

Meet: Jae Laffer

The singer of indie band The Panics and a solo artist in his own right, Jae is curating *Unplugged Live: Portrait of an Artist*, a series of intimate gigs running throughout August at the National Gallery of Victoria

TELL US ABOUT UNPLUGGED LIVE.

It's a series of events for people to go and see great music in a space full of Australian art. I thought it would be great to present something where it didn't feel like the two art forms were separate – there'll be talks about art and about music at the same time.

WHY THE NGV? People go into galleries with their minds open. It's a great place to listen to music at the same time, because people are in a responsive mood, and I think it's a great place for any art form to be. Galleries are all about people trying to celebrate emotions, being human, and the great – and absurd – things about that. I like that about humans.

HOW DID YOU SELECT ARTISTS?

I wanted people who would be powerful on their own. Performers who, you can tell, put their heart and soul into their songs – people I thought were respected, and whom I respect as songwriters. With people like [Something for Kate's frontman] Paul Dempsey, it's

PLAYING TO THE GALLERY
Jae Laffer curates a series of free performances at the NGV throughout this month



“Musicians and artists think the same way: it’s about being expressive”

a bit of a no-brainer. It's people like him who I wanted. The whole idea behind *Unplugged* is that musicians and artists think the same way: it's about being expressive.

HOW DOES MUSIC CONNECT WITH VISUAL ART? They're both intensely creative mediums. For me, the main focus has been about the reason why people are creative, and why people choose certain mediums to work in. Like anyone, I'm fascinated about what drives people to really need to be creative. I like the idea that the reason

Picasso painted a picture is much the same, I'm sure, as why Bob Dylan had to write a song. The series will be an opportunity for people to soak in how cool these songwriters are – and what better place to do it than a place of such creativity? ★

***Unplugged Live: Portrait of an Artist* features one free show each Sunday of August, from performers including Adalita, Paul Dempsey and Georgia Fair. Visit ngv.vic.gov.au for more info.**



Travel info ↓

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