

PICTURE: IAN MUNRO



ENTERTAINMENT ENTREPRENEUR RICHARD EVANS

YOU HAVE WORKED ALL OVER THE WORLD AS AN ENTERTAINMENT PROMOTER, MANAGER AND INVESTOR. WHAT EVENT STANDS OUT?

I held a two-week music festival in Perth in 1999 that I'm very proud of called Indian Summer. Fat Boy Slim opened it but the highlight was a performance by Les Rythmes Digitales (Stuart Price, Madonna's producer) and DJ Jon Carter on the Art Gallery of WA rooftop. There were 500 people dancing to thumping tunes with the city skyline in the background. As part of the festival, I organised a conference with Mark Jones, head of Wall of Sound, and Justin King, CEO of City of Angeles, who talked to local musicians and producers. It has always been important to me to support Perth talent. You don't have to be from New York or LA to make it. You can do amazing things from here.

HOW DID YOU GET INTO THE BUSINESS?

At 22 I went to the States to be a windsurfing instructor for Camp America. I taught the late Tony Scott, director of *Top Gun*, who gave me some great advice. I wanted to become a film producer and he told me a law degree would be invaluable. So I studied at Bond University and went to work at Barron Entertainment.

YOU STARTED GREENWICH BAR (WITH ADIL BUX) IN THE BASEMENT OF HIS MAJESTY'S AT AGE 25. WHAT WAS THE IDEA BEHIND THAT?

It was the mid 1990s and I was inspired by the edgy New York underground scene. We wanted Greenwich to be a place for creative people so we hired bar staff from WAAPA and film schools. It was all about having a mix of interesting people and conversation points. We had fish tanks, a wall of imported vodkas that weren't

available in Perth, Art Deco couches, live bands, my grandparents' etchings. It really took off after Dave Graney performed there. Ali Bodycoat did poetry nights with Tim Minchin, who recently told me Greenwich helped him get his start, which was cool.

YOU WENT ON TO LIVE IN NEW YORK AND THE HAMPTONS. WHAT BROUGHT YOU HOME?

I came back every summer to see my parents and then five years ago I started Cottesloe Film Festival with Miranda Edmonds. I went back and forth with my wife but moved to Perth when my dad (Max Evans, former State minister for finance and racing and gaming) was diagnosed with metastatic melanoma. I wanted to spend time and care for him. He passed in April 2019 and I decided to stay here for my mum.

WHAT ARE YOU WORKING ON NOW?

Last weekend Kate Walsh and I hosted a book launch for our dear friend Joan Peters' Be Kids charity. I've also been holding Painting Picnics at our family's Piesse Brook property, which was a labour of love for my father who created his own Monet's Garden. We've had 100 people come to paint and enjoy French food and wine. I also sponsor local female athletes through my label XO Active and I recently started working with Inneka, an incredible electronic string quartet. I'm hosting live winter music nights at Camelot, a Wind and Wave Festival at Coast in October and Cars on the Course at Lake Claremont in November.

DO YOU SEE YOURSELF STAYING?

Definitely. My dream is to put on iconic events in Perth and around WA. It's unique and people appreciate it.

Richard spoke to Nicolette Casella