



MIND MEDICINE
A U S T R A L I A

Fantastic Fungi to premiere in Melbourne

Almost one in two Australians will be affected by mental illness in their lifetime. Psychedelic medicines could provide an effective and ground-breaking treatment, says Mind Medicine Australia.

Mind Medicine Australia is thrilled to announce the premiere Melbourne screenings of *Fantastic Fungi* at 6:30pm and 7pm on Thursday 23rd January at Nova Cinema followed by Q & A Panels and conversation.

Mycelium is a life preserver not only for our species but for so many **species on this Earth** that we love. We're asking you to start this **revolution** in the ecology of consciousness. Please help us. **We can save this planet with your help and the help of Mycelium.**

There are currently **no medications that have proven effective** in dealing with the **massive increase in addictions, depression, trauma and suicide**. **Psychedelic medicines are showing extraordinary results** in clinical trials, and are on the fast track to becoming one of the **most transformative tools of our time**.

In a world where people feel so **deeply disconnected**, the use of medications to further detach them may work to dampen the emotions that are experienced, but often provides little relief and no profound insights into the internal experience of life. What science has shown is that **psilocybin works to calm the region of the brain called the Default Mode Network and stimulates the connections between regions in the brain** that may not be connecting well.

This stunning film by **award-winning director Louie Schwartzberg** touches on the ground-breaking work being done at **Johns Hopkins, UCLA, New York University** and other places. It will open a door to a **meaningful and important conversation** and exploration into the potential mushrooms offer.

The film also covers topics including **innovation, health, wellness and medicine, the environment and biodiversity, foraging, food and cooking, consciousness and spirituality, culture, history and the arts.**

"Schwartzberg's film quickly proves to be one of the year's most mind-blowing, soul-cleansing and yes, immensely entertaining triumphs." Matt Fagerholm, RogerEbert.com

Mind Medicine Australia (MMA) has been established as a new not-for-profit organisation to promote the development of research-backed and regulatory-approved psychedelic medicines in Australia. Psychedelic medicines, properly used, may be able to broaden the capacity of the medical sector to provide effective and long-lasting solutions for millions of people suffering from mental illness.

An estimated 45% of Australians will experience a serious mental health illness in their lifetime. According to the Productivity Commissions recent daft report, Mental illness currently costs the Australian economy over 180 billion dollars per year. As the social and economic toll of mental illness continues to rise, new solutions are urgently needed. Psychedelic medicines such as MDMA, LSD and psilocybin (found in certain mushroom species) continue to demonstrate ground-breaking results in the treatment of mental illness in clinical trials globally. Australia is now commencing its first clinical



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research trial in the field part-funded by Mind Medicine Australia alongside the Vasudhara Foundation and Psychedelic Research in Science and Medicine (PRISM).

Within just one to three doses, psychedelic therapy can bring patients into remission from depression, addiction, trauma and ease end-of-life anxiety for people with terminal illnesses. Psychedelic-assisted therapy acts as a catalyst for the therapeutic context while increasing patient's openness to experience. According to Peter Hunt AM, Chair of MMA: *"Mental illness is the global epidemic of our time. An estimated 200 Australians attempt to take their lives every day, with mood disorders including depression and anxiety being the leading causes of suicide. At any time, it's estimated that more than 1 in 5 Australians are suffering from mental illness - that means almost everyone in this country is affected by this epidemic, either directly or because of the suffering of loved ones."*

Tania de Jong AM, Executive Director of MMA, explains: *"The rate of suicide has been steadily increasing in Australia over the past decade and these sobering statistics call for awareness, education and better therapeutic solutions to alleviate the suffering of individuals and the burden of mental health disease on society. We urgently need a massive paradigm shift in the treatment of mental illness."*

Professor David Nutt from Imperial College London, who is an Ambassador of MMA, claims that current trial results signal a paradigm shift in how mental illnesses are treated: *"This is potentially a revolution in the treatment of depression and could arguably be the greatest contribution to health since the vaccine."*

For tickets to the Melbourne screenings of Fantastic Fungi on Thursday 23rd January please visit: <https://mindmedicineaustralia.org/events/>

For more information please visit: www.mindmedicineaustralia.org

For further information, a full list of speakers, bios, interviews or event enquires please contact:

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About Mind Medicine Australia

MMA was founded by award-winning social entrepreneurs Peter Hunt AM and Tania de Jong AM following their experience setting up other charities and working with people suffering from mental illness. Mind Medicine Australia (MMA) is working towards a world free of mental illness and addiction. MMA supports innovation in the treatment of mental health and wellbeing by acting as a central nexus between academia, government, technology, philanthropy and culture. With an active focus on the potential of psychedelic medicines and supporting technologies, MMA creates educational content, promotes policy development, cultivates professional partnerships and encourages and supports appropriate research into the science, benefits, and the risks of psychedelic medicines. MMA will also oversee the establishment of an accredited psychedelic-assisted therapy training programme for healthcare professionals, to the extent permitted by the regulatory environment.