



MEDIA RELEASE

113 Brown Street, Hamilton, Victoria 3300
www.hamiltonpac.com.au
(03) 5573 0429 | info@hamiltonpac.com.au

IMMEDIATE RELEASE – FRIDAY 1 MARCH 2024

Award winning children’s show ‘Wilbur the Optical Whale’ is coming to HPAC!

Wilbur The Optical Whale: Saturday 23 March, 11am



The inclusive theatre company is set to delight audiences with a show about celebrating everyone as they are.

Accessible theatre company indelabilityarts is bringing the children’s show “Wilbur the Optical Whale” to Hamilton Performing Arts Centre on Saturday 23 March at 11am. The Brisbane-based company, who employ disabled and neurodivergent artists to create works that celebrate difference, is excited for “Wilbur the Optical Whale” to make its debut at Hamilton Performing Arts Centre. The performance follows its win at the 2022 Matilda Awards for Best Independent Production.

Based on the book by Karen Lee-Roberts, ‘Wilbur the Optical Whale’ tells the story of a glasses-wearing whale named Wilbur who, along with his best friend Cecil the Shark, encourages children to accept everyone just as they are. The story takes place under the sea, where the audience goes on an immersive journey to engage with the environment around them.

Collaborating with Flipside Circus, the show utilises various forms of artistic expression including circus, stunning visuals, vivid music and interactive games to take the audience on a deep-sea sensory dive to meet Wilbur and his cheeky friends.

Described as “the most heartwarming show you’ll see all year” by Kids in Adelaide, the show’s message about friendship and acceptance has resonated with audiences across Australia.

The play has already been heralded for shining the spotlight on inclusion for neurodiverse artists, with Fringeworld Perth saying, “Every kid with a disability will have something to relate to, every kid who knows a kid with a disability in their class, every kid that’s been bullied or is a bully should see it, and every kid who laughs at fart jokes... so, every kid!”.

‘Wilbur the Optical Whale’ is accessible to all audiences, with all performances featuring integrated Auslan. Headphones are also available so audience members can engage on their own terms. The set also includes a quiet space as part of relaxed performance mode for those who require it.

Hamilton Performing Arts Centre are excited to host a children’s show with such a focus on accessibility for all its audience members. HPAC Manager, Amanda Hurley said that it is a show that is ideal for young families.

“We can’t wait to see the unique combination of acrobatics and audience participation come to life at HPAC. With the accessibility considerations, it will be a very memorable show, suitable for all members of the community.” said Ms Hurley.

Indelabilityarts has previously performed ‘Wilbur the Optical Whale’ at Adelaide Fringe in 2020 and 2022, where the company took home the Weekly John Chataway Innovation Award and the 2020 Access Award. They have also performed the show to sold-out audiences at the 2021 Brisbane Festival, Wynnum Fringe 2022, and Fringeworld Perth where they won a Children’s Events Weekly Award.

‘Wilbur the Optical Whale’ is playing at the Hamilton Performing Arts Centre on Saturday 23 March at 11am. Tickets are available through hamiltonpac.com.au.

ADDITIONAL IMAGES

Image credits: Photography: Nick Morrissey 2022



EVENT DETAILS:

Wilbur The Optical Whale

SATURDAY 23 MARCH, 11AM

Hamilton Performing Arts Centre

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

Tickets:

Adult \$25

Concession \$20

12-18 Years \$20

Under 12 Years \$15

Cast

Wilbur: Joel Lago

Cecil: Rebecca Alexander

Big K: Alexandra Ellen

Barra: David Waldie

OG: Michael Labosse

Steve: Kelsey Adams

Pointy Jeff: Davy Sampford

--- ENDS ---



For media enquiries at indelabilityarts call Production Manager Georgina Bullock on 0450 155 600.

HPAC MEDIA CONTACT:

Haavard Christie | Marketing Officer | 0491 926 988 | marketing@hamiltonpac.com.au

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!