

Record Crowds Help FolkFest Weather Rainy Days Planning Underway for FolkFest 2006

For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC, July 13, 2005—The 32nd annual ICA FolkFest (July 1-10) attracted record crowds to performances by South Africa's **Ladysmith Black Mambazo** (July 10) and **k-os** (July 4). "FolkFest hit its capacity for the first time ever," said Executive Producer, Tyl van Toorn. "Word has gotten out that FolkFest is a dynamic event with high-calibre acts. We were already looking at what we could do to accommodate higher audience numbers in 2006. Our foresight was fully confirmed by this year's success."

Inclement weather kept attendance low mid-week but overall attendance was strong at both the Inner Harbour and Centennial Square. All venues enjoyed increased support.

The World Feast Stage drew over 100 people to its premiere dinner hour each night, with attendance peaking for the July 2 cooking demonstration by **James Barber (The Urban Peasant)** and **Bill Jones** of Deerholme Farm.

Although the MainStage was the most prominent performance venue, the Bayou Bar reached capacity nearly every night. Fans lined up to see indie rockers like Seattle's **Aqueduct** (July 4).

The Silk Road Acrobats and **The Carpetbag Brigade** stole the show at Teatro Circo. Circus Camp, a new initiative at Centennial Square, attracted hundreds of children to its workshops, including stiltwalking, clowning, mime and music instruction.

"It's going to be hard to top the acts we had this year," said Artistic Producer, Tracy Summers. Planning is already underway for the 33rd annual ICA FolkFest, which is scheduled for June 30 – July 9, 2006.

FolkFest is presented by the Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria and produced by TNT Productions. For more information, visit www.icafolkfest.com or call 250-472-FEST.

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For media enquiries:

Shelley Motz, Publicity Manager
TNT Productions
Cell: (250) 217-2322
E-mail: shelley@tnt-productions.com

Public Information:

(250) 472-FEST
www.icafolkfest.com

