

MEDIA RELEASE

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The Voice star walks the line to Broome with Johnny Cash tribute

Country Arts WA, Act-Belong-Commit and the Shire of Broome are excited to bring Monty Cotton and his Johnny Cash tribute show A Boy Named Cash to the Broome Civic Centre this July as part of Shows on the Go.

Join the velvet-voiced Cotton in Broome on Saturday 21 July as he pays tribute to The Man in Black in a rollicking, rip-roaring set that'll have you convinced you're watching Johnny Cash himself.

Additionally, one up-and-coming Broome performer will have the chance to spend the day learning from Cotton and then perform a set on stage to open the show. Applications from musicians and performers interested in winning the one-day mentorship are now open, with details on the Shire of Broome website at www.broome.wa.gov.au.

From a job in financial management to singing Folsom Prison Blues, Perth-born Cotton has had a storied career. In 2012, the singer quit an accounting job to pursue his dream of impersonating country music legend Johnny Cash. Three years later, Cotton was thrust into the national spotlight thanks to Channel 9's The Voice.

Since then, Cotton has performed the Cash songbook across Australia and around the world, crooning classics on cruise ships, serenading shopping centres, leading singalongs in pubs and clubs, and even embodying the mythos of The Man in Black with a performance in a prison.

A Boy Named Cash's regional WA run comes on the heels of a banner year for Cotton in which he's played everywhere from a paddle steamer on the Swan River to sold out shows at the Perth, Adelaide and Edinburgh Fringe Festivals.

Country Arts WA's Investment Director, Philippa Maughan, said the Shows on the Go program's success was owed to its community-driven approach, focused on bringing professional productions directly to regional and remote WA communities where they would otherwise not be able to travel independently.

The Shows on the Go program is presented by Country Arts WA and Healthway, promoting Act-Belong-Commit.

Healthway Chief Executive Officer Susan Hunt PSM, said the organisation had proudly supported Shows on the Go since its inception, and this year would provide \$110,000 to deliver the Act-Belong-Commit mental health message through this and other programs.

A Boy Named Cash is at the Broome Civic Centre on Saturday 21 July presented by the Shire of Broome. Doors open at 7pm for an 8pm show with tickets on sale at www.broomeciviccentre.com.au and more information at <http://www.countryartswa.asn.au/cash>.

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Biography

Monty Cotton - Performer

Monty Cotton woke up one day in 2012 and realised he could imitate Johnny Cash. Deciding it was time for a sea change, Cotton left a corporate accounting job in Sydney to pursue the life of a musician in Western Australia.

Soon after, *A Boy Named Cash* was born - a greatest hits tribute to the legend Johnny Cash. From this point on Monty has performed as Johnny Cash all around Australia and the UK - pubs, clubs, shopping centres, arts festivals, mine sites, corporate functions, cruise ships, breakfast radio, morning television, and The Voice Australia.

Monty covers a broad range of styles from rock and roll, country to R&B and modern pop. His audience engaging style and musical versatility has made him of the most sought-after entertainers for corporate events, weddings, parties, pubs, clubs and more.

Country Arts WA

Country Arts WA is an independent not-for-profit organisation governed by regional membership. We are the only western Australian arts body with a purely regional focus. The organisation was established in 1994 and is supported by State and Federal Government funding. We build the creativity, connection and capacity of regional communities to further develop WA's regional arts sector around key outcomes of diversity, sustainability, relevance, and celebration.

Our services to the regional arts sector include investment and advice to produce and present projects; the development of programs and strategies to encourage growth; the communication of strong, positive storytelling; and the networking of regional hubs and leadership programs across the state.

www.countryartswa.asn.au

Presenting Program

Country Arts WA presents professional performing arts productions throughout regional Western Australia through a variety of programs, ensuring all Western Australian communities – no matter what size, or how remote – have access to high quality performances.

The Presenting Program brings performing arts to communities that would not otherwise have regular access to live professional performances through a community voting process. These shows include theatre, dance, music, circus, puppetry and comedy and provide great entertainment to local audiences and galvanise shared community experiences.

Country Arts WA assists a diverse array of communities to source, promote and present professional performances by coordinating tours and providing support and advice to community groups and touring artists.