



MEDIA RELEASE

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE – WEDNESDAY 21 FEBRUARY 2024

Joyful Australian musical with live band kicks off Hamilton PAC Season

The Sunshine Club: Saturday 9 March, 8pm



"An unashamedly feel-good musical" - The Australian

Hamilton Performing Arts Centre opens its 2024 season of programmed shows with a thought-provoking, vibrant, and above all joyful night of theatre and music.

On Saturday 9 March, the award-winning *The Sunshine Club* will feature a talented cast of ten, including emerging and established First Nations artists, and a five-piece live band including double bass, tuba, drums, trumpet and melodica, saxophone and keys.

Heralded as a "brilliant new landmark in Australian musicals" (*The Australian*), *The Sunshine Club* is written and directed by proud Noonuccal Nuugi man, Wesley Enoch AM, a creative force in Australian Theatre. *The Sunshine Club* is gloriously energetic and features a variety of music styles alongside the fantastic story, with twenty-eight songs composed by the esteemed John Rodgers.

Set in 1946, the musical tells the story of Aboriginal soldier, Frank Doyle, who is just returning home to Brisbane after serving in WW2, to find that, while the world may have changed, the same attitudes and prejudices still exist at home. But this only fills Frank with a strong desire to change things for the better by setting up The Sunshine Club. A place where all people are welcome to come together, laugh, romance and dance the night away as Frank sets out to win the heart of Rose, the girl from next door.

Internationally acclaimed playwright and artistic director, Mr Enoch said of the show, 'I initially wrote this as a way of bringing people together, especially in the reconciliation movement, this notion of black and white dancing together and the stories of our history, especially post World War II,'

'It's both an invitation for the audience to sit together... and also a way of celebrating more indigenous writing and more indigenous stories,' concluded Mr Enoch.

The Australia-wide tour takes his play on stage in 2024, being presented in Western Victoria for the first time at Hamilton Performing Arts Centre. Centre Manager, Amanda Hurley said it was a night not to be missed.

'We're looking forward to seeing this beautiful story come to life on the HPAC stage. The musical builds on HIT Productions' work with First Nations artists and is a great successor to The Sapphires, which filled Hamilton Performing Arts Centre in July 2022.' said Ms Hurley.

Awards for the show include a 1999 Matilda for book, lyrics & and direction, and a 2000 Deadly Award for Excellence - Theatrical Score.

Tickets can be purchased via the Hamilton Performing Arts Centre website or by contacting the Box Office, with special prices for concessions, seniors, students, young patrons and groups.

ADDITIONAL IMAGE

Image credit: 2023 production image by Paul Dodd. Historical Images, some cast may differ



EVENT DETAILS:

The Sunshine Club

SATURDAY 9 MARCH, 8PM

Hamilton Performing Arts Centre

[Hamilton Performing Arts Centre \(hamiltonpac.com.au\)](http://hamiltonpac.com.au)

Tickets:

Adult \$45

Concession \$40

Senior \$40

Student \$30

12 & Under \$30

Group of 4+ \$35 each

Cast

Frank Doyle: Garret Lyon (also Dance Captain)

Rose Morris: Claire Warrillow (also Vocal Captain)

Aunty Faith Doyle: Roxanne McDonald (also Resident Director to 13/05/24)

Reverend Perry Morris/ Bill Harris: Dale Pengelly

Pearl Doyle: Tehya Makani

Dave Daylight: Leeroy Tipiloura

Peter Walsh/ Doorman/Jimmy Daily: Rune Nydal

Lorry Hocking: Alexander Tye

Patti Maguire/ (Rose Cover): Chloe Rose Taylor

Mavis Moreton/ (Pearl Cover): Jade Lomas-Ronan

Band members

Daniel Gordon: Band Leader, double bass and tuba

Matthew Morgan: Drums Gabriel Garcia: Trumpet and melodica

Harry Ottley: Saxophone

Cameron McConville: Keys

Stephen Newcomb: Repetiteur

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For media enquiries at HIT Productions please call Production Coordinator Liz Zito on 0423 083 074.

This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through Creative Australia, its principal arts investment and advisory body.

HPAC MEDIA CONTACT:

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ABOUT HPAC:

Hamilton Performing Arts Centre (HPAC) is the major venue for live shows, engaging performances and events in the Southern Grampians. Situated in the heart of the Greater Hamilton region on Gunditjmara Country, HPAC's landmark arts facility is at the centre of Hamilton CBD's cultural arts precinct, close to shops, eateries, laneways and attractions ripe for discovery.

HPAC presents engaging and accessible live performances for and by the community, not only within the walls of the building but in small towns and outdoor spaces across the region. Live music, drama and dance, physical theatre, cabaret and circus come alive at HPAC, alongside opportunities for all ages to create, learn and be inspired.

HPAC's newly renovated Handbury Auditorium, the former 1872 Hamilton Town Hall, sits alongside a range of other accessible spaces hosting events of all kinds. Alongside 3 main event spaces the venue has a catering kitchen, welcoming foyer with box office, café/bar and kitchenette as well as a forecourt with street frontage.

For event news, connect with @hamiltonperformingarts on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) and contact the team for information, media opportunities or to discuss partnerships and creative ideas!