



Media release

****STRICTLY EMBARGOED UNTIL 10AM SATURDAY 5 NOVEMBER, 2016****

EMIR KUSTURICA & THE NO SMOKING ORCHESTRA

SERBIA | NZ PREMIERE

VENUE: The Civic

DATES: Thursday 16 March, 7.30pm

Emir Kusturica & The No Smoking Orchestra are a band beholden to no show biz dogma but their own. Genre-defying, irreverent and just ever-so-slightly mad, the Serbian super group are on their way to Auckland Arts Festival 2017.

Entertaining, provocative and entirely amusing, Emir Kusturica & the No Smoking Orchestra, with their frantic 'unza, unza'-Balkan versions of rumba, rock and gypsy music, will bring the house down when they play their one-night-only concert at The Civic.

The No Smoking Orchestra has a history that extends back to 1979 when two Sarejevan teenagers founded an anarchic garage rock folk band called Zabranjeno Pušenje, or "No Smoking" in English, at a time when the rest of the popular music scene was wrapped up in punk rock and new wave.

The two musicians secured the band's place in the history of rock music before falling out and then breaking up during the Bosnian War. All was not forgotten, however, as each of the former band members re-established a band in their new respective locations – Serbia and Croatia – with the same name, and for a few years during mid-to-late 1990s, two parallel bands named Zabranjeno Pušenje existed.

Emir Kusturica joined the Serbian splinter and over time the band was renamed to The No Smoking Orchestra, before eventually becoming Emir Kusturica & the No Smoking Orchestra.

It wasn't always about the music for Kusturica – the enigmatic, Sarajevo-born director, actor, musician and producer's first love was film-making. He has written nine films, several television shows and short films.

Among his many accolades are two Golden Palms in Cannes for *When father was away on business* and *Underground*, and the Silver Bear (Special Jury Prize) in Berlin for *Arizona Dream*. In 1998, he won the Venice Film Festival's Silver Lion for Best Direction for *Black Cat, White Cat*, a farcical comedy set in a Gypsy settlement on the banks of the Danube. The music for the film was composed by the Belgrade-based band No Smoking Orchestra.

He also won the 2005 Philippe Rotthier Architecture Prize for building a village, *Küstendorf* (also known as Drvengrad). The traditional ethno-village not far from the Bosnian border was built for his film *Life is a Miracle* and Kusturica resides there still today.



Drvengrad also hosts the international Kustendorf Film Festival, founded by Kusturica. A special highlight of the festival is the annual “bad films burial” which takes place at the Bad Films Cemetery. The first film ever ‘buried’ there was *Die Hard 4.0*.

Dissociated from any show business ‘church’, Emir Kusturica & The No Smoking Orchestra are a phenomenon of the anti-globalist movement and a unique paradox of the environment they have sprung from. They are more famous and recognised on the international scene than in their own country – a place they ironically continue to put on the map.

They have been described as “natural-born nomads, bearers of joy and symbols of freedom – which is the power that enables them to feel at home on any stage.”

Audiences across Europe have embraced the explosive mix of nitro-glycerine sounds and exuberant rhythms generated by this anarchic cult movie maestro and his Belgrade-based band. Now it’s Auckland’s turn.

******the world’s wildest, most joyous and most unrestrained music* – Telegraph, UK

PERFORMANCE DETAILS

TICKETS	A Res \$75 A Res Conc \$69 B Res \$65 B Res Conc \$59 C Res \$45 D Res \$35
WHEN	Thursday 16 March, 7.30pm
WHERE	The Civic
BOOKINGS	Ticketmaster.co.nz 09 951 2501
DURATION	1 hour 40 mins, no interval
MORE INFO	By arrangement with Arts Projects Australia
FOLLOW	@aklfestival #aklfestival Festival trailer: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cxrRTpSEIfk&feature=youtu.be
ABOUT THE AAF	<p>Taking place annually in March, the Auckland Arts Festival is a globally recognised event that celebrates people and culture, and showcases the unrivalled location, cultural diversity and vibrant energy of New Zealand’s largest city.</p> <p>Over 1.6 million people have attended the Festivals to date.</p> <p>Auckland Arts Festival is governed by the Auckland Festival Trust. Trustees are John Judge (Chair), Rick Carlyon, Evan Davies, Sarah Judkins, Tarun Kanji, Margaret Kāwharu MNZM, Jim Moser, Ben Taufua and Fred Ward.</p> <p>The Trust receives core funding from Auckland Council through the Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Act, and Creative New Zealand through the Toi Tōtara Haemata programme.</p> <p>Significant support for AAF 2017 is received from Foundation North, Pub Charity, NZ Community Trust and The Lion Foundation.</p>
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