THE PANICS • GIRT BY SEA
HER MAJESTY’S THEATRE • 13 AUGUST 8PM
AUSTRALIA

Love letter to the Australian Coastline

The Panics return to Adelaide to play highlights from their back catalogue, launch songs from their forthcoming album, and perform their own enigmatic soundtrack live to film.

Girt By Sea is a visually poetic documentary, celebrating our connection with the sea over the past century. Directed by SA’s Shane McNeil, the film draws on visual collections, archival footage and crowd-sourced home movies. Shane will be joined by The Panics’ Jae Laffer for a Q&A describing how historical images and musical composition came together to create this mesmerising evocation of our long standing love affair with the Australian coast.

“There were times during the world-premiere screening of Girt by Sea when you could close your eyes and still see the surf, the sandcastles and the EJ Holden station wagons roaring down coast roads packed to the gunnels for the family holiday” – The West Australian

“Set to an original score by award-winning West Australian band The Panics, Shane McNeil’s film Girt by Sea takes the viewer on an immersive visual journey around the shoreline of our island continent - exploring the role the coast has played in shaping our national identity; a place of relaxation and leisure, a place for work and industry, and occasionally, a place of terror” – ABC

WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY Shane McNeil
PRODUCED BY Heather Croall & Kate Separovich
EDITED BY Merlin Cornish and Sean O’Keeffe
MUSIC COMPOSED BY The Panics
SCORE MIXED BY Mal Luker
ARCHIVE PROVIDED BY Australian Broadcasting Corporation, National Film & Sound Archive of Australia and social media-sourced contributors
FUNDED BY Australian Broadcasting Corporation, National Film & Sound Archive of Australia, Perth International Arts Festival, ScreenWest and Screen Australia
PRODUCED IN Western Australia

GIRT BY SEA
Girt By Sea is a visually poetic documentary, celebrating our connection with the sea over the past century. Its enigmatic and surf-laced soundtrack was scored by award-winning band The Panics, who will perform it live with the film for this special event.

The film is directed by South Australia’s Shane McNeil, and draws on visual collections, archive footage and crowd-sourced home movies. Join filmmakers and members of the band following the screening /performance to discuss how archival images and musical composition came together to create this mesmerising evocation of our long standing love affair with the Australian coast.

SHANE MCNEIL
Shane McNeil lectured in Film and Drama at various universities for over ten years, before co-founding the Screen Studies course at Flinders University, where he was Head of Production. Upon leaving academia, Shane was a writer on the children’s TV series Chuck Finn (2000-01) before directing a series of controversial music videos for The Mark of Cain (2001-02).


Shane wrote and directed the South Australian Film Corporation funded short *The Bully* (2009), which premiered at the 2009 Adelaide Film Festival and won Best Short Film at the 2009 Australian Teachers of Media (ATOM) Awards and Best Performance at the 2010 SA Screen Awards. Following that, Shane wrote and directed *The Moment* (2011) - a CG animated short based on a short story by Shaun Micallef - which premiered at the Bignond Adelaide Film Festival in March 2011. *The Moment* was nominated for Best Short Film at 2011 ATOM Awards, Best Short Animation at the inaugural Australian Academy Awards in 2012 & was Runner-up Best Short Film at 2012 Palm Springs International Film Festival.

Shane currently works at the Media Resource Centre as their Manager of Programs & Development - specialising in project and script development. In 2010-11, he successfully facilitated the SAFC’s inaugural TV MiniLab Program with all five national broadcasters, in partnership with the MRC.

Shane regularly sits as an industry representative on several SAFC development committees and is also an accredited feature script assessor/developer for both the SAFC and Screen Australia. Most recently, Shane was an episode director on the SAFC/ABC factual Olympic TV series *Race to London* (2012).

Through his new production company *Twitch Films*, Shane is currently writing/producing a multi-directional, online comic book series entitled *Monsters of The Deep*, directing an ABC feature documentary entitled *Girt by Sea* - to premiere at the 2014 Perth International Arts Festival - and is writing/directing a low budget feature entitled *Wish* – adapted from the acclaimed novel by Peter Goldsworthy – supported through the SAFC’s FilmLab program.

