



Media Release

Premier opens Perth International Arts Festival

11 February 2016

- PIAF runs from February 11 to March 6, 2016 showcasing the best in arts from around the world
- New location at Elizabeth Quay for Chevron Festival Gardens

Premier Colin Barnett tonight launches the 2016 Perth International Arts Festival at a special festival eve celebration at Elizabeth Quay, the new location for Chevron Festival Gardens.

PIAF is the longest running international multi-arts festival in the southern hemisphere, with performances in about 350 events by more than 1,000 artists from Australia and around the world.

"Perth is cementing itself as a key destination for the arts and this year's festival promises an exciting program of music, literature, theatre and free community events," Mr Barnett said.

"It is a special time of year to be in Western Australia and to experience the excitement, vitality and magic that an arts festival can bring."

The Premier said a highlight of this year's festival would be the free opening event, Home, on Saturday evening, featuring a stellar line up of Western Australian talent.

Lotterywest has contributed \$7.6 million to the 2016 festival, which includes support for the new PIAF Connect program.

"State Government support, through Lotterywest, has enabled the launch of this new program which will foster the development of local artists and industry," Mr Barnett said.

"PIAF Connect provides important opportunities to link local and international artists together to explore ideas and share their practices, which will contribute to the long-term future of the arts industry in WA."

The Premier also acknowledged founding partner The University of Western Australia, and the role that Lotterywest played in supporting the Lotterywest Festival Films, which brings the best films from around the world to two unique outdoor cinemas in Perth. The Festival Films will also travel to the Great Southern with a selection of films screening in Albany and Denmark.

Fact File

Lotterywest

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- The Lotterywest Festival Opening, Home is a free community event at Langley Park on February 13, supported by Tourism WA and the City of Perth
- For more information, visit <http://www.perthfestival.com.au>

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