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Daring to dream: New jazz journal kicks off with exhilarating gig

By Jessica Nicholas
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JAZZ

Dingo Launch

Thornbury Theatre, April 30

It's been 10 years since UNESCO designated April 30 as International Jazz Day. It's been a lot longer than that since Australia had its own national jazz magazine. So the launch of biannual journal *Dingo* on April 30 was deliberately symbolic.



Poet Street perform at the launch of the Australian jazz journal Dingo.

CREDIT: AURORA KUHN

In *Dingo's* case, the focus is Australian jazz within a global context. Melbourne musician Adam Simmons (one of the magazine's creators, along with Cal Barry and Perri Winter) is a passionate advocate for the national jazz scene, and sees the magazine as a way of supporting the sector at all levels.

Dingo's gala launch at the Thornbury Theatre reflected the inclusive approach, with representatives from the next generation of jazz, including all-female ensemble Poet Street and the [Jazz Melbourne Youth Band](#), who conjured up a wonderfully persuasive big-band sound with their tribute to Count Basie.

Torrio! (pianist Paul Grabowsky, saxophonist Mirko Guerrini and drummer Niko Schauble) delivered an exhilarating set, brilliantly controlling the dynamics of their three-way conversation as they veered between freewheeling squalls and exquisite balladry.

We also heard the premiere of a nine-piece ensemble ([Artists in Music](#)) led by composer/saxophonist Sam Boon, whose wildly inventive arrangements encompassed dreamlike textures, loping waltzes and pulsating grooves.

The back cover of the new magazine ends with a quote by Simmons, noting that *Dingo* is about “daring to dream”. Simmons and his team have dared to dream that the time is right for their ambitious enterprise; here’s hoping it’s one the jazz community will embrace and nurture, and be nurtured by in return.

The inaugural edition of *Dingo* is available at newsagencies and at dingojazz.com