

MEDIA RELEASE

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Attention: News Editor

Regional festival scores a ten

Great Southern Festival fans are looking forward to a new feast of culture and arts following the release of the popular event's 2012 program.

The regional program drawn from the Perth International Arts Festival is unique to the Great Southern, and was initiated by the Great Southern Development Commission (GSDC) in 2003.

It is supported by a \$225,000 three-year funding arrangement in the Royalties for Regions program under the Great Southern Regional Grants Scheme.

GSDC Chief Executive Officer Bruce Manning said the 2012 program was the tenth Great Southern Festival and the events on offer were a fitting celebration of the milestone.

"Over the years the Great Southern Festival has developed a bigger and more rewarding program, and this year's event promises to be exciting and diverse," Mr Manning said.

"Literary events have been strengthened in association with Bookmark, and the music program ranges from the Escher String Quartet to bluesman Eric Bibb, and the Congolese street music of Staff Benda Bilili.

"Theatre, workshops, international cinema and more will round out the program and ensure that the Great Southern gains significant cultural benefits," Mr Manning said.

Festival venues are in Albany, Denmark and Katanning, and a bus service will provide transport from outer parts of the region to Albany events.

The Great Southern Festival opens on Friday 10 February with an event at the Anzac Peace Park in Albany.

The Albany opening is at 7pm, taking place at dusk on the same day as the dawn opening of the Perth Festival.

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