**Multicultural Arts Victoria is excited to announce**

**the free 2017 Piers Festival**

**Media Release April 2017**

Multicultural Arts Victoria (MAV) is excited to announce the 6th Piers Festival on **9 April** at Princes Pier, Port Melbourne. The annual free Piers Festival features a vibrant mix of artists and cultures, iconic sounds, new collaborations, music, dance and activities for all ages with headline acts **Joe Camilleri & the Black Sorrows, the Core-tet, Oi Dipnoi, the haBiBis, Mojo Juju & the Samoan Choir.**

MC **Anna GoGo** will get you go-go-ing, and **DJ PAZ** will fill the sea breeze with carnival beats at this FREE festival for the whole family.

The Ukrainian community will be represented by the Geelong Ukrainian association who will be presenting Pysanka workshops on the landing. There will be a poetry writing and reading workshop with Myron Lysenko.

Bookings available online: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/poetry-writing-workshop-with-myron-lysenko-at-the-piers-festival-tickets-33034501082?aff=es2>

Enjoy the festive interactive atmosphere of the Landing, with displays, performances and activities curated by various active cultural groups from Victoria: Latin Stories Australia & Casa Cultura; the Ukrainian Association of Geelong; the African Australian Small Business Association; the Shepparton Sikhs Association; Moreland Turkish Association; and more.

Enjoy traditional beverage samples, Pysanka Easter egg decorating, turban tying, art and craft and musical performances including Ismail Metin from the Yunus Emre Centre with martial arts displays.

Have conversations, discover and rediscover artists, communities and cultures that contribute to our wonderful multicultural Australia.

**Also featuring** shows of migrants in What Happened At The Pier forum; The Pilgrim puppet show by Astrid Mend; storytelling with Howard Goldenberg; weaving workshop with Vicki Kinai; poetry workshop with Myron Lysenko; historical tours with Janet Bolitho; and the International Teahouse to sample tea and coffee from across the world in the friendly, relaxed Gatehouse.

**Plus** poetry readings; face painting; song, dance and craft workshops; hoop performances and workshop; the fabulous Red Mo the Pirate; Port Phillip Eco Centre info and activities; art and craft stalls; the Melbourne Poets Union and film screenings of *Reading The Wind* and *Australia’s Maltese Falcon*.

Sample food from around the globe – Simply Indonesian, Spanish Gourmet, Mutter Krause sausages, GrumbleTumms indigenous, Filipino Street Food, Matrix gelato & icecream, Traditional Turkish Gozleme, Vietnamese rolls, Babou Juice Bar and Miss Molly’s Coffee.

Piers Festival celebrates and reflects on the collective historical and contemporary migration stories at its site, Princes Pier, the significant entry point where almost half of Australia’s post World War II refugees arrived. The Festival brings to life the pivotal role Princes Pier played from 1915 to 1969 in Victoria’s growth and as a gateway to the diversity of cultures that enrich our community. With 12,000 attendees in 2015, Piers Festival has grown to become an annual highlight in Victoria’s cultural calendar and a significant occasion to acknowledge and bring to light our Indigenous and multicultural talent.

**Piers Festival 2017**

Date: Sunday 9th April

Time: 11am -5pm

Venue: Princes Pier, 2 Pier Street Port Melbourne

Multicultural Arts Victoria acknowledges the generous support of the *Victorian Ports Corporation (Melbourne)* and recognises the significant social, economic and cultural contribution made to Victoria by the many immigrants who arrived through the Port of Melbourne.

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**MULTICULTURAL ARTS VICTORIA**

Multicultural Arts Victoria (MAV) is a not for profit organisation that has evolved over four decades into one of Australia's most important bodies for development and promotion of culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) contemporary art, heritage and cultural expression.

Over 1 million participants each year are engaged in MAV’s innovative, educational and culturally rich program.

MAV also provides crucial advice and significant initiatives for career development and creative capacity building for artists and communities from established and emerging backgrounds.

The organisation can provide expertise in audience development, community engagement, and artistic excellence in CALD communities.

For further information, images and interviews please contact:

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