Media Release

The Hon Daniel Andrews мр Premier



Saturday, 15 August 2020

KEEPING VICTORIA SAFE – AND TOGETHER

As we all stay home to keep each other safe, the Victorian Government has today announced a number of programs and projects to keep Victoria connected.

That includes rebooting the popular Victoria Together online platform, providing entertainment and connection for Victorians as we stay home and stay safe. The hub showcases the best of our online experiences, including health and fitness programs, music, comedy, kids' activities and an array of other offerings.

Continuing the hit streaming series State of Music, the Government has again joined with the Mushroom Group to enliven Friday nights with performances from emerging home-grown talent in the *State of Music: Introducing* series.

Introducing showcases unsigned Victorian artists introduced by an established performer – a highlight of the first episode is Paul Kelly setting the scene for singer-songwriter Jess Hitchcock. *Introducing* premieres 7:30pm Friday.

A five-part stand-up comedy series hosted by Nazeem Hussain will feature well-known names like Frank Woodley, Em Rusciano, Rhys Nicholson and Geraldine Hickey as well as a raft of new talent.

Big Night In, hosted by Jon Foreman, returns for a second season and a partnership with the Melbourne Food and Wine Festival will allow Victorians to cook alongside some of the state's finest talent.

Reflecting our creative capital status, Victorians will also be able to revisit some of our state's most loved films with the new Victoria on Film series.

Produced in partnership with the Australian Centre for the Moving Image (ACMI), the series features interviews with the stars and creators of iconic movies including *Ride Like a Girl, Miss Fisher and the Crypt of Tears, The Dressmaker, The Australian Dream,* and *Romulus My Father.*

The platform will also include storytime sessions from State Library Victoria for our youngest Victorians, in addition to a new partnership with Channel 31 to share more content with more of our diverse communities.

Resources are also available to help Victorians with at-home exercise, yoga, mindfulness, meditation and sleep.

To experience everything Victoria Together has to offer, visit together.vic.gov.au.

Quotes attributable to Premier Daniel Andrews

"By spending another Saturday night at home on the couch – you are helping to keep every Victorian safe. As you do, some of our best musicians, comedians, creators and cooks are there to help keep you company."

"We are physically apart – but our connection is stronger than ever. We can only get through this together."

"Victoria Together provides entertainment for people of all ages – and is supporting our musicians, filmmakers and others in the creative industries who are doing it tough."