



**AWMA ANNOUNCES INAUGURAL FIRST NATIONS
WOMEN'S HIP HOP SHOWCASE ~
*LOVE FOR MY SISTERS***

Australian Women in Music Awards will host the inaugural First Nations Women's Hip Hop showcase *LOVE FOR MY SISTERS* programmed as part of this year's conference program with a belting line-up of artists curated by Cairns based First Nations powerhouse Hip Hop artist and MC **Dizzy Doolan**.

Doolan will also perform and MC this year's Award ceremony with Yumi Stynes which will be broadcast on ABC TV for the very first time.

AWMA Founding Executive Producer & Program Director **Vicki Gordon** created the event to highlight AWMA's ongoing commitment to showcase the exceptional talent of Australian First Nations female artists, musicians and DJ's.

"Dizzy was one of our regional participants in 2019 and it is exciting to be working with her in a curatorial role this year. She is an incredible talent and, like all of the artists in this year's showcase, Doolan has pioneered the way for women in the Australian Hip Hop scene," said Gordon.

LOVE FOR MY SISTERS is inspired by the single release, of the same name, written by Crystal Mastrovas (Lady Lash) and Gladys Namokoyi (Kween G) who will both perform at the Showcase on the evening of May 17 at The Tivoli in Brisbane.

Doolan, aka Charmaine Armstrong, invited her First Nations sisters RedBelly, Hot Brown Honey, Kaylah Truth, Kween G, Lady Lash and Shakaya to join the line-up for *Love for my Sisters*.

Staged at What's Golden at The Tivoli, the concert will be an electrifying evening exploring deep storytelling through music in sonic genres weaving neo-soul, RnB, Rap, Hip Hop and House with plenty of politics, identity and shared experiences voiced and exploding on stage.

Doolan's powerful curation includes enormously experienced artists from across the country and combines their collective experiences to raise consciousness with their music.

"I've felt so empowered to play so many special roles in this year's AWMA's and I'm truly honoured and so grateful to have been given the opportunity to curate the First Nation's Hip Hop Showcase 2022, to be a part of history in that way is next level," says Doolan.

"The whole experience has given me more confidence. I hope that women in general are not invisible and are here to be seen and heard so that the next generation of women can flourish," she said.

Doolan is channelling her Aunty Syvanna Doolan who was an outstanding blues and Jazz singer/songwriter and a pioneer as one of the first Aboriginal women to be recognised for her music in the 1960's.

"Aunty 'Sibby' was never acknowledged the way that she deserved to be, so with her spirit guiding me, I know she would be so proud. I owe credit to my ancestor's and those matriarch's who fought so hard to pave a way for us mob to have equality and the same opportunities. Without AWMA, artists like myself would still feel invisible in this industry."

During Doolan's career she has performed with international acts like Fatman Scoop, Omarion, Kevin Lyttle and Mya and local legends like Troy Cassar Daley, branched into film and theatre, toured internationally and is writing her own story *Fearless*, while working with youth in community in Far North Queensland where she is passionate about support next generations to have opportunity.

"I'm super excited for everyone to witness these extremely fierce females grace the stage at the Hip Hop showcase on 17 May 2022. Every act will be delivering a unique, unforgettable performance. It's been an honour to curate the artists for this event and I'm certain each artist will bring the fire, so get ready for an explosive evening. It's important that you come and show your support to these ladies who have been in the industry for a long time and are respected artists in their own right. This event is vital for First Nations female artists who are strong powerful women who have been working so hard for so long. These women are raw and real so make sure you don't miss out on the magic that will unfold at Whats Golden at the Tivoli Theatre. We are looking forward to sharing our music with everyone on this very special occasion," she said.

The Line-up:

Dizzy Doolan made a name for herself and her unique style in the Brisbane Hip Hop scene for over 11 years before returning to her native Cairns for the past seven years and joining national tours and events with Vibe Australia. This multi-talented artists covers genres including rapping/singing, dancing and acting having achieved a Diploma from the Aboriginal Centre for Performing Arts. She has toured in New Zealand and supported international artists in Australia including Fatman Scoop and Omarion.

Hot Brown Honey deliver a theatrical masterpiece loaded with social activism that will make you both laugh and cry - and enjoy. This stellar posse smash stereotypes with their unapologetic celebration of our similarities and difference. Winners of a Helpmann Award, they have toured extensively internationally and in Australia to challenge boundaries and decolonise one stage at a time.

"We are in the midst of a Creative Revolution. AWMA shows us how it is possible to transform our world. To bring our Herstory centre stage where we have always belonged - giving the love, respect and acknowledgement to those who have paved our way and creating pathways for those who are starting their journey. THIS IS OUR WORLD NOW. THIS IS HOW WE DO IT. WE ARE HERE !" Busty Beatz (Hot Brown Honey)

Brisbane based rapper **Kaylah Truth** is a sassy and prolific artist using her voice to hero her heritage and culture.

Kween G is renowned for her dynamic style and potent Hip Hop content that seeks to enlighten listeners. With stints at Skid Row and SBS Radio she has honed her broadcast skills to be hotly in demand and a community icon. Another artist with deep connection to community work, extending to workshops in remote Tennant Creek, saw her acknowledged as the Marrickville Council Young Citizen of the year in 2010.

"Only AWMA can platform Hip Hop culture and music presented by First Nations women, it hasn't happened before. I'm beyond proud of this showcase, this is something I have always wanted to see. This visibility is a response to years of advocating for the platforming of Hip hop and most importantly the recognition we are all receiving for years and years of staying committed to our art!," Kween G says.

Lady Lash is a musical vision of eclectic rarities that is embodied by culture and experience. Her sultry vocals and haunting sonic sequences have given her heady

acclaim and have taken her to stages including the Sydney Opera House and venues across the country where she has shared her feminine divine.

RedBelly is a multi-disciplinary artist with practice in painting, fibre and sand sculpture alongside DJing and traditional and contemporary cultural dance. She uses the art of sound to tell stories, empower and inspire decolonialism. She is co-curator and producer of 'CTRL+ALT+DEL' and is deeply involved in community events around the Meanjin and Northern Rivers regions.

Shakaya were the first Aboriginal, Torres Strait Island and Vanuatuan girl duo, achieving ARIA nominations and touring their urban/RnB pop act with the likes of Destiny's Child, Usher, Kylie Minogue, Pink and more. Despite the heady heights of working in the US with Mariah Carey and Britney Spears the duo still reside in Cairns and work within their community.

"What an honour it is for us to perform alongside our Sistas at the First Nations Hip Hop Showcase. Shakaya turns 20 this year and we can't think of a better way to celebrate than with all the remarkable women involved in this year's AWMA's," the duo said.

The inaugural Queensland First Nations Women's Hip Hop showcase **Love For My Sisters**, on May 17 at the Tivoli - **What's Golden** tickets on sale [Ticketmaster](#). Tickets include the chance to join an after-show function and an opportunity to network with artists and music industry practitioners.

LOVE FOR MY SISTERS is supported by the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland.

Images of performers for the Hip Hop Showcase [here](#).

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