pier), Captain Burke Park and Wilson's Lookout offer alternative vantage points. All these sites offer food and beverages for sale.

For people who have limited mobility, access is available at South Bank, Eagle Street Pier, Riverside Centre, City Botanical Gardens and Captain Burke Park.

For more information please contact:

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