



Bushfires plea adds sad note to PLAF party

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A free concert inspired by survivors of the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami will have extra meaning tonight as the Perth International Arts Festival opens with a tribute to the victims of the Victorian bushfires.

The three-week Festival begins with Laya Project Live, a free world-music concert and film at Supreme Court Gardens in which dozens of musicians and artists from countries around the Indian Ocean celebrate the triumph of the human spirit after the devastating tsunami.

Red Cross WA executive director Steve Joske will speak at the event, which begins at 8.30pm, and Red Cross Appeal collectors will be at various Festival venues.

"It has turned the opening celebration into a much more poignant affair than we otherwise thought," Festival artistic director Shelagh Magadza said.

Festival 2009 features some big names including local rock legends The Triffids, Oscar-winner Cate Blanchett in *The War of the Roses*, operatic dream team John Adams and Peter Sellars, and the groundbreaking Ballet du Grand Theatre de Geneve.

Major performances this weekend include Ballet at the Quarry, the Japanese Ishinha company's tale of early-20th century migration, Nostalgia, and jazz greats Chick Corea and John McLaughlin under the stars at Kings Park on Sunday.

Half-price ticket coupons appear in *The West Australian* today.



FESTIVAL FREEBIES (AND ONE CHEAPIE)

1 Tonight's **Laya Project Live** opening celebration concert and film in Supreme Court Gardens features dozens of musicians from six countries hit by the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami. It starts at 8.30pm.



2 **Revolt of the Mannequins:** Famous French street theatre company Royal de Luxe returns after 12 years with its mannequin "prison break" unfolding daily in shop windows across the CBD from next Friday.



3 **Floating Films:** Kiki's Delivery Service, a masterpiece from Japanese animator Hayao Miyazaki, will be shown from a floating screen at Hillarys, Applecross and Bayswater on March 6, 7 and 8.



4 Dutch seamstress duo **The Mobile Sewing Company** encourages people to take off their clothes and let them make some unique and artful alterations while they wait at locations around the CBD from February 24.



5 The local ThinIce production of **Antigone** breathes new life into the ancient Greek classic with a \$10 ticket on Tuesdays from February 23 to March 7 at the Subiaco Arts Centre.