

**EMBARGOED UNTIL 24 FEB 2021**

## **Festival of Small Halls Announces Autumn Tour 2021: New South Wales**



Festival of Small Halls have announced that feel-good ukulele strummer and drummer Bobby Alu and two-piece indie pop-rock band This Way North will feature on their upcoming Autumn Tour 2021: New South Wales.

Presented by veteran festival producers Woodfordia Inc, the twenty-first edition of the much-loved not-for-profit music tour is taking on a packed tour schedule with the finest of home-grown talent visiting twenty community halls across New South Wales.

Refusing to be thwarted by a rapidly changing and challenging events environment, Festival of Small Halls has continued to keep small towns clapping with extra effort and support provided to communities to keep these regional tours safely running as planned.

"We were so inspired and impressed by the way community halls have been able to adopt these new conditions and not shy away from the extra hoops they have had to jump through to keep their communities safe, said Producer Eleanor Rigden.

"Towards the end of 2020 when we got back on the road, hall committees and local groups really stepped up, realising it was more important than ever to support their communities to safely come together after a year of difficulty and isolation", said Ms Rigden

Hosting halls, known locally as stalwarts of community life, have been drawn from all corners of country and coastal New South Wales. Halls of all shapes and sizes will throw open their doors, from the rolling green hills of the Mid North hinterlands, to the dry bush of the Central West, from goldrush country to the fertile Southern Tablelands; from the golden sands of the south east coast, to the majesty of the Snowys. The tour will take in the sprawling mass of regional New South Wales in a four-week marathon of excellent music, community spirit and the finest of country hospitality.

Famous for their larger-than-life folk festivals over the last two decades, Woodfordia presents a programme to be loved by their core base and new fans alike with the smooth Polynesian island vibes of Bobby Alu and the indie pop-rock party of van-lifers This Way North.

It's been three years since Leisha Jungalwalla and Cat Leahy of This Way North traded their bricks-and-mortar homes for life on the road, and that spirit of adventure and unbridled joy has taken up permanent residence in their music.

Taking out Best Outer Suburban Act 2018 at The Age Music Victoria Awards, This Way North are on a steady incline. It's easy to forget they are just a two-piece band. Drummer/vocalist Leahy and guitarist/vocalist Jungalwalla create explosive energy and expansive sound, that translates effortlessly from the studio to the stage.

The duo are no strangers to the road and are thrilled to be heading out. Cat said;

"We are beyond excited to resume life on the road with Festival of Small Halls, touring regionally is one of our favourite things to do, the places, the people, playing shows, the road, it's our happy place!"

Amidst smooth harmonies, rhythms inspired by a strong family lineage of Polynesian performance Bobby Alu tunes have a way of sneaking into the subconscious and taking up residence.

For Bobby Alu, touring regional New South Wales is just like going home.

"I couldn't think of a more perfect way to get back to touring after the longest break I've had since hitting the road over a decade ago. I'm really excited to visit, explore and perform in these regional towns.", said Bobby

Though it's not all palm trees and daydreams – there's a robust energy in Alu's mastery of traditional Samoan log drums, and a vitality to his song writing that nods to world, roots and pop intelligence. Audiences should anticipate gentle optimism rather than forceful instruction and may wish to replicate the reflections taken from each performance the next day in a hammock.

Festival of Small Halls Autumn Tour 2021 starts on Wednesday 7th of April at the Yetman Memorial Hall before continuing on to 19 communities across regional New South Wales. The tour concludes at the Coramba Community Hall on 2 May 2021.

Tickets on sale from 24<sup>th</sup> February at [www.festivalofsmallhalls.com](http://www.festivalofsmallhalls.com)

The Festival of Small Halls Autumn Tour 2021 has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body

**Woodfordia Inc presents**  
**FESTIVAL OF SMALL HALLS AUTUMN TOUR 2021**

**featuring**

***Bobby Alu and This Way North***

<b>DATE</b>	<b>VENUE</b>	<b>TOWN</b>
Apr-7	Yetman Memorial Hall	Yetman, NSW
Apr-8	Frederickton School of Arts Hall	Frederickton, NSW
Apr-9	Currabubula Hall	Currabubula, NSW
Apr-10	J H Davis Memorial Hall	Dorrigo, NSW
Apr-11	Lochinvar School of Arts	Lochinvar, NSW
Apr-14	The Foundations	Portland, NSW
Apr-15	Woodstock Memorial Hall	Woodstock, NSW
Apr-16	St Saviour's Cathedral Hall	Goulburn, NSW
Apr-17	Dalgety Hall	Dalgety, NSW
Apr-18	Gilmore Hall	Gilmore, NSW
Apr-21	Savernake School of Arts Hall	Savernake, NSW
Apr-22	Paradise Palladium Theatre	Morundah, NSW
Apr-23	Ganmain Hall	Ganmain, NSW
Apr-24	Pyree School of Arts Hall	Pyree, NSW
Apr-25	Bloomfield Hall	Orange, NSW
Apr-28	Nymagee Community Hall	Nymagee, NSW
Apr-29	Marthaguy Hall	Marthaguy, NSW
Apr-30	The Burren Junction School of Arts Hall	Burren Junction, NSW
May-1	Mullaley Memorial Hall	Mullaley, NSW
May-2	Coramba Community Hall	Coramba, NSW

**LINKS**

<http://festivalofsmallhalls.com>  
[www.facebook.com/festivalofsmallhalls](http://www.facebook.com/festivalofsmallhalls)  
<https://www.instagram.com/smallhallsaus/>

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