**THE PANICS**

Music critics and fans often say the same thing about The Panics: listening to their songs is like immersing yourself in the soundtrack to your own life. In their albums and EPs, people discover the cinematic score to their own lost Australian summers: the bittersweet Antipodean road-trips where they found first love and made new friends, only to lose it all on the way back. Underneath the elegant pop-rock tracks are modern hymns for a generation, anthems of rash joy and quiet heartbreak: all the songs you would have written yourself, if only you had the right words on hand.

"Sometimes one inspired musical snapshot can set the mood for an entire album. On ‘Cruel Guards’ it arrives with the sweeping strings of get us home an Ennio Morricone tinged epic that somehow captures all the drama of a marauding gang riding into the sunset”  MOJO Magazine UK

The Panics formed in the hills of Perth and were signed to *littleBIGMAN* records in 2000 – they were the first band Pete Carroll and Gaz Whelan signed to their new record label – Whelan was touring Australia on The Big Day Out with his UK band The Happy Mondays when he and Carroll first spotted the band playing at a local pub.

The band signalled their arrival on the Australian music scene with the release of 2 EPs in quick succession – ‘Give Me Some Good Luck’ and ‘My Brilliant Career’ from the 1st EP and ‘This Day Last Year’ and ‘How’s It Feel’ from the 2nd EP were picked up by Triple J and the word quickly began to spread around the country.

In 2002 The Panics headed to Manchester England to perform at the ‘In The City’ Music convention and play their first run of UK gigs. While in Manchester they began working on their debut album ‘A House on a Street in a Town I’m From’. The album was launched to critical acclaim in 2003 with a sell-out National tour and several tracks ringing out across Australia on Triple J.

The band were on a creative roll and headed straight back into the studio to record ‘Crack in the Wall’, a 7 track album which included another bunch of radio and live favourites including ‘In Your Head’, ‘Cash’ and ‘Lost in Green Eyes’. In 2004 the Panics signed to Festival publishing and once again based themselves back to the UK where they toured and played with Happy Mondays, recorded sessions for the BBC and started writing and demo-ing their next album ‘Sleeps Like a Curse’. This was the album that took the band to the next level – it was a creative high point; the album secured Triple J ‘album of the week’ and was also nominated for a J Award.

In 2005 they signed to Dew Process and began recording their biggest selling album to date. ‘Cruel Guards’ was played all over Australian and UK radio, selling a slew of albums (reaching gold status in Australia within a few months) and winning many industry awards; ‘Cruel Guards’ won an ARIA Award and was declared Triple J’s ‘Album
of the Year’. In the UK, they played to sell-out crowds where ‘Don’t Fight It’ was on high rotation and they were lovingly received by the British music press.

“Don’t Fight It’, epitomises their strengths: deceptively laid-back, it sidles up with a calming blanket of Hammond organ, brass, strings and sonorous piano & a chorus “Don’t fight it if you don’t know what it is”, you are forced to agree and adopt it as a mantra… Pop bliss. " The Sunday Times UK

In 2010 The Panics performed with the West Australian Symphony Orchestra to a sell-out crowd of 5,000 in the outdoor setting of Kings Park WA. The band and 80 piece orchestra performed songs from across the band’s entire catalogue of albums – The West Australian named it the concert of the year.

The band wrote their next highly acclaimed album in Manchester UK and recorded it in New York – ‘Rain on the Humming Wire’ features ‘Majesty’ a sweeping, anthemic Republican battle cry; questioning the nature of royalty and inherited power.

In 2013 The Panics lead singer Jae Laffer, who is considered one of Australia’s finest song writers, took a short break from the band to produce a solo album ‘When the iron glows red’ – the timing of ‘Girt by sea’ meant it had to be a brief excursion with him heading back into the studio mid tour to join the Panics and commence writing the score. The Panics poetic celebration of the Australian landscape is some of finest music to emerge in recent times from one of Australia’s most important bands.

ARTIST LINKS
www.thepanics.com.au
Facebook & Twitter: /thepanics