

Music— 'Quiet Confidence' page 7

MUSIC

GURRUMUL ACHIEVED INTERNATIONAL ACCLAIM WITH THE RELEASE OF HIS SELF-TITLED DEBUT ALBUM THREE YEARS AGO, WITH ROLLING STONE MAGAZINE FEATURING HIM ON THE COVER AND PROCLAIMING HIM AS "AUSTRALIA'S MOST IMPORTANT VOICE".

Quiet confidence



"He has taken a step forward. It is more solid and varied than his previous album. He plays drums on it as well and there are lots of rich backing vocals."

Hohnen says Gurrumul's success and fame has not affected his place among his community.

"There was a picture of his mum putting paint across his forehead on the front page of the local newspaper last week.

"For the local newspaper to do this is a big community statement that tells him they

With such high praise, the follow-up album by the blind, shy artist with the angelic voice was always going to be eagerly awaited.

Before the album was released, on 15 April, it had pre-sold an amazing 17,000 copies through the distributor, meaning many music stores around Australia had ordered it, expecting it to sell.

Gurrumul's friend, producer and spokesman Michael Hohnen, who has been working with him since 1996, says the success has not changed anything about Gurrumul.

"For Rolling Stone to call him that was great, but I don't think Gurrumul has really taken in the full gravity of that statement.

"He has been told by family and others all his life that he has a beautiful voice and that he is very talented. It's not like he gets shy at that statement. He has confidence in the fact that he does have a powerful voice and he knows how to use it."

Hohnen says Gurrumul wasn't aware of how successful the first album would be.

"He was quietly optimistic that it would work out well, but he didn't anticipate the international success of the previous album.

"He said to me once that when he made that first album he didn't think many people would like it – that it wasn't upbeat and did not have drums – but I guess he had a lot of confidence in me to get down what I think he does best and beautifully, which is playing acoustic guitar with that angelic voice.

"He walked into the studio (Avatar Studios in New York) with a lot more strength and confidence, knowing what he was about to do."

"This time he was more confident in making the new album. He walked into the studio (Avatar Studios in New York) with a lot more strength and confidence, knowing what he was about to do.

"He was really keen to get to work. He was prolific and focused, recording the album in eight days.

Hohnen says while Rrakala is a similar sounding album to his previous one, there is more piano on this one and everything else is stripped away so people can hear the strength of his voice and his piano playing.



are right behind him and it is important that he knows that.

"In his community, a lot of the younger kids look up to him and treat him like a bit of a star, but ultimately he has a place in the system and that doesn't really change."

Hohnen says Gurrumul's music evokes a universal reaction.

"The reaction he gets, whether in China, Korea, Japan, or Europe, is the same – they hear it and they feel emotional.

"It is universal, even though they don't speak Yolngu. He is singing in an emotive way about simple things with a feeling of nostalgia that he evokes.

"It is also amazing just how much the Yolngu language is getting into the suburban homes of Australia."

Apart from playing at a few festivals (he just played at the Byron Bay Bluesfest on the same bill as Paul Kelly and Bob Dylan at Easter), Hohnen says Gurrumul might tour later this year.

VIBE SCHOOL

Issue 171
Years 9-10



After the enormous international success of his debut album, Gurrumul has just released his second album – Rrakala.



READ *Quiet Confidence* on page 7

ACTIVITY 1 BUILDING READING SKILLS

- skimming and scanning for information
- reading headings, sub-headings, text boxes and pictures
- reading for meaning
- making connections between the text and your world

There are three levels of comprehension questions:

Literal The answer is located in one sentence in the text.

Inferred You need to make links between text and graphics (such as photographs, illustrations, maps and tables) and what you already know.

Applied The answer is in your background knowledge, what you already know or feel.

Shade one bubble.

1. Where did Gurrumul record his album *Rrakala*? (inferred)

- ☐ Australia
- ☐ New York
- ☐ China
- ☐ Korea

2. What is the purpose of beginning this text with a summary of the success of Gurrumul's career? (inferred)

3. Gurrumul's manager Michael Hohnen says Gurrumul's music evokes a universal reaction.

In this sentence, to evoke a universal reaction means

- ☐ it creates a chemical reaction in the universe.
- ☐ nearly everyone who hears his music has an emotional connection with it.
- ☐ it makes people want to dance.
- ☐ people are looking for a different type of music.

4. What is the overall purpose of this report? (applied)



ACTIVITY 2 LANGUAGE CONVENTIONS – SPELLING

The spelling mistakes in these sentences have been underlined.

Write the correct spelling for each word in the box.

1. Gurrumrul has acheeved a lot of success.

2. He has been proclamed Australia's most important voice.

Each sentence has one word that is incorrect.

Write the correct spelling of the word in the box.

1. He has receeved high praise.

2. The album was releesed today.



ACTIVITY 3 LANGUAGE CONVENTIONS – GRAMMAR

Shade one bubble.

1. How does the siffix er change the word sing in this sentence?

Gurrunul loves to sing and is now a famous singer.

It changes

- ☐ a verb into a noun.
- ☐ a verb into an adverb.
- ☐ an adverb into a noun.
- ☐ an adjective into an adverb.

2. Which kind of word is angelic in this sentence?

Gurrunul has an angelic voice.

- ☐ verb
- ☐ noun
- ☐ adverb
- ☐ adjective



ACTIVITY 4 LANGUAGE CONVENTIONS – PUNCTUATION

Shade one bubble.

1. An apostrophe (') has been left out of this sentence.

Where does the missing apostrophe go?

Gurrumuls music has made its way into many households.



2. Which sentence is punctuated correctly?

- ☐ The album pre-sold an amazing 17000 copies.
- ☐ The album- pre sold an amazing 17000 copies.
- ☐ The album pre sold an- amazing 17000 copies.
- ☐ The album-pre-sold an amazing 17000 copies.

ACTIVITY 5 WRITING A REVIEW

A Review is persuasive writing that describes a text and makes a judgement about it.

RESPONSE type	Social purpose	Stages	Phases
Review	Describes a text and makes a judgement about it	Context Description Evaluation	Background about the singer Music style Song lyrics Opinions about the text, recommendations

Write a Review of your favourite music album.

Remember to:

- research your topic and plan your writing
- give examples to support your arguments
- write in sentences
- pay attention to your spelling and punctuation
- use a new paragraph for each new idea
- choose your words carefully to convince a reader of your opinions
- check and edit your writing so that it is clear for a reader.