

JUDITH WRIGHT CENTRE OF CONTEMPORARY ARTS

Media Release
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RENOWNED INDIE BANDS TO PERFORM MUSIC OF BOB DYLAN, JIMMY HENDRIX, NICK CAVE, BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN AND MORE

Judith Wright Centre, Sugar Rush and Plus One Records present
MURDER BALLADS: CHAPTER TWO
TWO NIGHTS OF CRIME AND RETRIBUTION

**FEATURING ROZ PAPPALARDO AND THE WAYWARD GENTLEMAN, THE GOOD SHIP,
LUCY STAR SATELLITE, DANNY WIDDICOMBE, SILVER SIRCUS, TEXAS TEA,
THE BLACKWATER FEVER, HALFWAY, KRISTY APPS, GHOSTBOY & SKYE VIRTUE**

Following the sell-out success of *Murder Ballads Chapter One*, a collection of renowned indie bands will come together to perform music by the likes of Bob Dylan, Jimmy Hendrix, Nick Cave and Bruce Springsteen for **Murder Ballads Chapter Two** at Judith Wright Centre on Friday 23 April and Saturday 24 April 2010.

Murder Ballads Chapter Two will feature **Roz Pappalardo and the Wayward Gentlemen, The Good Ship, Lucy Star Satellite, Danny Widdicombe, Silver Sircus, Texas Tea, The Blackwater Fever, Halfway, Kristy Apps and Ghostboy & Skye Virtue.**

The all-star Brisbane line-up will perform a selection of their favourite murder ballads from the past (Kurt Weill/Bertolt Brecht, Pat Boone, Phil Ochs) and present (Morrissey, Jon Bon Jovi, Kev Carmody, Kasey Chambers and Indigo Girls to name a few).

Adopting the theme of 'Crime and Retribution', each act will bring their own take to tales of murder and punishment as they perform a selection of their favourite murder ballads and their own original songs inspired by the dark side.

John Meyer (The Good Ship) says the **Murder Ballads** concert series was conceived after he discovered through facebook that he wasn't the only artist trying to write a murder ballad.

"About a year ago I updated my Facebook status to say I was writing a murder ballad inspired by Nick Cave, and Roz Pappalardo (from women in docs and the Wayward Gentlemen) wrote back saying she was also writing a murder ballad. We thought, wouldn't it be great to play our songs at the same gig?" Meyer said.

"After talking to another friend Deb Suckling (from Lucy Star Satellite), we discovered Deb was planning a gig to celebrate the music of Nick Cave, and from there the **Murder Ballads** series was created," he said.

Murder Ballads Chapter Two will take over the Performance Space and Shopfront, both of which will be staged like a country and western style courtroom, complete with hanging nooses.

Each instalment of the **Murder Ballads** series features a different set of artists. **Murder Ballads Chapter Two** will feature the following artist line-ups:

Friday 23 April – The Good Ship, Silver Sircus, Kristy Apps, Texas Tea and The Blackwater Fever. Hosted by Bertie Page.

Saturday 24 April – Roz Pappalardo and the Wayward Gentleman, Lucy Star Satellite, Danny Widdicombe, Halfway and Ghostboy with Skye Virtue. Hosted by John Thompson.

To listen to *Murder Ballads Chapter One* check out this [myspace link](#).

-ENDS-

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| Date | Friday 23 April and Saturday 24 April 2010 |
| Time | Pre-show entertainment from 6pm, Main show 7.30pm |
| Venue | Pre-show entertainment: Shopfront; Main show: Performance Space, Judith Wright Centre |
| Tickets | \$26 - \$35 |
| Bookings | 07 3872 9000 or judithwrightcentre.com |

**For further information, images and interview opportunities please contact
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MURDER BALLADS CHAPTER ONE: ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

ROZ PAPPALARDO AND THE WAYWARD GENTLEMAN

Roz Pappalardo has a secret. The women in docs singer/guitarist has another pair of boots. With spurs. Roz's spare time see's her indulge her inner cowgirl with a raucous little alt country side project. With boys. The Wayward Gentlemen involves a floating lineup, cobbled together from some of Brisbane's finest players (and discovered in some of Brisbane's finest drinking establishments), customised to suit the mood and occasion. Drawing on influences ranging from Lucinda Williams to Bob Dylan, Roz as a solo act melds her effusive stage presence and endearing songwriting with some good honest country-style secret herbs and spices. And a cheeky little dash of the T-hormone. Roz's debut album *This Lifeboat* is out now on www.plusonerecords.com.au.
www.myspace.com/rozandthewaywardgentlemen

