

MEDIA RELEASE

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THE 12th AMP

BEST ALBUM OF 2016

Announcing the Shortlist!!

The 12th Australian Music Prize (AMP) winner will be announced on March 8 at the annual 'Amped Up in Conversation', where longstanding Principal Partner [PPCA](#) will present the winner with their \$30,000 prize money. In the lead up to the event today we proudly announce the nine albums to have made the Shortlist.

After the 16 judges listened to the most albums ever in AMP history, 364 albums of new Australian music released in 2016 were narrowed down to an already announced Longlist of 61 albums, and now we have 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'

Blake Scott of The Peep Tempel said, "2016 was an especially good year for Australian music, so we are absolutely stoked to have *Joy* recognised in such company. Special thanks to the panel members who sat through hundreds of albums, incredible effort."

Sarah Thompson of Camp Cope said, "Being shortlisted for the AMP has blown our minds. We spent 1 and a half days and \$1000 making this record so to see where it's come is just nuts. We're so appreciative of everyone who's supported it and us over the past 12 months. Being recognised by the judges and our peers is a huge honour. I have no idea how three scummy little punks fell into the realm of any sort of prize but we are stoked, and really appreciate it - thanks so much for including us!"

ABOUT THE 12TH AMP SHORTLISTED ARTISTS:

[A.B. Original](#) - 'Reclaim Australia'

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 Drapht, 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.

[The Avalanches - 'Wildflower'](#)

'Wildflower' is the second album from Melbourne's The Avalanches, released 16 years after their debut 'Since I Left You' that introduced us to their unique blend of instrumentation coupled with sampling to produce one of Australian music's most lauded albums. On 'Wildflower', Robbie Chater and Tony Dibiasi invited a variety of guests to join them including Mercury Rev's Jonathan Donahue, MF Doom and Father John Misty.

[Big Scary - 'Animal'](#)

Melbourne duo Big Scary are Tom Iansek and Joanna Syme, who share lead vocals and won the AMP in 2013 for their second album 'Not Art'. They describe 'Animal' as their "most challenging album yet" and have quartered it into separate bundles of tracks with no chronological order "to emphasize the continual movement between these elements".

[Camp Cope - 'Camp Cope'](#)

Formed in 2015, Melbourne's all female rock trio Camp Cope released their eponymous debut album in 2016 to critical acclaim and a position in the ARIA Top 40 Album chart. Recorded with Sam Johnson (the Smith Street Band) the album was released through Poison City Records.

[D.D Dumbo - 'Utopia Defeated'](#)

D.D Dumbo's 'Utopia Defeated' is his debut album release, and features the singles 'Satan', 'Walrus' and 'Brother'. 'Utopia Defeated' was featured on RRR, FBi and RTR, featured as Album Of The Day on BBC 6 Music, and scored 4 and 5 star reviews from local and international press.

[King Gizzard & The Lizard Wizard - 'Nonagon Infinity'](#)

Formed in 2010 and renown for their live performances, King Gizzard & The Lizard Wizard have released an incredible nine albums since 2012, with 2016's 'Nonagon Infinity' their eighth release. 'Nonagon Infinity' features nine songs that blend into each other before looping back to the start.

[Nick Cave & the Bad Seeds - 'Skeleton Tree'](#)

Founded in 1983, Nick Cave & the Bad Seeds released their sixteenth album 'Skeleton Tree' in 2016, having sold more than 5 million albums to date. 'Skeleton Tree' received phenomenal reviews worldwide, topped the charts in eight countries, and gained the band their second #1 album in Australia following 2013's 'Push The Sky Away'. Companion film 'One More Time With Feeling' screened in 950 cinemas across 30 countries.

[Olympia - 'Self Talk'](#)

Olympia is the creative project of Melbourne based singer songwriter, and multi-instrumentalist Olivia Bartley, who drives a mix of widescreen sweep, rich harmonies and dissonant minimal guitar. After releasing her self-titled EP in 2013, Olympia released her debut album 'Sweet Talk' in 2016, produced with Burke Reid (Sarah Blakso, Courtney Barnett).

[The Peep Tempel - 'Joy'](#)

Acclaimed Melbourne three-piece The Peep Tempel's second album '*Tales*', released in 2014, was also Shortlisted for the AMP. 'Joy' is their third album, recorded with Anna Laverty at Sing Sing Studios. The Peep Tempel are Blake Scott (vocals, guitar), Steven Carter (drums) and Stewart Rayner (bass guitar).

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