



FESTIVAL OF THE ELEMENTS

WAITANGI DAY

6 February 2010

Te Rauparaha Park

www.elementsfestival.org.nz

News Release – Big Day Art!

21 January 2010

Multi-talented family adds unique flair to festival

Even by the standards of the multicultural Festival of the Elements, this year's performers are exotic. Perhaps one of the most unusual is the Yellowhawk family. Led by Jim Yellowhawk, a Native American dancer and artist, the family also includes his wife, Ruth, and Gabe, their son. The family hails from South Dakota.

Jim has won multiple awards for his visual art in the United States, and has shared his artwork and dance in several European countries as well as in New Zealand previously. Gabe, who turns 16 just days before the Festival, has been dancing for almost all his life, while Jim took it up about fifteen years ago.

All three members will certainly have their hands full on Waitangi Day. Jim and Gabe will be performing traditional Lakota tribal dances on two of the Festival's three stages, with Ruth announcing them. The family will also have a stall in the new Big Day Art! section of the event, where they will show some of Jim's mixed media art.

A unique style known as ledger drawings will be among those on display. Ledger drawings are depictions of daily life originally created by Plains Indians on ledger paper during the days of the settlers in North America. In recent years, the art form has seen a revival and has become widely discussed and collected. Jim has done some of these drawings on antique paper from Wellington Harbour records especially for presentation at the Festival of the Elements.

The Festival will run from 11 AM to 7 PM on 6 February and is free to the public. For more information, please contact Margaret Armour on 027 224 5670, or go to www.elementsfestival.org.nz.

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The Festival of Elements is an event arranged and managed by the
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