Festival of Small Halls Announces Autumn Tour 2018

Canadian singer-songwriter Dave Gunning and captivating Australian star Claire Anne Taylor will join the Festival of Small Halls Autumn Tour 2018, playing 18 community halls across regional Victoria, South Australia and New South Wales throughout March and April.

Produced by Woodfordia Inc. in partnership with Port Fairy Folk Festival and the National Folk Festival, the Festival of Small Halls is a locally driven music tour bringing high-quality live original music to small towns across Australia.

Each Festival of Small Halls tour is a collaboration between community groups, councils, state bodies, international musicians and other stakeholders.

Festival producer Eleanor Rigden says the tour offers more than just a rare opportunity for towns to access a high standard of music.

“People tell us that they feel great after a night in their local hall,” she says.

“Folks can catch up with people they might not have seen in a long time. Young people are starting to make the move back out of cities to head home. Working adults are realising community connections can help them withstand the pressures of a busy life. Children are growing up together in these community spaces.”

“There’s a lot of reunions happening in these Halls. Memories are coming back to life.”

The Festival of Small Halls Autumn Tour 2018 will start on the banks of the Wakefield River in Balaklava, South Australia, and will finish in the south west of Victoria, circling the entire state and dipping into NSW.

Both artists on this year's tour are looking forward to the intimacy of playing a regional tour.

Dave Gunning is a masterful songwriter and remarkable entertainer hailing from Nova Scotia, Canada. His recording career is now approaching a full two decades in length. Along with richly-deserved peer respect, he has also earned a shelf full of music industry awards including eight East Coast Music Awards and two Canadian Folk Music Awards, plus a 2012 Juno Award nomination.

Claire Anne Taylor crafts soulful folk songs that capture both the beautiful and dark elements of the human experience. Her music ranges from warm, mesmerising ballads to epic anthems. With vivid storytelling, colossal vocals and a powerfully captivating stage presence, her live shows leave the audience in no doubt that they have just witnessed something extraordinary.

"We are so thrilled that our village program on opening night will feature the Festival of Small Halls, which will be presented in our historic Lecture Hall right in the heart of Port Fairy," said Port Fairy Folk Festival Program Director Caroline Moore.

"The Festival of Small Halls is a wonderful program, that not only celebrates outstanding music but also puts the spotlight on regional towns and the halls of old which are treasured parts of our history, our present and our future."

Now in its sixth year, the Festival of Small Halls tour will take in 18 regional towns across South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales before moving on to outback Queensland in May.

Tickets on sale 12pm Friday 12 January at
festivalofsmallhalls.com and selected outlets

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Tour Dates

Wednesday, March-07	Balaklava, SA	Balaklava Town Hall
Thursday, March-08	Allendale East, SA	Allendale East Public Hall
Mar-09 - Mar 12	Port Fairy, VIC	Port Fairy Folk Festival
Wednesday, Mar-14	Natimuk, VIC	Natimuk Soldiers Memorial Hall
Thursday, Mar-15	Pomonal, VIC	Pomonal Hall
Friday, Mar-16	Apollo Bay, VIC	Apollo Bay Senior Citizens Centre
Saturday, Mar-17	Sandy Point, VIC	Sandy Point Community Hall
Sunday, Mar-18	Belgrave, VIC	Brae Dale Lodge
Wednesday, Mar-21	Wycheproof, VIC	Buloke Shire Hall
Thursday, Mar-22	Caldwell, NSW	Caldwell Hall
Friday, Mar-23	Toongi, NSW	Toongi Hall
Saturday, Mar-24	Woodstock, NSW	Woodstock Memorial Hall
Sunday, Mar-25	Batlow, NSW	Batlow Literary Institute
Wednesday, Mar-28	Newlyn, VIC	Scrub Hill 1869
Mar 29 - Apr 2	Canberra, ACT	National Folk Festival
Wednesday, Apr-4	Osbornes Flat, VIC	Osbornes Flat Hall
Thursday, Apr-5	Dookie, VIC	Dooke Arts Hub
Friday, Apr-6	Sedgwick, VIC	Sedgwick Public Hall
Saturday, Apr-7	Tylden, VIC	Tylden Public Hall
Sunday, Apr-8	Birregurra, VIC	Birregurra Public Hall

ENDS