



4 FEBRUARY 2010

DISCOVER THE COLOURFUL, BIZARRE AND HILARIOUS WORLD OF ST KILDA STREET PERFORMERS

Sundays in St Kilda come alive!

Rediscover the colourful, bizarre and hilarious entertainment of street performers for the whole family!

Innovation, absurdity and intrigue are around every corner each Sunday afternoon for fifteen weeks.

The first St Kilda Busking Festival began in March 2009 and was a huge success amongst families, the local community & buskers.

In 2010 the festival is back bigger and better. It is a journey of fun and frivolity that discovers some of Melbourne's hidden artists, playing live on the street for your free (donations always accepted) enjoyment.

St Kilda has long been regarded as the artistic centre for performers, exhibitionists and general entertainers. The St Kilda Busking Festival turns Fitzroy Street, St Kilda Sea Baths and Acland Street into a live stage that delivers entertainment for children and adults alike.

Come down between 1pm and 4pm and catch a glimpse of St Kilda's finest street performers including the king of rock himself - Elvis.

Witness the insane, funny, musical and talented shows that celebrate this true art form.

Interviews and photos available with the diverse faces behind the talent, all with an incredible array of stories from established and up and coming performers.

Amongst others, the finest in living statues, interactive street performers and Elvis returning with amazing, eclectic and somewhat non-mainstream musical displays that will amaze.

Fitzroy Street:	7th Feb, 21st Feb, 28th Feb, 7th March, 14th March
St Kilda Sea Baths:	21st March, 28th March, 4th April, 11th April, 18th April
Acland Street:	25th April, 2nd May, 9th May, 16th May, 23rd May

This project has been assisted by the City of Port Phillip through the Community Celebrations Fund.

www.stkildabuskingfestival.com.au

IMAGES AND INTERVIEWS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

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BUSKING BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The term busk is also used in music when a musician has to play something quickly from scratch, by ear or at sight. eg I'll just busk it.

Busking was the most widely used method of employment for entertainers before the introduction of recording and personal electronics.

In Rome, some rebellious minstrels performed poems and songs that contained negative lyrics and criticized rulers. Consequently the first recorded street performance in western history was the result of a legislation passed in 451 BC, known as The Laws of the Twelve Tables. This law prohibited against the singing or composing of "Libelli Famosi" which put in lay terms means that singing about, or making parodies of the government or its officials in public places was a crime, with the penalty being death.

In 1530 Henry VIII ordered the licensing of minstrels & players, fortune-tellers, pardoners and fencers, as well as beggars who could not work. If they did not obey they could be whipped on two consecutive days.

The next historical find is a reference to a law passed by Louis the Pious. Before this law, entertainers were granted the same justice as all citizens. Louis the Pious changed the law so that histriones (jesters) and scurrae (clowns) (basically all entertainers without Noble protection - the equivalent of not having a permit) be excluded from the privilege of justice.

Busking is the practice of performing in public places for tips and gratuities. People engaging in this practice are called buskers. Busking performances are widely varied, and can include acrobatics, animal tricks, balloon modeling, card tricks, clowning, comedy, contortions & escapes, dance, fire eating, fortune-telling, juggling, magic, mime and a mime variation where the artist performs as a living statue, perform various solo or group musical performance acts (vocal, or instrumental), puppeteering, snake charming, storytelling or recite poetry or prose as a bard, street art (sketching and painting, etc.), street theatre, sword swallowing, or present a flea circus.

Buskers are also called *street performers* or *street musicians*. The place where a busker performs is called their *pitch*.

Source: Wikipedia

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