

FRINGE WORLD Festival set to entertain WA

21 January 2016

- FRINGE WORLD Festival has more than 700 events across 150 venues
- State Government support of more than \$1.2 million for the 2016 festival

Premier Colin Barnett will tonight officially open the fifth annual FRINGE WORLD Festival which runs until February 21, 2016 and features more than 700 events across 150 venues in the City of Perth, metropolitan areas and regional hubs.

The FRINGE WORLD program showcases the talents of West Australian artists while attracting performers from around the world in a range of genres, from comedy and cabaret to circus and visual arts.

Mr Barnett said FRINGE WORLD was now recognised as the third largest Fringe Festival in the world and had received State Government support since its inception.

"FRINGE WORLD is a stage to cultivate and showcase local artists, entertain and challenge audiences as well as providing a significant economic boost to the State," the Premier said.

"State Government support through Lotterywest has allowed FRINGE WORLD to break new ground, keep ticket prices down and reach regional audiences through the 'Outer Fringe' touring program, which ensures country residents can enjoy performances.

"FRINGE WORLD is for the State's arts sector what the Twenty20 Big Bash League is to cricket - exciting, action-filled and entertaining."

This year's festival follows a record-breaking year for FRINGE WORLD. The 2015 festival achieved ticket sales of more than \$6.4 million, making it the largest box office earner of any arts festival in the State.

The 2016 FRINGE WORLD Festival is expected to once again prove popular with WA audiences. Attendances at free and ticketed events are forecast to exceed last year's figure of 660,000.

A drawcard for 2016 is the grand opening of the FRINGE WORLD Fairground at Elizabeth Quay from January 29 to March 6. There will be free entertainment including the FRINGE WORLD mermaids, acrobats and live music over the opening weekend.

FRINGE WORLD will culminate in an awards ceremony on February 21 to acknowledge the best FRINGE WORLD show in each genre category.

Lotterywest

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Media Release

Fact File

- FRINGE WORLD runs from 22 January to 21 February. FRINGE WORLD Fairground ends March 6
- Fringe's De Parel Spiegel tent was purchased in 2011 with a Lotterywest grant of \$400,000
- The State Government provides support to Fringe World organising body, Artrage, through Lotterywest - \$700,000, the Department of Culture and the Arts - \$345,071 and the Metropolitan Redevelopment Authority - \$195,454
- In 2014-15, Lotterywest raised \$283 million for beneficiaries including WA's hospitals, arts, and sport and recreational groups. This included \$131 million in direct grants to 949 different community organisations in WA
- For more information, visit <http://www.fringeworld.com.au>

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