

ICEHOUSE



IVA DAVIES BIOGRAPHY

One of Australia's most iconic bands, ICEHOUSE, was formed by Iva Davies, the front man and musical creative force, that lead the band to an amazing 28 platinum albums, eight top 10 albums and over thirty Top 40 singles.

Iva was born Ivor Davies in New South Wales on the 22 May 1955. He later adapted to Iva after there was a misspelling on the label of a single released prior to the formation on **Flowers/ ICEHOUSE**. The youngest of three siblings, Iva grew up in a musical household with both parents' members of the local choir.

When only 6 years old, Iva fell in love with his first of many instruments - the bagpipes, and after begging his parents for lessons, he had to wait till he was seven before his fingers could stretch over the chanter's holes in order to be able to play the instrument. Iva later made the move to the oboe with the help of his first year music teacher at Epping High.

It was in July 1975 that Iva's career really began with the release of his first single by RCA, *Leading Lady*, but it wasn't until January 1980 that he put his name on the map when the successful pub band he founded, **FLOWERS**, signed a recording contract with Regular Records.

In 1980 their debut album, **Icehouse**, went Top 5 becoming the highest selling debut album in Australia at the time.

ICEHOUSE's success continued with the band performing their first overseas tour and the release of their second album in 1982, **Primitive Man**, which went on to surpass the success of their debut album. It was this album that produced the anthem for Australians, *Great Southern Land*, which made it into the Top 5.

The band continued to tour heavily, seizing as many opportunities as possible including Iva travelling to Tokyo in 1984 to write the song, *Walking to the Beat*, for the Yellow Magic Orchestra star, Yukihiro Takahashi. Two months later, Iva returned to Japan to tour as a member of Takahashi's "superband" with musicians drawn from all over the world.

ICEHOUSE's success continued with the album, **Man Of Colours** (1987), which contained the hit singles *Crazy* and *Electric Blue*, both of which topped the US airplay and sales charts. This album became the highest local selling album by an Australian group ever. For **Man Of Colours**, Iva himself created the artwork of a man clasping a bunch of coloured flowers by investing in a box of 5 crayons (which he still has till this day) and a black felt pen.

Beyond **ICEHOUSE**, Iva has, and still continues, to showcase his musical skills for films, ballet, television and special events. Over the years he has composed scores for two of the most successful ballets for the Sydney Dance Company, **Boxes** (1985) and **Berlin** (1995). True commendation for his works came when, after 30 years as founder and Artistic Director of the Sydney Dance Company, Graeme Murphy chose to close his Directorship with a return season of **Berlin** in 2007.

Iva's score **The Ghost of Time** was also performed with Richard Tognetti and Sydney Symphony Orchestra on Millennium Eve at the Sydney Opera House as part of International Millennium Celebrations, telecast to over 3.5 billion people worldwide.

In 2003 Iva also co-composed the film score for Peter Weir's **Master and Commander** starring Russell Crowe. Critics from around the world praised his work with the Washington Post calling it, "...an unforgettable score."

ICEHOUSE and Iva Davies have won many awards including the Countdown Award for the Most Popular Male Performer, an ARIA Award for the Best Album for **Man of Colours**, an ARIA for Highest Selling Album for **Man of Colours**, and an ARIA Award for **The Ghost of Time** in 2000. The band was inducted in the ARIA Hall of Fame in 2006.

In recent years Iva has maintained a presence in the Australian media

with appearances in a variety of music & entertainment, TV and radio shows, and in interviews and featured press articles. 2011, and into 2012, saw Iva and ICEHOUSE headline a number of major music festivals in Australia and New Zealand including Homebake and the Breath Of Life Festival. These shows coincided with the highly successful special release of the **ICEHOUSE White Heat** Greatest Hits CD & DVD, both of which went Gold within a few weeks of release.

In January 2012, Iva was made a Friend Of Australia for the G'Day Australia campaign in the USA where he wined and dined with Hollywood stars, music celebrities and government ministers and performed a live set including Great Southern Land and Electric Blue. On Australia Day 2012 he was honoured as official Australia Day Ambassador including featuring in a number of Tourism Australia videos.

Iva was again made an Australia Day Ambassador in 2001 and every year on Australia Day travels to a different region of New South Wales, on behalf of the Australia Day Council, to take part in and perform official duties for local Australia Day activities.

Outside of music, Iva has a long history of contributing back to the community from which he comes. Since the 1990s he has been, and remains, an Ambassador for the Nordoff Robbins Music Therapy Australia, a non-profit organization which assists in treating those with physical and intellectual disabilities via the power of music. He has a long association going back to the late 1980s with the Salvation Army Red Shield Appeal where he can be found either door-knocking or at one of the events on the day. Iva is also a Patron of Entertainment Assist, the local arm of Music Cares which supports artists and their families who have fallen on hard times.

All albums in the **ICEHOUSE** catalogue were re-released in May 2012 with a focus on the 30th Anniversary Edition of Primitive Man and the 30th Anniversary Edition of Man Of Colours. Between October and November of 2012 Iva Davies and ICEHOUSE performed to sell-out audiences on their Primitive Colours Tour which showcased the songs from the two Anniversary albums plus other favourites from the ICEHOUSE pantheon of hits. Due to the success of the Tour, the band has been invited to present several 'Encore' performances in January 2013. ICEHOUSE was also invited to perform several special events during the year.

In June 2013 Iva was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for 'significant service to the music and entertainment industry as a songwriter and performer, and to the community'.

Davies closed 2013 with a bit of fun called **DubHOUSE**, where he and an expanded band reworked the songs of ICEHOUSE and some much-loved cover songs with reggae, bluebeat and dancehall feels and

continued his and **ICEHOUSE**'s musical journey through 2014 and beyond.

In late 2014, Iva was further honoured when the National Film and Sound Archive included **ICEHOUSE**'s *Great Southern Land* in their Sounds of Australia, the ultimate selection of sounds which inform or reflect life in our nation.

In 2017, Qantas invited the public to vote for the names of the planes for their new fleet of Dreamliner 787-9s. Out of over 60,000 name suggestions submitted, *Great Southern Land* won the honour of the very first plane in the fleet being named after the iconic hit.



For further information please contact:

Management: Keith Welsh | 0418 400 921 | keith@velocer.com.au

Publicity: Ferris Davies PRM – 02 9555 5807 | rina@ferrisdaviesprm.com.au