THE GOOD SHIP

Let's get one thing straight: The Good Ship is a very bad ship. They call a bunch of crows a 'murder'. Seems appropriate to apply that title to this group of songwriters who've come together to deliver a collection of songs that chart some dark and dangerous waters. Early on a fan coined the term "smut pirate" to describe their music, and not since the Blue Grassy Knoll has there been such a mangy, cross-bred collection of influences, from gypsy to bush-band via cabaret, country and rock. Drawing inspiration from fellow denizens of the deep like Nick Cave and Tom Waits, their tunes explore the seedier side of humanity and aren't ashamed to undertake extended journeys into the gutter. In the world of the Good Ship it's the good stuff that sinks to the bottom...
www.myspace.com/thegoodshipisaverybadship

LUCY STAR SATELLITE

Lucy dreamed of the day when she would finally fly to the stars and be amongst the satellites. It took longer than expected, as all good things do. But all good things are worth the wait and so they say.... When long term rock guitar freaks Deb Suckling and Craig Spann from brindle finally found their starry side – Lucy Star Satellite was on her way. Now 12 months later and a string of shows including supports for Cat Power and Ron Penot under their belt and a full-lineup including Chris O'Neill on drums and Vicki Watson on bass, Lucy is taking full flight – just as she had always dreamed. The debut album, *The Golden Hour*, recorded with producer Jamie Trevaskis is due out in 2010. www.sugarrushrecords.com; www.myspace.com/lucystarsatellite

TEXAS TEA BIO

Texas Tea is an alt-country two piece, first hitting the Brisbane scene in 2005. Sporting a unique sound and a curious blend of live instrumentation, the band's popularity grew rapidly. The debut album, *Take A Sip*, was released in 2006 and songs from this album took out the Number 1 spot in the 4ZZZ Hot 100 consecutively in 2006 and 2007. Their second long player *The Junkship Recordings* was released in late 2008 and met stellar reviews across the country. The album was applauded for its outstanding lyrical and intensely profound content. Kate and Ben have frequently received recognition for their fine songwriting and storytelling prowess. They have been nominated for the Q Song and APRA Songwriters Awards on several occasions and in 2009, Kate was recognised as a finalist for the Grant McClennan Memorial Fellowship Award. www.myspace.com/texasteaband
www.plusonerecords.com.au

DANNY WIDDICOMBE

2009 was a successful year for Danny. He became an ARIA nominated songwriter, released a critically acclaimed solo album *Dominoes*, was shortlisted for the G.W. McLennan Fellowship, was a finalist in the Qsong awards and had a new hip installed to boot! This year he's just looking forward to walking properly again. Danny also writes, sings and plays with the interstate "boozegrass" collective known as the Wilson Pickers. Sharing the stage with four of Australia's best songwriters, Danny and the Wilson Pickers have been nominated for the 2009 ARIA award for best Blues and Roots album. Danny has also played lead guitar in Bernard Fanning's solo band and toured the country as part of Tim Rogers' Temperance Union. www.myspace.com/dannywiddicombe

GHOSTBOY WITH SKY VIRTUE

The outlaw songwriting core of Ghostboy with Golden Virtues (GBGV) present a heady mix of sonic narrative and erotic 'duende'. GBGV are avant-garde art rock brutes who have become infamous for their exploding live shows having (dis)graced stages at Woodford Folk, The Hi-Fi, Brisbane Cabaret and Melbourne Fringe Festival (for which they were nominated for a Green Room Award for Best Cabaret Ensemble). Their debut independent album *Enter* has just been released to widespread acclaim with first single *Wolfish* being played on both Triple J and *rage*.
www.myspace.com/ghostboywithgoldenvirtues

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KRISTY APPS

2009 kicked off with a bang for Kristy playing shows in Sydney and Melbourne whilst recording her new album *POUR ME OUT* at 301 Byron Bay and Rocking Horse Studios. ARIA nominated producer Anthony Lyckenko worked closely with Kristy on developing new sounds for her music highlighting the depth of her vocal talent and songwriting whilst staying true to her roots. *POUR ME OUT* received critical acclaim around the country in 2009 including Rave Magazine album of the week. Kristy began her solo career in 2001 with the release of her debut EP *HEY MR LION* through Funk Folk Records, distributed nationally through MGM. After touring the EP nationally performing with artists like Pete Murray and Deb Conway, Kristy jumped on a plane and headed to the U.S. for a two-month promo tour. She played folk festivals including Susquehanna Music and Arts Festival with some of her idols including Caroline Aiken. Other highlights of the tour included being invited to be a part of a singer/songwriter showcase at the Philadelphia Entertainment Centre, playing Atlanta's infamous Eddies Attic and appearing on a sampler put out by Michelle Malone. Throughout her career Kristy has been acclaimed for her passionate vocal, intimate song writing and energetic on stage performance. She has also been celebrated in her hometown of Brisbane winning the Virginia Woolf award of achievements in the arts. www.myspace.com/kristyapps
"Great voice!" Emily Saliers, Indigo Girls

