

Caboolture, QLD
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GROWING SUPPORT FOR YOUNG LOCAL MUSICIANS

Popular music development program A-Venue to returns to Moreton Bay

Youth Arts Queensland is excited to announce that its Transit Lounge Caboolture program will continue to delivery the successful A-Venue initiative for Moreton Bay Regional Council over the next three years.

Kicking off in early October, the Transit Lounge Caboolture program will present 5-week series of Amplify song-writing workshops in Redcliffe and Caboolture. The first workshop being held at Redcliffe State High School on 5 October with local singer-songwriter Mark Lowndes who will work with participants to create a performance-ready song.

It is not the first time Lowndes works with young musicians to hone their song-writing skills. Lowndes, who has facilitated workshops for the Transit Lounge Caboolture before, first picked up a guitar at the age of 16 and moulded his own musical style of rootsy acoustic with reggae and RnB influences since. His evocative and clever lyrics speak to the audience and cannot fail to leave an impression on those who hear him.

Program coordinator with Transit Lounge Caboolture, Cassey Russell, is excited about having Lowndes back on board: "Mark is really open about his own song-writing experience. If you are looking for a way to get your own skills up, you'll love the opportunity to work with him."

The *Amplify* workshops return after a successful pilot program, which ran earlier this year.

"There is so much talent in our region, we really need the ongoing support," says Russell.

"A-Venue allows young musos to show their talent and get new skills and not be put back by hurdles they encounter without a program like it."

A-Venue is an initiative funded by the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland. It provides funding to regional Queensland councils to develop local programs that assist young emerging musicians aged between 15 and 30 to develop their skills and professional opportunities in the music industry.

The pilot A-Venue program in Moreton Bay included *Amplify* workshops and the annual *Band Camp* in partnership with QUT Caboolture. The new funding will allow the initiative to continue until June 2013 and provide skills development, mentoring, networking, showcasing opportunities and continued support for local young musicians.

Bookings for the *Amplify* song-writing workshop series are open. Places are limited. To book, call 5433 2444 or email transit.lounge@moretonbay.qld.gov.au.

What:	<i>Amplify</i> song-writing workshop series with Mark Lowndes
Where:	Redcliffe State High School, Oxley Avenue, Redcliffe
When:	every Tuesday, 3:30 – 5.00pm from 5 October until 2 November
Who:	young people aged 15 - 30
Cost:	just a gold coin
Bookings:	call Transit Lounge Caboolture on 5433 2444
For more info:	email transit.lounge@moretonbay.qld.gov.au or visit www.myspace.com/avenuemoretonbay

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For further information, images and interview opportunities please contact:

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Artist Profile – Mark Lowndes

Born and bred in Brisbane, with a Samoan/French background, Mark grew up surrounded by music. He first picked up a guitar at 16 and unlocked a creativity and passion that has been the root of his expression. It is this creativity and compulsion for pure musical expression and a heart-felt desire to impact people lives with his music that drives Mark. Mark launched his debut EP at UBER in Brisbane to a crowd of over 350 and quickly followed that with successful shows in Melbourne and around South East Queensland. He recently finished filming the music video for his debut single, Butterfly. 2009 shaped up to be a big year with shows in Auckland and performances at Parachute in Hamilton, New Zealand and EasterFest in Toowoomba, Pasifika and regular shows in Sydney, Melbourne and more across south east Qld, with a far north Qld and South Pacific tour, including New Zealand, PNG, Fiji, Samoa, Tonga and culminating at Fest Napuan, Vanuatu in November. Over the past two years, Mark's profile has grown locally, and some key achievements to date include regular performances at Brisbane Festival, Stylin Up and the Zillmere and Roma Street multi-cultural festivals. Mark won Acoustic in the Park '06, and was one of the headline acts for ICON Creative Summit '06, '07 and '08. More recently Mark has performed at a number of Brisbane's live music festivals and venues, including Fortitude Rising, Pasifika, Ric's Bar, The Fringe Bar and The Zoo, The Globe and SolBar in Coolum. He regularly gigs at The Beachhouse in Brisbane and The Oxford Hotel in Sydney. The age finalist for the 2007 FretFest Find Of The Year, Mark has also performed at a number of venues at the Woodford Folk Festival and is a major supporting artist for the Hope for Homeless cause. Describing his sound as good acoustic, rootsy soul music; Mark conveys his influences as many and changing, but of particular note are Stevie Wonder, Bob Dylan, Ruthie Foster, Ben Harper, Erik Badu, Bob Marley and John Mayer.