



Media Release

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Australian Artists to Share the Stage in Washington DC

This fall, Australia will present a distinctive collection of its finest visual and performing arts to Washington DC under the *Australia Presents* banner. The program is highlighted by the biggest exhibition of Indigenous art ever to leave Australia, performances by the internationally renowned Australian Chamber Orchestra, and Oscar winner Cate Blanchett starring in the Sydney Theatre Company's production of *A Streetcar Named Desire*.

Australia Presents will commence on September 10 when Australia's Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts – The Hon Peter Garrett MP – opens *Culture Warriors*, a major exhibition of Indigenous Australian art from the National Gallery of Australia. *Culture Warriors* will run until December 6 at the American University Museum at the Katzen Arts Center.

The Australian Chamber Orchestra will perform at the Kennedy Center on 29 and 30 September. *A Streetcar Named Desire*, also at the Kennedy Center, will run from 29 October to 21 November, for a total of 24 performances.

"The breadth of the art and social commentary in the *Culture Warriors* exhibition will challenge perceptions of Indigenous art and Indigenous culture, as indeed it has in Australia," said Australia's Ambassador to the United States, Dennis Richardson.

"The Australian Chamber Orchestra will distinguish itself in Washington DC with its energetic and unique artistic style.

"*A Streetcar Named Desire* will be the vehicle for Cate Blanchett's first live appearance onstage in Washington DC. It will also showcase some of Australia's finest young acting talent," said Ambassador Richardson.

Australia Presents was developed by the Embassy of Australia in Washington DC with the assistance of the Australia International Cultural Council and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. It is generously supported by BHP Billiton, Chevron, News Corporation, Intelsat and Qantas. The Australian Embassy also wishes to thank the Katzen Arts Center and the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts for their partnership.

"The Embassy of Australia is proud to bring this blend of Australian talent and art to the people of Washington DC," Ambassador Richardson said.

