



## Federation Square

### Tanderrum

**Thursday 08 October at 6.30pm**

1 hr, no interval  
FREE

**Countries to Welcome - Thursday 08 October 7.30pm**

A Multicultural Funk Jam  
FREE

[www.festival.melbourne](http://www.festival.melbourne)

#melbfest

Australia // Opening Celebration

Melbourne Festival and Ilbjerri Theatre Company in association with The Bardas Foundation present

## TANDERRUM

**Facilitated by Ilbjerri Theatre Company**

Now in its third year, **TANDERRUM** (Kulin for ceremony) will once again open Melbourne Festival with a celebration of the ground we stand on and of the people whose ancestors walked it before our time.

A vitally important event which started in 2013, Elders from the five clans of the Eastern Kulin: Wurrundjeri, Boonwurrung, Taunwurrung, Wadawurrung and the Dja Dja Wurrung invited the people of Melbourne into their **TANDERRUM** to celebrate and share their cultural heritage.

In what was the first such ceremony since the founding of modern Melbourne in 1835, it was a proud symbol of the resilience and richness of Melbourne's Koorie history and culture, and a statement of optimism for the future.

The culmination of months of workshops between members of the five clans culminates in this poignant exchange of story, song and dance.

The Kulin nations are the five language groups that traditionally lived in the Port Phillip region. These language groups were connected through shared moieties – the Bunjil (wedge tailed eagle) and Waa (crow).

Within each language group, members of the community identified with one or the other of these moieties. It was their moiety that determined the pattern for marriage between individuals, clans and tribes. Community members had to find spouses from another language group of the opposite moiety, either within or outside their own wurrung (language group).

Through **TANDERRUM** Melbourne Festival and its visitors acknowledge the lore of creator spirit Bunjil and pay their respects to the vibrant and living culture of this land. When local and international artists pass through the smoke, they agree to follow the lore of the land and pay their respect to its custodians before receiving permission to perform song and dance on this land. This is the lore of Bunjil that has existed for over 50,000 years.

## MEDIA CONTACT

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MELBOURNE  
FESTIVAL

08—25  
OCTOBER  
2015

MEDIA  
RELEASE

Directly following **TANDERRUM**, Melbourne Festival takes over Fed Square's main stage with **Countries To Welcome** – a free concert full of soul, funk and celebration, curated by James Henry.

Music Victoria's Best Indigenous Act 2014, **The Deans** and Sudanese singer songwriter and Festival Ambassador **Ajak Kwai** will be joined by Indigenous and multicultural special guest performers to celebrate the official opening of the 2015 Melbourne Festival.

Melbourne Festival Artistic Director, Josephine Ridge said:  
"Working with the Elders, their communities and Ilbjerri Theatre Company to support Tanderrum over the past three years has been a rewarding experience in so many ways. The older generations are invited to celebrate and pass on their culture, their history and their stories. In the months leading up to the Tanderrum, the younger generations are given the opportunity to connect with and to learn about the heritage and living value of their culture and the people of Melbourne generally are invited to share in this rich ceremony; a privilege indeed."

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Melbourne Festival's free program of activities proudly  
brought to you by the City of Melbourne

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