

Splore the square

For the first time ever, *Splore* is coming to the big smoke. This month, *Splore-city* is set to bring some of the hottest local and international acts to Auckland for two days of art, food, music and all-round good times.
By Sarah Illingworth.

The newly revamped Aotea Square will serve as the hub of the event, which *Splore* director Amanda Wright says will, "aim to utilise and highlight the city as an exciting new space to showcase what *Splore* represents."

Along with local supergroup Fly My Pretties, a host of acclaimed international acts, including Kelis, Mayer Hawthorne and electronica act Four Tet will be performing throughout the weekend, making *Splore-city* one of the most eclectic festivals to visit Auckland City.

A truly multi-faceted event, audiences will also be treated to performances by internationally renowned UK trapeze artist and neo burlesque cabaret performer Empress Stah, while installations by the likes of American graffiti artist Eric Orr and leading local contemporary artist

Niki Hastings-McFall will compound the aesthetic magic of the two-day extravaganza.

Splore has always been as much about audience interaction as it is about what happens on-stage, and Wright invites Splorers to dress up and add to the colour and vibe of *Splore*. Two inspiring days of incredible music, art and performance – *Splore-city* is one not to miss. And in case you're worried the urban version of the 11-year-old beachside festival is poised to replace the original event, don't you worry – *Splore* will be back at the beach in February 2012. This is just a delectable little treat to ease the wait!

SPLORE-CITY
11 – 12 February | Aotea Square



Musical BUZZ

Barnaby Weir talks to *LIVE* about the upcoming Fly My Pretties' set at *Splore-city*.

What can audiences expect from Fly My Pretties at *Splore-city*?

You can expect a 1.5-hour set of Fly My Pretties classics from all three albums as well as a handful of brand new tunes too! We'll be dressed to impress of course and will be packing some visual magic on the big screens as well. It's one of three shows planned this year too, which I think makes it special. The FMP crew will be primed to rock *Splore-city* for sure; everyone's very excited about it.

What do you enjoy most about being part of Fly My Pretties?

I enjoy working with all the talent. So many awesome artists on one stage. My job is to curate the project like an exhibition, a musical showcase that should entertain and surprise. I love the fact that the audience doesn't really know what's about to happen but they allow us to do our thing without too many preconceptions. Presenting unknown talent is probably the biggest buzz though, I reckon! And the audience makes the show happen really – with no audience, we have no show.

It must be tricky collaborating with such a large group, especially when it comes to creating material and preparing for the shows. How does it all come together?

It's not really tricky. Everyone has new material and I get to pick and choose what goes on. We are not like a normal band, it's more a group of individuals that come together for special occasions and I think this keeps the vibe really fresh; there's not time to get sick of each other. We send tracks round via email and we rehearse a bit but everyone is capable and brings their skills to the stage. The Loop [Recordings] crew does a fantastic job of the logistics so all we have to worry about is making a rocking show people will remember. Can't wait!



ZOO MUSIC

21 JAN

Dave Dobbyn

WITH
ARTISAN GUNS & LINDON PUFFIN

4 FEB

Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra

GATES OPEN 6.30PM
CONCERT 7.00PM – 9.00PM

12 FEB

Che Fu & The Kratez

WITH
YOUNG SID + BAND & IVA LAMKUM

26 FEB

Sola Rosa

WITH
KNIVES AT NOON & RIO HEMOPO

4 MAR

The Phoenix Foundation & Liam Finn

WITH
THE THOMAS OLIVER BAND

Tickets (SERVICE FEE APPLY)
ADULT \$40 (\$45 ON THE DAY)
CHILDREN \$20 (\$25 ON THE DAY)
UNDER 4 FREE

