



Artback NT

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Frog Hollow Centre for the Arts
56 Woods Street, Darwin NT 0801
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MEDIA RELEASE

Journey to the Tiwi Islands with *Mamanta* - a moving performance honouring the past and celebrating the future.

Building on their international touring acclaim, B2M (Bathurst to Melville), are embarking on their first major national tour. This seven-piece band from the Tiwi Islands will showcase their unique blend of contemporary and traditional sound in a new performance that reveals the full breadth of Tiwi culture and identity!

Presented by Artback NT, **B2M - Mamanta** kicks off on the 16 August in Port Pirie, South Australia, followed by a three-month tour to 30 venues.

Mamanta – meaning ‘friend’ in Tiwi – is a vibrant cultural experience told through a mix of music, multi-media and song. In an historic show of support from the Tiwi Elders, B2M have permission to use traditional Tiwi chants and blend them with modern musical elements. Combined with vivid multi-media imagery of contemporary arts and cultural practices, *Mamanta* brings the Tiwi Islands to life.

“Drawing on a strong tapestry of stories, including our own songlines that have never left the Tiwi Islands before, *Mamanta* is unlike anything ever seen. We have never created a show that shares our experience this fully,” said band member Jeffrey ‘Yello’ Simon.

From ancient stories to life today, *Mamanta* honours the past and celebrates the future.

“Like the paintings that reflect the depiction of country, our songlines demonstrate our journeys, our history and our community” Yello said.

Formed in 2004, B2M are strong Tiwi men who write, record and perform music that transcends cultural, social and geographic boundaries. Their music is unique and infectious, filled with beats, chants and harmonies that showcase their ability to carry a positive image of their people and culture through RnB, Tiwi style!

“For us, the message that B2M shares is the most important facet of our music. Steering clear of catchy love-songs, we focus on bigger issues, like drug and alcohol abuse, mental health and understanding identity”, Yello said.

Directed by Gail Evans and produced by Artback NT and Skinnyfish Music, *Mamanta* is a rare gift to audiences. A captivating, moving and upbeat work that shares Tiwi history, culture and identity with the nation.



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B2M band members: Shelton Murray, Greg Orsto, Fabian Kantilla, Daniel Cunningham, Damien Narul, Darren Narul, Jeffrey 'Yello' Simon

Mamanta Credits:

Producer – Artback NT and Skinnyfish Music

Director – Gail Evans

Music Co-Producers and Collaborators –

James Mangohig and Michael Hohnen

Film and Multi-Media Director – Caro Macdonald

Tour dates and locations at: <https://artbacknt.com.au/show/b2m-mamanta/>

Note: Jeffrey 'Yello' Simon available for interview on request.

For all media enquiries, please contact Kate Rendell – Artback NT's
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