

FESTIVAL OF SMALL HALLS MAKES INAUGURAL TRIP TO WESTERN AUSTRALIA



Australia's largest regionally dedicated music tour Festival of Small Halls has announced its 19th seasonal music tour and inaugural tour of Western Australia, the *Autumn Tour 2020: To Fairbridge Festival and Beyond*.

Featuring the youngest-ever winner of the prestigious Scots Singer of the Year award Iona Fyfe, co-billed with the "Gypsy Scotsman", proud adopted Territorian Colin Lillie, the far-ranging music tour will travel to Western Australia for the first time.

Having extensively toured the east coast of Australia since 2013, the foray to the west is the next stage of "becoming truly national", said Producer Eleanor Rigden.

"Western Australia misses out on many national tours, and geographically, is closer to Bali than Sydney or Melbourne, Eleanor said.

"However, we've found an identical spirit in the small towns of WA – a commitment to bringing people together, a love of traditional community spaces and a desire for more excellent music without the need to travel or spend excessively for it.

"So, we're packing our bags, crossing the Nullarbor and bringing all our lights, sound and smiles to the west coast."

The Autumn Tour 2020 launches at the 28th annual Fairbridge Festival, a long-time friend of the producing organisation, Woodfordia Inc.

"Fairbridge Festival is delighted to partner Woodfordia with its Small Halls initiative, said Artistic Director Rod Vervest.

"Regional communities across our vast State rarely get the opportunity to engage with world-class music. The initiative strives to activate and inspire communities to deliver social and economic benefits and will leave a blazed trail that other artists can then move through. Wonderful stuff and we whole-heartedly support it."

The Autumn Tour 2020 is also presented as part of the trailblazing partnership, *Year of Scotland in Australia*. Year of Scotland in Australia is nationwide calendar of activity celebrating Scottish music, culture, food and drink. YOSA2020 starts 31st December 2019 and continues through until 31st December 2020, with spectacular New Year's Hogmanay celebrations bookending hundreds of activities designed to increase appreciation for the remarkable quality and diversity of Scottish musical culture.

Featured Scottish folk singer, Iona Fyfe, has become one of Scotland's finest young ballad singers. Described as *"one of the best Scotland has to offer"*, at only 22 years of age Iona has toured throughout the UK, Poland, France, Germany, Austria, Italy, Switzerland, Czech Republic and Canada. Released in 2019, Iona's first EP entirely in English ***Dark Turn of Mind*** has been described as *"a new interpretation to the country genre"*. The Festival of Small Halls Autumn Tour 2020 will be Iona's inaugural tour of Australia.

"I'm really excited to come over and take part in the Small Halls tour, said Iona.

"It's such a great opportunity - to be able to experience parts of Australia and also experience touring alongside a musician from Australia. I look forward to the cultural exchange between us and can't wait to perform to audiences in rural locations on my first tour in Australia."

Iona Fyfe is paired with adopted Australian Colin Lillie, who took up residence in the Northern Territory fifteen years ago after a 12-month holiday ended in Alice Springs, where he met his wife-to-be and unearthed his love of music. His very first single, Give Thanks, won him NT Song of the Year (Blues and Roots) and saw the honest troubadour tour and impress crowds all over Australia with his intense live performances. The debut album earned critical acclaim from some of Australia's top music reviewers, including The Guardian and The Australian.

"I'm so excited to have been asked to be part in this Small Halls tour, said Colin.

"Not only am I getting to perform and share my song in WA, but I get to share the stage with the magnificent Iona Fyfe. I haven't seen much of Western Australia and to be traveling with such an incredible artist like Iona will be a lot of fun, Colin said.

"I look forward to meeting and connecting with so many new friends, what an adventure we will have!"

The dynamically-paired duo will travel the width of southern West Australia, performing 16 shows over four weeks this April and May.

The Festival of Small Halls WA Autumn Tour starts on the 17th of April 2020 at Fairbridge Festival, then continues onto Northam Town Hall on the 22nd of April 2020.

Proudly presented by Woodfordia Inc in partnership with Fairbridge Festival.



LINKS

<http://festivalofsmallhalls.com>
www.facebook.com/festivalofsmallhalls
<https://www.instagram.com/smallhallsaus/>

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Woodfordia Inc in partnership with Fairbridge Festival presents:

**Festival of Small Halls Autumn Tour 2020:
Fairbridge Festival and Beyond Feat. Iona Fyfe (SCO) and Colin Lillie (AUS/SCO).**

17-19 Apr	Fairbridge, WA	Fairbridge Festival
22-Apr	Northam	Northam Town Hall
23-Apr	Dalwallinu	Dalwallinu Town Hall
24-Apr	Morawa	Morawa Town Hall
25-Apr	Seabird	Seabird Hall
26-Apr	Lancelin	Lancelin Hall
29-Apr	Kalgoorlie	Chinese Garden of Remembrance
30-Apr	Esperance	The Esperance Civic Centre
1-May	TBC	TBC
2-May	Mount Barker	Plantagenet District Hall
3-May	Youngs Siding	Youngs Siding Hall
6-May	Augusta	Augusta Centennial Hall
7-May	Nornalup	Nornalup Community Hall
8-May	Wilyabrup	Wilyabrup Hall
9-May	Acton Park	Acton Park & Districts Community Hall
10-May	Waroona	Waroona RSL Memorial Hall

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