



Yolŋu rap sensation Baker Boy to headline Tarnanthi opening weekend with free public performance

Adelaide, Australia. Yolŋu rap sensation Baker Boy will kick off the opening weekend celebration of this year's Tarnanthi: Festival of Contemporary Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art 2019. Baker Boy will perform at the free public event with his troupe of dancers on the Art Gallery of South Australia's North Terrace forecourt, on the night of 17 October.

Named Young Australian of the Year in 2019, and a finalist in the National Indigenous Music Awards which will be announced this Saturday 10 August, Baker Boy's performance at Tarnanthi is in line with the strong presence of Yolŋu artists in Tarnanthi 2019 that were announced by AGSA in early July.

Award-winning rapper, dancer, artist and actor Baker Boy is known for mixing rap with old-school hip-hop beats with lyrics in English and Yolŋu Matha, the language of the Yolŋu people of East Arnhem Land.

On performing at Tarnanthi, Baker Boy says, 'It's such an honour to have the opportunity to perform at such an important celebration of Australia's Indigenous people. I'm really excited to jump up on stage and show my culture and language and encourage everyone, no matter what their culture to be proud of who they are and celebrate where they have come from.'

Baker Boy has had an explosive career after first appearing on Triple J Unearthed in 2017 and then being ranked at number seventeen in Triple J's Hottest 100 for 2017 with his song 'Marryuna'. He has since played headline shows all over Australia, been on the Laneway Festival circuit, and this week was announced on the Falls Festival line-up. Baker Boy's performance at Tarnanthi will be his first South Australian appearance since the release of his single 'In Control'.

Baker Boy hopes to inspire younger generations to embrace their culture and become leaders in their communities. He will be one of a number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander performers taking part in Tarnanthi's opening weekend events.

The full Tarnanthi 2019 program will be announced in late August. For details visit www.agsa.gov.au

ABOUT TARNANTHI

Internationally acclaimed and recognised as the largest festival of its kind, Tarnanthi encompasses a major art exhibition at the Art Gallery of South Australia, a city-wide festival across almost 30 partner venues and a dynamic Art Fair presented over the opening weekend.

The word 'Tarnanthi' (pronounced tar-nan-dee) comes from the language of the Kurna people, the traditional owners of the Adelaide Plains. It means to come forth or appear – like the sun and the first emergence of light. Tarnanthi presents the forefront of contemporary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art from across the country and provides an energised platform for artists to share important stories as new light is shed on their practice.

Tarnanthi 2019 will feature over 1000 artists from the length and breadth of the continent; from the Tiwi Islands to Broken Hill, Ceduna to Port Hedland.

At its heart, Tarnanthi is a series of exhibitions, artists talks, performances and events, showcasing and celebrating contemporary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art. Tarnanthi is presented in partnership with BHP and with the support of the Government of South Australia.

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MEDIA IMAGES Available for download from:

https://files.artgallery.sa.gov.au/ftp/marketing/Baker_Boy_Image_gallery.zip

KEY DATES

- Tarnanthi Launch | 6pm Thursday 17 October, AGSA Forecourt, North Terrace
- Tarnanthi | 18 October 2019 – 27 January 2020
- Tarnanthi Art Fair | 18-20 October 2019

Image: Baker Boy, courtesy of the artist.