Top Gear Live Melbourne to feature motoring festival for the first time ever

Anticipation is growing ahead of the Melbourne leg of the Top Gear Live PROTOTYPE Tour as more details are released about the motoring festival that will run alongside the automotive theatre production. Jeremy Clarkson, James May and Top Gear Australia's very own Shane Jacobson will be joined on stage by a stunning collection of star cars including Aston Martins, Ferraris and even flaming Porsche 911's while outside a 1.52km custom built race track will host a full timetable of activity daily.

The event, which will be held at the Melbourne Showgrounds from 11th – 14th March, will host the only motoring festival to be held in Australia. As well as drifting, supercar sprints and urbancross demos, festival spectators will have track side seats for the Renault Celebrity Challenge. Sam Newman, Livinia Nixon, Grant Hackett, Giaan Rooney and Melbourne Storm's Cameron Smith are just some of the big names who will pilot cars around the Top Gear Live track.

Inside the theatre fans will be treated to Top Gear Live's most ambitious show to date incorporating a 3D set capable of transporting audiences from dusty desertscapes to steaming tropical jungles in the blink of an eye and an array of vehicles ranging from supercars to a selection of one-off models that simply have to be seen to be believed.

Car football returns by popular demand but with a difference - the new choice of vehicles, Rascals and Robin Reliants, are bound to be the cause of some sensational silliness as matches are played out live on stage. Parts, panels and sparks are sure to fly – and that's just before kick-off.

Clarkson and May will be adding their usual dose of juvenile bickering to the proceedings and Jacobson will have to be on top form to compete in the various challenges presented to them. NASA-sanctioned (kind of) rocket cars, white goods vehicles and the car football are just some of the challenges that will see them go head-to-head on stage with undoubtedly hilarious consequences.

An Ferrari 599 GTO, Audi R8 V10 Spyder, Lamborghini Murcielago SV, Lamborghini Murcielago LP 640, Ferrari 599 GTO and V8 utes from both Ford and Holden. This line-up will fuel healthy debate between the presenters and the audience, and it remains to be seen if Clarkson will have the last word when on Aussie soil.

Top Gear's The Stig, never far from the action, takes his pick of the star cars, demonstrating his renowned skills behind the wheel of a Ford Cobra Mustang and a fully transparent car (a world first), continuing the show's tradition of making the seemingly impossible, possible.

For those petrol heads wishing to indulge their passion further there's the opportunity to spend the rest of the day at the Top Gear Live Track which stretches 1.52km around the showgrounds. It's rumoured the Stig may well appear on the track between performances and in addition to him the Aurora 101, an Australian-built solar car, is sure to captivate crowds as it attempts to set the fastest lap. Powered solely by the sun, this machine boasts the top specs of its kind, anywhere in the world and is the lead contender to take out the upcoming World Solar Challenge.

Festival goers will also experience the thrills of Trials Bike Mania and some extreme sideways action from VicDrift. Current World Trials Champion Jack Field & The Hell Team will take their motorcycles places you would never imagine, including a back-flip from a 30cm high mound while members of VicDrift show off their skills pushing their cars to the limit on the specially designed course.

Add to this a multi-million dollar display of exotic and outlandish cars that will fill the Showgrounds and it truly is car heaven.

Tickets for Top Gear Live theatre show start at $69 each and include your seat in the live show with Jeremy Clarkson, James May and Shane Jacobson plus all day access to the Festival.

And, just announced, Festival-only tickets are now on sale - $20 pre-booked or $25 at the gates/ on the door. Festival only tickets will not give you access to see Clarkson, May and Jacobson but you will gain access to all other activities in the Festival.

Tickets to the live theatre shows and Festival only can be purchased via ticketek.com.au or by phoning 132 849.