



# MEDIA RELEASE

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## PARKES CONTEST WINNER TO TAKE ON THE WORLD

The winner of the Parkes preliminary round of the Ultimate Elvis Tribute Artist Contest® is on his way to Memphis, US for his chance to be crowned the world's best tribute artist.

Anthony Petrucci will represent Parkes Elvis Festival in the semi-final round of the 2018 Ultimate Elvis Tribute Artist Contest during Elvis Week™, taking to the stage on Friday 10 August.

The Melbourne-based performer has been inspired by Elvis Presley™ since childhood and made his national television debut as his idol on the Nine Network's Star Struck in 2005. Winning that competition then saw him go on to perform at the "Legends in Concert" show at the Imperial Palace in Las Vegas.

Anthony is excited to head back to the States, "I'm thrilled to be heading back to Memphis! Being a part of the Contest is a bonus, including having the fortunate opportunity of representing Parkes while doing so. It's an honour and a privilege to be able to do what I do and I'm eternally grateful for it. I had an amazing time in Parkes, they (everybody involved) really made me feel welcome. I can't wait to return." He said.

The worldwide annual search for the Ultimate Elvis Tribute Artist began in 2007 when Elvis Presley Enterprises Inc. announced they were looking for the 'best representation of the legacy of Elvis Presley'. Twenty-four of the best ETAs from around the world competed in Memphis during Elvis Week, with Shawn Klush of Pennsylvania winning the first-ever Ultimate title.

Elvis tribute artists may only win the prestigious title once in their careers and proudly carry the endorsement by Elvis Presley Enterprises Inc.

Contestants in the Memphis final round compete not only for the titles and endorsement, but also a cash prize of USD \$20,000. Expert judges assess contestants who best represent the legacy of Elvis Presley across the areas of vocals (40% of the total score), style (20%), stage presence (20%) and overall performance (20%).

Parkes Elvis Festival Director, Cathy Treasure, said the Parkes community will be cheering Anthony on, "We're happy to have Anthony represent Parkes Elvis Festival in Memphis. This will strengthen the Festival's US connection and further raise our profile on the International stage."

Registrations will open soon for the 2019 Parkes preliminary round of the Ultimate Elvis Tribute Artist Contest to be held on Friday 11 January (heats) and Saturday 12 January (final) at Parkes Leagues Club. Tickets will go on sale Monday 10 September 2018 via the Festival website [www.parkeselvisfestival.com.au](http://www.parkeselvisfestival.com.au).

**END RELEASE**

Summary:	The winner of the Parkes preliminary round of the Ultimate Elvis Tribute Artist Contest is on his way to Memphis, US for his chance to be crowned the world's best tribute artist.	
Authorised By: <b>Kent Boyd General Manager</b>	Contact: Ellie O'Donoghue 02 6862 6000 <a href="mailto:ellie.odonoghue@parkes.nsw.gov.au">ellie.odonoghue@parkes.nsw.gov.au</a>	Distribution: National

