

MIKELANGELO & THE BLACK SEA GENTLEMEN
After the Flood

Media Release 2016



Daringly fun... incredible musicianship...a beautiful patchwork quilt against a harsh landscape.

Beat Magazine ★★★★★

From one of Australia's most magnetic live acts – Mikelangelo and the Black Sea Gentlemen – comes a compelling new album and show, telling a forgotten story. These are the songs of the treacherous ghosts of our landscape, and the beauty and terror of a new world.

Written during a residency in Cooma and the Monaro high plains, *After the Flood* was inspired by the heaven and hell stories of the 100,000 men who travelled from across Europe after the war to work on the Snowy Scheme in one of the biggest engineering feats the world has ever seen, tunneling underground in unforgiving alpine country.

Led by the irrepressible Mikelangelo - crooner, troubadour and raconteur - songs of shattered dreams, illicit love and bittersweet hopes rise and fall. First comes the tender rousing lullaby of 'The Sun Will Shine In', then the alt-country twang of 'Way Down Below' to the 6/8 Pogues-like swagger of 'The Wages Song', filled with drinking, dancing and prostitutes. In this new album The Black Sea Gentlemen also shine as formidable artists, songwriters and hilarious entertainers in their own right. There's the visceral Euro-Bluegrass attack of Little Ivan's *Right Hand Man*; the swinging 60's nightclub call and response of Rufino's *Handsome and Highwired*; The Great Muldavio's charming absurdist call to arms *Like A Wolf*; and Guido's chilling Hitchcock-esque epitaph, *Guido's Farewell*.

From the Sydney Opera House to London's West End to Budapest, the acclaimed Mikelangelo and the Black Sea Gentlemen have dazzled them all, featuring at Sydney Festival, Edinburgh Festival, Melbourne International Arts Festival, Darwin Festival, Vivid Live and Auckland Festival and so many more since they began their world-wide take-over in 2000. Touting consistent rave reviews, sell out shows, a die hard

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international and national fanbase and multiple awards including the Green Room award and Time Out London critics choice, there is nothing quite like them in the world.

After the Flood is reminiscent of the whimsy, tragicomedy and surreal images of a film by Jean Pierre Jeunet etched with the dark underbelly of The Proposition. It's all pure seduction, and just when their music touches the shadows, it then journeys to the quixotic and phantasmagorical, surprising you into peels of laughter. If Mikelangelo and the Gentleman show up in your town, all anybody will say is, make sure you get a seat.

After the Flood was funded by The Australia Council of the Arts and the Cooma residency was made possible with the generous support of arts and social change company Big hART, South East Arts, Cooma-Monaro Council, the Canberra Theatre Centre and the people of Cooma and the Snowy Mountains.

These are performers at the top of their game, in complete control of their audience.

***** The Scotsman

2016 TOUR DATES

NEW ZEALAND

Sat 1 & Sun 2 Oct

Kavanagh Auditorium, Arts Festival Dunedin

Thur 6 Oct

The Famous Spiegeltent, Hawke's Bay Arts Festival

DUBBO, NSW

Fri 28 Oct & Sat 29 Oct

Artlands

BATHURST, NSW

4-6 Nov

Inland Sea of Sound Festival

Further Sydney & Melb dates to follow



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PRAISE FOR AFTER THE FLOOD

Dramatic and magical...folksy and flamboyant...a beautiful mystical hour in this music is also a cathartic one.

City Hub ★★★★★

They've created their own singular sound around this concept album. The music is melodically rich, the playing evocative and the subject matter both local and universal in nature.

The Music ★★★★★

Their live shows are a rollicking, raucous theatre, with musicians strolling through the audience, climbing the double bass, spinning madly while playing violin.

The Age

It is time to douse your musical drought with tales of minstrels and scoundrels alike...No song is off-limits, no story taboo...It guarantees that we'll follow the flood, wherever it leads.

The Brag

A heady mix of Eastern European klezmer, gypsy and Balkan music, cabaret, comedy and even a dash of spaghetti western...the kinds of characters you might find in some fictitious Balkan dive, reveling in the high camp theatre of it all.

Rhythms Magazine



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