



MEDIA RELEASE: INTO THE FRINGE

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Just Like Ours, But Different

Gary Cockburn's latest solo photographic exhibition, which can be seen at Adelaide Town Hall from 18 February to 13 March, will showcase his images from both the Adelaide and Edinburgh Fringe Festivals.

Having taken the astonishing colours and shimmering heat of Australia's largest arts event to the Scottish capital for his first international exhibition, held last August, the Adelaide-based photographer also took the opportunity to shoot at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival for the first time.

Initially conceived as an intimate portrait of the Adelaide Fringe Festival, Into The Fringe now offers the same striking insight into the Scottish event. In doing so, it provides a unique visual comparison of the two great Fringes, while still capturing the spirit of each.

'When I first talked to people about what I hoped to do at the Adelaide Fringe, I was told a project on the scale I had in mind would be impossible, and I did it anyway,' Cockburn says. 'I just thought that it needed to be done. Doing the same thing in Edinburgh is harder still, of course, but to my mind photography is one of the most important art forms there is, since it interrogates reality so directly.

'And of course, the two Fringes are right at the heart of Australian and British culture,' Cockburn adds. 'The Fringes are where things start. They enrich both countries immeasurably, and because there's such a natural crossover between the two events they've also become part of the natural debate that goes on between two countries that are still deeply connected in so many ways. Given that I'm Scottish by descent, English by birth and Australian by choice, I've got a very strong interest in exploring that.

'I wanted to shoot the Fringe people see, with a probing eye for the details that can transform a photo, and the Fringe they don't see at all. And just like the Fringe itself, the images are also about truth, beauty and getting caught up in the moment.'

Response to Cockburn's work on Into The Fringe has been hugely positive, with plaudits coming from Fringe artists and venue owners as well as the media and other photographers. Adelaide's new Lord Mayor, Stephen Yarwood, will be opening the exhibition.

Somewhat reluctantly, Cockburn also made his stage debut while he was in Edinburgh, but that's entirely another story.

Into The Fringe will be open daily at Adelaide Town Hall, King William Street, throughout the Fringe. Cockburn can be contacted at gary.cockburn@ozemail.com.au or on 0466 628997.