



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Tuesday 30 August 2011

INTERNATIONAL TATTOO STARS GIVE STAMP OF APPROVAL TO GOLD COAST'S SURF N' INK

The Gold Coast's only tattoo festival, SURF n' ink, has become a major tourism drawcard for international and national visitors, with some of the best known tattoo artists in the world confirmed for the third annual SURF n' ink from 13-15 January 2012.

Tickets go on sale on Thursday 1 September and Festival Organiser Marco Ventura is expecting a significant increase of attendees due to the amount of well known international artists already confirmed for 2012. Marco is hoping around 15,000 to 20,000 people will visit the three day event at the Gold Coast Convention & Exhibition Centre.

Tattoo artists from America, Germany, Italy, Poland, Lithuania, Hungary, Austria, Switzerland, Samoa, Tahiti, UK, Japan, Greece, China, Korea and Thailand, among others, are already taking bookings from tattoo enthusiasts who are keen to be inked by the best in the business.

"Over the past two events, we've had everyone from teenagers, to mums and dads, to grandparents lining up for tattoos," said Marco.

"In January, I spoke to people who travelled from as far away as Alice Springs and Western Australia, just to get a tattoo from their favourite artist.

In the space of a few years, Marco says the event has become the "talk of the European and American tattoo convention circuit" and his decision to hold an international tattoo festival on the Gold Coast has proved to be a winner.

"All the buzz over there at the moment is about SURF n' ink. They talk about the weather, the people, being right alongside the beach, and they all love the Aussie accents.

"To be able to get up in the morning, go for a swim in the surf before they set up, and then visit a Gold Coast night club at the end of the day, they all say it doesn't get much better than that," he said.

"There is no doubt that the Gold Coast is known for its tattoo community; people travel from all over Australia to get tattooed on the Gold Coast, the majority of shops are producing high quality work and given then endless sun, it's the perfect place for tattooed people to show off their decorated skin," Marco said.

Artists from Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and South Australia and from regional areas as far afield as Wagga Wagga will also be on the Gold Coast for SURF n' ink.

As well as being a celebration of all aspects of tattoo culture, from the artists and their unique forms of art, to body piercing and body painting, to competitions, industry workshops and seminars for those in the industry, SURF n' ink's colourful 2012 program also includes pro-wrestling, Muay Thai, Jiu-jitsu, art fusion, photo and art

exhibition, live music and the national tattoo pageant showcasing Australia's most beautiful inked ladies; Miss SURF n Ink Australia.

For information regarding tickets, go to www.tattoosurfink.com

Tickets:

Kids 10 – 14 (all days) \$ 5.00 online; \$ 10.00 door

Friday Adult \$ 20.00 online; \$ 25.00 door

Saturday Adult \$ 25.00 online; \$ 30.00 door

Sunday Adult \$ 22.00 online; \$ 27.00 door

3-Day Weekend Pass \$ 50.00 online; \$ 55.00 door

VIP 3-Day Weekend Pass \$ 65.00 online only

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