



get the message

Indigenous artists converge on Sydney Opera House this month for the 2006 Message Sticks Festival.

The Message Sticks Indigenous Arts Festival is an annual celebration of contemporary Australian

Indigenous culture, held at the Sydney Opera House.

The festival combines film, theatre, music and art to showcase the talents of Aboriginal Australians and Indigenous artists from across the globe.

This year's festival features some innovative new creations, as well as established Indigenous artists of world renown.

For more information or to book, head to www.sydneyoperahouse.com, or call (02) 9250 7111.

Two years ago, Ruby Hunter and Archie Roach wowed audiences with their stage show, *Ruby's Story*. Now, theatregoers have another chance to catch this inspiring story.



Ruby Hunter and Archie Roach are the legendary duo of Aboriginal music. These talented singer/songwriters have inspired and uplifted us all with their words and music.

Two years ago, Archie and Ruby decided to bring their story to the stage after meeting composer Paul Grabowsky while on a train to WOMADelaide. The result of this fortuitous meeting was *Ruby's Story*.

In the production, both Ruby and Archie perform alongside some of Australia's leading jazz musicians and members of the Australian Art Orchestra. Together they recount Ruby's early life by the banks of the Murray River in South Australia. With songs and stories they chart her search for identity and return to the place of her birth, this time with Archie, to build a new life and mend the wounds of the past.

Ruby's Story was originally commissioned by the Sydney Opera House for the Message Sticks Festival in 2004, before going on a successful tour around the nation and the world. Combining his own jazz and classical influences with Archie and Ruby's country and gospel traditions, Paul helped to create a rich musical experience which proved a massive hit, ensuring that *Ruby's Story* was a sell-out wherever it played.

If you missed it last time, here's your chance to experience all of the humour, sorrow, fun and love of *Ruby's Story*. The production is returning to the stage this month in May for the 2006 Message Sticks Festival.

ACTIVITY 1:

SKIMMING FOR MAIN IDEAS

Look at the heading on page 12, *Ruby's Return*, the photograph above the heading and the words in bold yellow type above the photo.

Read the first and last paragraphs in the article to the right of the photo.

1. Who is pictured on page 12?

2. The words in bold yellow tell us that Ruby Hunter and Archie Roach will be presenting their stage show *Ruby's Story* soon.

True

False



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3. What is the main idea in the first paragraph?

4. Read the last paragraph. When will *Ruby's Story* be returning to the stage?

5. *Ruby's Story* will be presented at the _____ Festival.



ACTIVITY 2:

SCANNING FOR SPECIFIC INFORMATION

1. In paragraph 3, find and write the sentence that tells us that Ruby and Archie will be on stage with some of the best musicians in Australia.

2. Read the sentence "Together they recount Ruby's early life by the banks of the Murray River in South Australia." What is another word for recount?

3. What do Ruby and Archie hope to achieve by presenting the stage show?





ACTIVITY 3:

UNDERSTANDING WORDS IN CONTEXT

Write in your own meaning for the words from the article in the boxes below.

WORDS	MEANING
"legendary duo"	
"With songs and stories they chart her search for identity..."	
" <i>Ruby's Story</i> was originally commissioned by the Sydney Opera House for the Message Sticks Festival in 2004"	
"massive hit"	
" <i>Ruby's Story</i> was a sell-out wherever it played."	



ACTIVITY 4:

CINQUAIN POETRY

A cinquain (pronounced sang – cane) is five lines of poetry. (Cinq means five in French). The lines do not have to rhyme, but the poem follows a set pattern:

- Line 1 One word title (2 syllables)
- Line 2 Two words describing the title (4 syllables)
- Line 3 Three action words or words describing the action (6 syllables)
- Line 4 Four words describing emotion or feeling (8 syllables)
- Line 5 One word synonym for the title (2 syllables)

Here is an example of a cinquain about Ruby Hunter:

Ruby One word title (2 syllables)

Singer Legend Two words describing the title (4 syllables)

Telling us her story

Three action words or words describing the action (6 syllables)

Inspiring Uplifting Fun Love

Four words describing emotion or feeling (8 syllables)

Magic One word synonym for the title (2 syllables)

Your turn! Try writing a Cinquain that describes YOU. Remember to follow the pattern and count the syllables in each line.

_____ (2 syllables)

_____ (4 syllables)

_____ (6 syllables)

_____ (8 syllables)

_____ (2 syllables)

Just for fun!

Write a Cinquain about your favourite pet. Draft your poem, then write out your best copy and illustrate it with a photo of your pet that you've taken yourself.

_____ (2 syllables)

_____ (4 syllables)

_____ (6 syllables)

_____ (8 syllables)

_____ (2 syllables)