

MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday March 9, 2017

THE 12th AMP

BEST ALBUM OF 2016

A.B.Original Win the 12th Australian Music Prize Awarded \$30,000 Courtesy of PPCA

The 12th AMP is proud to announce **A.B.Original** as the **winner** of the 12th Australian Music Prize for their album **'Reclaim Australia'**.

Our independent and expert judges, consisting of artists, journalists and retailers, believe **'Reclaim Australia'** to be the best Australian album of 2016 and have awarded **A.B.Original \$30,000 in prize money courtesy of [PPCA](#).**

A.B.Original is the collaboration between Briggs (Album of the Year recipient at the National Indigenous Music Awards 2015) and Trials (ARIA Award winning producer for Drajt, Illy, Hilltop Hoods, Seth Sentry and The Funkoars among others) and was born when the two artists were invited to perform at triple j's 40-year celebration, Beat The Drum, in January 2015. Respectively coming from the Yorta Yorta and Ngarrindjeri tribes, Briggs and Trials are socially conscious outspoken Indigenous artists. They bring a new voice to Australian hip-hop as A.B. Original, and **'Reclaim Australia'** is their debut album.

A.B.Original said, "When we made this album - we thought it was career suicide. For us to be afforded this platform with so many listeners is not lost on us. We went all out because we thought it was the last one we'd make. All of this support is igniting us to do another one! We are very grateful."

The announcement was made in **Melbourne** tonight at a public event held at the **Toff in Town**. After 11 years in Sydney, and with all nine Shortlisted artists based in Melbourne, it's the **first time in the AMP's history** that the event has moved.

Chief Executive Officer of PPCA Dan Rosen, hosted the event with **Deborah Conway** and artists Rat & Co, Ali Barter and Kingswood all performed new music.

Dan Rosen said, "On behalf of all at PPCA, it is an honour to present A.B.Original with a cheque for \$30,000 for what was truly a remarkable album and a worthy addition to the growing list of AMP winners that have left their mark on the Australian music scene. Congratulations to A.B.Original and we hope this contribution from PPCA will provide further assistance in taking their music to the world."

Dave Faulkner, Chairperson of the Judging Panel, said, " 'Reclaim Australia' is more than just a great Australian album, it's a cultural landmark. It's an angry, funny, heartfelt, slamming hip hop album that takes its inspiration from '90s gangsta rap, and filters it through a modern Aboriginal perspective. It hits hard politically, musically and emotionally and the stories A.B. Original are telling are ones we all need to hear right now."

The 12th AMP judging panel is made up of Dave Faulkner (Chairperson), Chris Berkley, Mikey Cahill, Bryget Chrisfield, Sosefina Fuamoli, Al Grigg, Mike Glynn, Kate Hennessey, Phil Jamieson, Chris Johnston, Shannon Logan, Noel Mengel, Caitlin Nienaber, Nate Nott, Sarah Smith and Bernard Zuel.

The judges **listened to the most albums ever in AMP history** – **364** albums of new Australian music released in 2016 were narrowed down to a **Longlist** of **61** albums to create the 12th AMP Shortlist (in alphabetical order):

[A.B. Original](#) - 'Reclaim Australia'
[The Avalanches](#) - 'Wildflower'
[Big Scary](#) - 'Animal'
[Camp Cope](#) - 'Camp Cope'
[D.D Dumbo](#) - 'Utopia Defeated'
[King Gizzard & The Lizard Wizard](#) - 'Nonagon Infinity'
[Nick Cave & the Bad Seeds](#) - 'Skeleton Tree'
[Olympia](#) - 'Self Talk'
[The Peep Tempel](#) - 'Joy'

A.B.Original's win follows previous AMP winners:

2015 – 'Sometimes I Sit And Think, Sometimes I Just Sit' by Courtney Barnett
2014 – 'Raw X Infinity' by REMI
2013 – 'Not Art' by Big Scary
2012 – 'Hyperparadise' by Hermitude
2011 – 'Prisoner' by The Jezabels
2010 – 'Bliss Release' by Cloud Control
2009 – 'Wonder' by Lisa Mitchell
2008 – 'Primary Colours' by Eddie Current Suppression Ring
2007 – 'Devil's Elbow' by The Mess Hall
2006 – 'Moo, You Bloody Choir' by Augie March
2005 – 'Wait Long By The River and the Bodies of Your Enemies Will Float By' by The Drones

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