



DATE: 15.12.2018

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## JUSTICE FOR CAPTIVES AGAINST THE USE OF ANIMALS FOR HUMAN ENTERTAINMENT AT AUSTRALIAN OUTBACK SPECTACULAR

After a day of chaotic animal show disruptions at Sea World, on the eve of Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> December at approximately 8pm, 20 Australians representing the animal-rights group 'Justice for Captives' legally entered the theatrical Australian Outback Spectacular on the Gold Coast and caused a disruption during the performance.

On behalf of all animal-welfare concerned Australians, Justice for Captives confronted the audience by running into the sandy arena holding large banners stating "ANIMALS ARE NOT ENTERTAINMENT", before being forcibly removed by security. The timing of the disruption was carefully managed to ensure that no animals were present and ultimately caused distress.

The Australian Outback Spectacular is well-known for celebrating and encouraging the use of animals performing circus acts, and has used countless horses and other animals for over 12 years since the show opened. Each Outback Spectacular show uses in excess of 55 horses who are trained for up to 10 hours per day, and during the performance horses are tied together and forced to perform tricks, often with the use of painful whips e.g. jumping over fire with trainers standing on their backs.

The big question is: What role do animals in entertainment play in modern culture?

Chelsea Hannah, a full-time psychology student and corporate professional from Melbourne highlights why she chose to aid the disruption at Outback Spectacular tonight: *"Outback Spectacular is essentially a permanent animal-circus situated on the Gold Coast designed to attract tourists with romanticised human-animal relationships and classic Australian ideologies. However, using animals as props for human amusement and entertainment is fast becoming an archaic practice. So far, over 19 countries have implemented the ban on using performing animals in the circus and it is time Australia does the same. Village Roadshow (who own Outback Spectacular and Sea World) in particular hold this cornerstone opportunity to make Australian history by making their performing animal shows history. Now is time to end the use of animals for entertainment in Australia"*

Sev Avedis, an optical clinician from Cairns further states:

*"We have been entertained by animals since childhood- the part of children that empathise with animals is beaten out from a young age. The use of emotionally sophisticated animals such as horses for an exciting round of applause should be made illegal. It is up to us to teach our children that these animals do suffer, they do have their free will removed and we can put a stop to animal*



*lead entertainment. Horses are not cast members, they are independently thinking animals that deserve freedom”*

#### **ANIMALS USED FOR HUMAN ENTERTAINMENT (OUTBACK SPECTACULAR)**

**HORSES:** Horses are a highly sensitive animal. Performing animals have their free will removed in offer of an entertaining night out to paying customers. We wish to raise awareness on the contentious issues surrounding the use of animals for entertainment- and in turn set a good example as Australians for generations to come.

Justice for Captives are calling for Australian Outback Spectacular to stop using horses and other animals as part of their theatrical performances.