

## MEDIA RELEASE

26 March 2019

### **Dynamic circus duo brings fire tricks and spectacular feats to the Indian Ocean Territories**

*The Australian Government and Country Arts WA are pleased to bring Zap Circus' Purple People Show & Circus Fire Spectacular! to Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands this March and April.*

Audiences in the Indian Ocean Territories will have the opportunity to witness awe-inspiring acrobatics, spectacular fire-twirling and dangerous feats of grandeur as high-energy husband-and-wife duo Tarrabelle Murphy and Rusty Hammond bring their circus shows to the islands.

The well-travelled pair's résumé includes performances in over 30 countries across five continents, international accolades and multiple tours around Australia. They promise to bring juggling, acrobatics, fire tricks, comedy, handstands and audience interaction, culminating in a stunning feat of balance that no one else in the world performs.

Zap Circus' tour forms part of Country Arts WA's long-running presenting program, providing support and capacity-building initiatives for regional arts organisations to program high-quality performing arts in their community.

The Australian Government, through the Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities' Territories Division, provides funding to the WA Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, and Country Arts WA, to bring arts to the Indian Ocean Territories.

Country Arts WA's Executive Director, Paul MacPhail, spoke on the value of the initiative.

"It's important that our statewide presenting programming can extend its reach to Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands.

"This program puts regional presenters like Arts and Culture Christmas Island and the Shire of Cocos (Keeling) Islands at the forefront, equipping them with the tools to program high quality performing arts in their communities and foster a spirit of creativity and spark opportunities for connections.

"Zap Circus features world-class performers and these shows are sure to thrill audiences young and old."

All performances are free and open to all ages.

End.

## Media Contact

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Department of  
Local Government, Sport  
and Cultural Industries



## SUPPORT MATERIAL

### Purple People Show & Circus Fire Spectacular! Tour Dates

#### Thursday 28 March, 1pm

Purple People Show

Christmas Island District High School (CIDHS)

Locally presented by Arts & Culture Christmas Island

#### Friday 29 March, 7pm

Circus Fire Spectacular

Police Padang

Locally presented by Arts & Culture Christmas Island

#### Saturday 6 April, 2.30pm

Purple People Show

Home Island Foreshore

Locally presented by Shire of Cocos (Keeling) Islands

#### Saturday 6 April, 6.45pm

Circus Fire Spectacular!

Home Island Foreshore

Locally presented by Shire of Cocos (Keeling) Islands

## Biographies

### Tarrabelle Murphy – Performer

Growing up as an active child, a swimmer with her sights on the Olympics, Tarrabelle discovered fire and circus communities as a teenager. After founding Zap Circus with Rusty in 2009, she created a place where all of her skills could combine to bring inspiration to the masses. Performing across the globe her skills include hula hooping, acrobatics, adagio, fire-eating, fire-breathing, running macros in excel spreadsheets and snorkelling with turtles.

### Russell Hammond – Performer

Rusty started off studying Chemical Engineering and Environmental Science at university, before going on to create Zap Circus with Tarrabelle in 2009 and performing all over the world. His talents include juggling, acrobatics, hand-balancing, adagio, fire-eating, fire performance, prop creation, diabolo, dad jokes and anything else he sets his sights on.

## About 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. 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](http://www.countryartswa.asn.au)

### **About the Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities, Territories Division**

The Australian Government, through the Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities administers the Ashmore and Cartier Islands, Christmas Island, the Cocos (Keeling) Islands, the Coral Sea Islands, the Jervis Bay Territory and Norfolk Island. The Department also manages the Government's interests in the Australian Capital Territory, and the Northern Territory.

<https://regional.gov.au/territories/>