

MEDIA RELEASE

20 September 2018

Deadly comedy-music duo set to bring raucous laughs to regional WA

Country Arts WA and Act-Belong-Commit are excited to bring comedian Dane Simpson and musician Rob Edwards to regional WA for Great Danes this October and November as a part of Lotterywest Shows on the Go.

Comedians don't really need backing bands, but Dane Simpson has one anyway. Join Australia's funniest First Nations comic, Dane, and his band "The Great Danes" (it's a guy called Rob!) for a variety night of song and laughs that's so authentically Australian, a jar of Vegemite could play at full forward.

Dane is one of Australia's fastest rising comedy stars, proving that the best comedy can be found in the most genuine human experiences. West Australian audiences may recognise him from the recent *2018 Melbourne Comedy Festival Gala* or his recent appearances on Network Ten / WIN TV's *Have You Been Paying Attention?*. Dane Simpson's everywhere these days – in fact, there's even a mural of him on the side of a building in Wagga Wagga.

Dane's got the laughs and he's joined by musician Rob Edwards to bring some tunes. Music, stand-up, some general horsing around with the crowd – there might even be some karaoke!

Great Danes is travelling through regional WA this year as part of Lotterywest Shows on the Go, a long-running program focusing on developing regional arts presenters by providing access to affordable professional performing arts.

Country Arts WA's Executive Director Paul MacPhail says the continued success of the program is due to its community-driven model that puts the emphasis on regional communities.

"Lotterywest Shows on the Go is one of Country Arts WA's long-standing programs, and its 24-year history is a testament to the value it brings to communities in regional WA. The demand for this program means we continue to explore ways of delivering increased benefit to regional communities by working alongside local community presenters."

The State Government, through Lotterywest, has supported Country Arts WA since 1996, providing more than \$4.3 million to support initiatives like Shows on the Go.

The program is presented by Country Arts WA and Healthway, promoting the Act-Belong-Commit mentally healthy message.

For more information on Great Danes, visit www.countryartswa.asn.au/greatdanes.

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SUPPORT MATERIAL

Tour Dates

Katanning

Thursday 11 October, 7pm
Katanning Town Hall
Locally presented by Shire of Katanning

York

Saturday 13 October, 7:30pm
York Racecourse
Locally presented by York Community
Resource Centre

Perenjori

Tuesday 16 October, 6pm
Perenjori Geoff Trott Memorial Park
Locally presented by Shire of Perenjori

Mount Magnet

Thursday 18 October, 6:30pm
ANZAC Hall
Locally presented Shire of Mount Magnet

Tom Price

Monday 22 October, 6:30pm
Ashburton Hall
Locally presented by Shire of Ashburton, Rio
Tinto & Nintirri Neighbourhood Centre

Paraburdoo

Tuesday 23 October, 6:30pm
Ashburton Hall
Locally presented by Karingal Neighbourhood
Centre with Shire of Ashburton

Carnarvon

Thursday 25 October, 7:30pm
Woolshed
Locally presented by Carnarvon Civic Centre

Pannawonica

Saturday 27 October, 7:30pm
Pannawonica Sports Club
Locally presented by Shire of Ashburton & Rio
Tinto

Karratha

Tuesday 30 October, 7:30pm
Red Earth Arts Precinct
Locally presented by City of Karratha

Derby

Friday 2 November, 7pm
Derby Sportsman's Club
Locally presented by Shire of Derby West
Kimberley & Derby Visitor Centre

Biographies

Dane Simpson - Performer

Dane Simpson is one of Australia's fastest rising comedy stars, proving that the best comedy can be found in the most genuine human experiences. Since emerging from the Melbourne International Comedy Festival's Deadly Funny competition in 2015, he has gone onto do extensive national touring, sold out Festival seasons and had sensational TV appearances.

Dane mixes shaggy dog storytelling with shameless dad jokes in a highly charismatic performance that warmly but effectively highlights his experience as a contemporary Indigenous man. Dane's variety style is an artefact of a backstory as an all-rounder entertainer, including hosting "Koori-oke" karaoke nights and DJing in his home town of Wagga Wagga.

A minor online star, Dane's comedy parody videos have been viewed over 87,000 times on Facebook. Dane champions comedy in the Riverina region, producing the monthly Riverina Comedy Club, which regularly features some of the country's best headliners, and presenting a regular comedy podcast, "Laugh Power 4000".

Rob Edwards – Performer

Soul and blues together, in his voice, in his guitar, in his performance. Rob Edwards is a singer/songwriter originating from Adelaide, who fell in love with life on the road and sharing his blend of eclectic genres. Using live looping and his powerful voice, Rob uses his influences from the likes of John Mayer, Stevie Wonder, and Marvin Gaye to help craft a unique and soulful sound that is as warm as a soup when you're sick in that middle week of July.

Rob's debut single in 2017, "Just Anyone," with national airplay, has led to multiple tours and a support leg with Michael Dunstan. Rob now spends his days traveling the east coast, with new releases just around the corner and huge plans coming into 2019.

Country Arts WA

Country Arts WA is an independent not-for-profit organisation governed by regional membership. We are the only western Australian arts body with a purely regional focus. The organisation was established in 1994 and is supported by State and Federal Government funding. We build the creativity, connection and capacity of regional communities to further develop WA's regional arts sector around key outcomes of diversity, sustainability, relevance, and celebration.

Our services to the regional arts sector include investment and advice to produce and present projects; the development of programs and strategies to encourage growth; the communication of strong, positive storytelling; and the networking of regional hubs and leadership programs across the state.

www.countryartswa.asn.au

Regional Arts Community Presenting supported by Lotterywest

Country Arts WA presents professional performing arts productions throughout regional Western Australia through a variety of programs, ensuring all Western Australian communities – no matter what size, or how remote – have access to high quality performances. These shows include theatre, dance, music, circus, puppetry and comedy and provide great entertainment to local audiences and galvanise shared community experiences. Country Arts WA assists a diverse array of communities to source, promote and present professional performances by coordinating tours and providing support and advice to community groups and touring artists.

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Country Arts WA receives core funding from the State Government through the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries and Lotterywest.