

MEDIA RELEASE

THE SAPPHIRES SET TO SPARKLE AT HOTA

HOTA, Home of the Arts welcomes the acclaimed and multiple award-winning musical theatre, *The Sapphires*, to their stage for the very first time on March 15-16.

Written and directed by Tony Briggs, this intimate and heart-warming tale is inspired by the true story of Tony Briggs' mother and affirms life and the realisation of dreams during landmark changes to Aboriginal rights in 1968.

In its first major Australia tour, *The Sapphires* comes to the Home of the Arts to share the incredible journey undertaken by a singing group of four Yorta Yorta women, who sing Motown soul hits against the backdrop of personal change and massive social upheaval.

Headlining the show is Lorinda Merrypor as 'Julie' (*Beautiful: The Carole King Musical*), Mindy Kwanten playing 'Cynthia' (*FAME The Musical & Priscilla Queen of the Desert*), Matilda Brown as 'Kay' (*Stolen & The Cherry Orchard*) and 'Gail' played by Ngaire Pigram (*Cut the Sky & The Sapphires*).

Supporting the production is a talented young ensemble of first nation performers in all the Indigenous Australian roles, as well as a cast of other multicultural performers.

HOTA CEO, Criena Gehrke, said this uplifting production will leave audiences smiling.

"I love the fact that this performance explores complex issues in such an entertaining way.

"It's an incredible story where fact and fiction are intertwined to tell a story full of raw emotion but also joy," she said.

The Sapphires is described as a fun, energetic production that engages the audience through a deep sense of emotion and is headed by a highly credentialed Indigenous Australian directing and design team.

This joyous performance will take to HOTA's stage on Friday 15th March at 7.30pm and Saturday 16th March at 1.30pm.

"A gem of a play. Briggs mixes fact and fiction to lay bare and flesh out his celebratory tale, which though political in patches, is focused on the personal. The Sapphires is heartfelt and joyous. Superb." – Sydney Morning Herald

"The Sapphires is a play about fulfilling dreams and challenging stereotypes. It is a play about hope." – The Herald Sun

Adult: \$48

Pensioner/Senior/Groups (6+): \$42 each

Student/Child (3-15 yrs): \$26

Student Groups (6+): \$21 each

For more information, visit their website: www.hota.com.au/theatre/the-sapphires/

*Images available to download from this [LINK](#).

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FOR ALL MEDIA ENQUIRIES:

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