HALFWAY

Halfway is a Brisbane based band which was formed by John Busby, Chris Dale and Elwin Hawtin who originally hail from Rockhampton, Central Queensland. Based on a mutual love of Dylan, Springsteen, Big Star and The Replacements, they left Rockhampton and headed south to put together a band. It was here that they recruited the like minded Ben Johnson on bass and formed the early line-up of Halfway in 2000. Joining shortly after were Dublin born brothers Noel Fitzpatrick (pedal steel) and Liam Fitzpatrick (banjo/mandolin). The finishing touches to the line-up were added with the inclusion of long term collaborator Chris Hess (guitar) and Liam Bray (keys/organ) to round the Halfway line-up off as an 8 In 2008 Halfway songwriting duo, John Busby and Chris Dale won Queensland's most prestigious songwriting award - The Grant McLennan Fellowship. The selection panel included members of the Go-Betweens, the McLennan family and Arts Queensland. The fellowship allowed John and Chris to travel to London in November 2008. Whilst in London, they rehearsed, played acoustic shows, wrote and began to put together the initial framework for the third Halfway LP. In 2009 Robert Forster (The Go-Betweens) was recruited to handle the production duties for the new album. After months of rehearsal under Robert's instruction, the band's third LP was recorded. It was completed in September 2009 with Wayne Connolly again at the controls. Halfway's third LP *An Outpost of Promise* is due for release mid 2piece. www.halfway.com.au

SILVER SIRCUS

The creative core of Silver Sircus is Lucinda Shaw (vocalist/performer/writer) and James Lees (drummer/composer). From 1994-2000, they were key members of celebrated Brisbane band ISIS who released four CD's, scored 6 positions in the 4ZZZ Hot 100, toured Australia and regularly packed venues in Brisbane with their highly visual shows and special events. Following ISIS, Lucinda continued her songwriting collaboration with guitarist Brett Coltery under the name, Shugafix. As a writer & performer, Lucinda has produced a series of stage works for La Boite's 'Shock Of The New', Metro Arts' 'Cab Sav' and the Magdalena Festival. As a musician, James has worked with many Brisbane bands (including Chalk, Saturn South, Tylea & The Imaginary Music Score and Speed Of Purple) as well as producing experimental cabaret & performance events (including ArtLoveJam and dreamGAS performance series). Together, they have produced performance & music for ArtLoveJam, dreamGAS, Brisbane Pride Festival and Brisbane Cabaret Festival. www.silversircus.com

THE BLACKWATER FEVER

Sweet Misery: The highly anticipated long player from the guitar/drums two piece The Blackwater Fever. Thirteen tracks of garage blues, alt-country, murder ballads and four on floor rock n' roll, with appearances by Steve Merry (The Fumes), Alex Archer (The Kill Devil Hills) and crunk soloist Red Ghost all putting their mark on this potent, multi-layered release. Shane Hicks's harrowing vocals and tortured guitar tones combined with Andrew Walter's ragged unrelenting beats create an infectious hard-hitting sound. Inevitably compared to other two piece counter parts, TBWF are known for a more tormented sound and a live experience not to be missed, breaking your heart one minute only to pick you up with the next irresistible rocker. Released in 2006, TBWF's EP *Abused Blues* saw strong support from Triple J's Caroline Tran, Sarah Howells and Ash Grunwald with consistent airplay, interviews and gig crossovers. This national hype helped TBWF gain momentum, sharing stages with internationalists The Black Keys & Bob Log III plus shows and tours with home grown acts The Fumes, The Vasco Era, Birds Of Tokyo, Whiskey Go Go's, The Kill Devil Hills, Mia Dyson, The Mess Hall, Yves Klein Blue, Ash Grunwald, The Gin Glub, and Mary Trembles to strong music press reviews.

"Their raw sound exemplifies the essence of blues-rock" – Time Off

"A seething blues two piece and f*#k that boy can sing" – Steve Merry, The Fumes

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