

MEDIA RELEASE

Roadshow NT brings Territory talent and workshops to Nhulunbuy



A line-up of Northern Territory artists will visit Nhulunbuy this May, with **Roadshow NT** coming to Gove Arts Theatre on Friday, 8 May for a night of music, spoken word, storytelling and community participation.

Alongside the main event, artists will lead a series of workshops with schools and the wider public, creating opportunities for local people to build skills, find confidence and share their own voices.

The Roadshow NT program will feature award-winning MC and comedian **Shalom Kaa** leading an audience singalong, as well as spoken word artists **Melanie Mununggurr** and **Laurie May**, and fem rock band **TANG**.

An **Introduction to Poetry** workshop will also take place on Wednesday, 6 May, led by **Melanie Mununggurr** and **Laurie May**. Community members who take part in the workshop will have the chance to step onto the stage during the main Roadshow NT event on 8 May and perform their own work in front of a live audience.

Shalom Kaa will also lead a workshop on Saturday, 9 May on public speaking and stage presence, helping to build the confidence of local community members.

Roadshow NT is presented by Artback NT and designed to connect regional and remote communities with exceptional NT artists while also nurturing creative talent locally.

It brought artists together in Mparntwe/ Alice Springs, Tennant Creek, and Katherine in 2025, featuring Shalom Kaa, Michael Connell, Desert Diamonds, Big Dog Salad and Katanga Junior.

“Tours like Roadshow NT are about making sure people in regional and remote places can access outstanding Territory talent close to home,” said **Michelle Bell**, Artback NT CEO.

“Just as importantly, they create spaces for talent within those communities to be nurtured and celebrated. In Nhulunbuy, that means local people won’t just be watching the show. They’ll be part of it.”

“Regional and remote artists are underrepresented on national stages,” says **Laurie May**, Mparntwe poet and Red Dirt Poetry Director.

“One of the most important reasons for us to go to Nhulunbuy is to empower people to write poetry and help open up opportunities for them in mainstream spaces in the future.”

For media inquiries, posters and images, and to arrange an interview, please contact:

Emily Gorton, Communications Manager

communications@artbacknt.com.au | +61 0439 854 280

Event details:

- [Public workshop: Introduction to Poetry with Melanie Mununggurr and Laurie May](#) | Wednesday 6 May, 5.30-7pm
- [Roadshow NT – Live in Nhulunbuy](#) | Friday 8 May, 6-8.30pm
- [Public workshop: Public Speaking and Stage Presence with Shalom Kaa](#) | Saturday 9 May, 10am-12pm

All events will take place at Gove Arts Theatre in Nhulunbuy.

About the artists:

Melanie Mununggurr is a Djapu mother and poet. Rising to prominence after winning the Australian Poetry Slam in 2018, they have since performed on major stages including the Sydney Opera House and are known for weaving Dhuwal language through their poetry and storytelling. They have family connections to the region and, alongside Laurie May, will spend time working with school groups during the visit.

Laurie May is a Mparntwe / Alice Springs-based poet, spoken word performer and educator, and the Artistic and Festival Director of Red Dirt Poetry Festival. Originally from the Gulf of Carpentaria, Laurie has made home in the desert, with Aboriginal ancestry from Central Queensland from their father and New Zealand heritage from their mother.

Shalom Kaa is a Darwin-based actor, singer, comedian, MC, and producer known for his acclaimed solo shows. He is also the founder of the sell-out **Harmony & Humour Bar Choir**, which he is planning to bring to Nhulunbuy as part of Roadshow NT.

TANG are a Darwin fem rock trio known for their raw energy, sharp attitude, and electric live shows. After a standout 2025, taking home Rock Song of the Year and People’s Choice at the NT Music Awards, they’ve just released new EP: TASTE TANG.

About Artback NT:

Artback NT develops and presents creative works from across the Northern Territory – to and from some of Australia’s most remote locations.

We work collaboratively with artists and communities to create and present high quality arts and cultural experiences not readily available to regional, remote, and very remote communities who are often left off the touring map.

Our Performing Arts Development and Touring Program delivers dynamic theatre, music, and dance performances, as well as creative workshops to audiences around Australia.

Working primarily with NT based artists, producers, and companies, Artback NT is passionate about sharing the strong and unique stories of the Northern Territory.

This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through Creative Australia, its principal investment and advisory body.