

HELPMANN AWARDS 2019

Media Release

15 July 2019

MEDIA EMBARGO 9.30pm AEST Monday 15 July 2019

19th Annual Helpmann Awards

Celebrating artistic excellence and distinguished achievement in Australia's live entertainment and performing arts industry

Final 2019 Helpmann Award winners announced!

A complete list of the 43 Award winners plus the 2019 JC Williamson and 2019 Sue Nattrass Award recipients will be available from 9.30pm Monday 15 July.

The **2019 Helpmann Awards Act II** tonight was a star studded **black-tie gala event** hosted by the fabulous dynamic duo of comedian, writer and actor, **Susie Youssef**, and Artistic Director of State Theatre SA, **Mitchell Butel**.

Saluting artistic excellence and achievement on Australian stages over the past year, twenty three (23) prestigious Helpmann Awards were presented in the categories of comedy, cabaret, contemporary music, musicals, opera, classical music, theatre and ballet, dance and physical theatre. These Awards complement the 20 Awards announced last night at the 2019 Helpmann Awards Act I. In addition, the **2019 JC Williamson Award** was presented by **Paul Kelly AO** to the legendary singer-songwriter **Kev Carmody**, for his outstanding contribution to the live performance industry.

This year's special guest presenters included industry luminaries **Greta Bradman**, **Rhonda Burchmore OAM**, **Uncle Jack Charles**, **Joel Creasey**, **Lucy Durack**, **James Egglestone**, **Nancye Hayes AM**, **Stephanie Lake**, **Chong Lim**, **Paul Kelly AO**, **Rachael Maza**, **David McAllister AM**, **Kate Miller-Heidke**, **Jacob Nash**, **Keir Nuttall**, **Beau Dean Riley Smith** and **Vanessa Scammell**.

The Helpmann Awards were established in 2001 by Live Performance Australia (LPA). **Richard Evans**, President of LPA, said "We are proud to present the 19th Annual Helpmann Awards in Melbourne this year for the very first time. The breadth and diversity of Winners, Nominees and performances at tonight's and yesterday's events shines a spotlight on Australia's world-class creative and artistic talent. Congratulations to all 2019 Helpmann Award Nominees and Winners!"



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In a world first, the cast of **HARRY POTTER AND THE CURSED CHILD** performed an exclusive montage at the play's Australian home, Melbourne's Princess Theatre, which was beamed live to the thrilled 2019 Helpmann Awards audience at Arts Centre Melbourne's State Theatre.

As well as the special live cross to Melbourne's Princess Theatre, acclaimed performances at the State Theatre included **Victorian Opera** with their new work *Lorelei*, featuring divas **Ali McGregor**, **Dimitry Shepherd** and **Danielle Calder**; **The Australian Ballet** with an exquisite new piece from *Aurum* by choreographer **Alice Topp**; the breathtaking **Bangarra** dancers **Beau Dean Riley Smith**, **Rikki Mason**, **Tyrel Dulvarie**, **Ryan Pearson**, **Baden Hitchcock** and **Bradley Smith** in an excerpt from the Helpmann Award winning production *Bennelong*; a special tribute to Kev Carmody from electronic soul pop duo *Electric Fields*; musical theatre darling **Silvie Paladino**; and bringing the show home was the sensational **Brent Hill** and the extraordinary kids from the hit musical *School of Rock*. Once again, the Helpmann Awards Orchestra was led by exceptional musical director **Vanessa Scammell**.

The Helpmann Awards Act II was preceded by **the Red Carpet Walk** with its fun and fabulous frocks, hosted by colourful comedienne **Cal Wilson**. The celebrations continued late into the night with the After Party at the Sofitel Melbourne on Collins.

Yesterday, the **2019 Helpmann Awards Act I** saw the gravitas of Australia's most prestigious live theatre and entertainment awards meet the atmosphere of a **sophisticated jazz lounge**, for an up close, upbeat, exclusive **industry-only night** to remember.

Hosted by the legendary performer, writer, artistic director and national treasure, **Robyn Archer AO**, the evening's presenters included industry favourites **Annie Aitken**, **Casey Bennetto**, **Tony Briggs**, **Uncle Jack Charles**, **Ako Kondo**, **Matt Lee**, **Ali McGregor**, **Natalie O'Donnell**, **Gareth Reeves**, **Graeme Russell**, **Claire Spencer**, **Anne Wood** and the legendary punk rock duo from Die Roten Punkte, **Otto and Astrid Rot**.

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For further information and a full list of winners and nominees: www.helpmannawards.com.au

Helpmann Awards Act II Monday 15 July 2019 Arts Centre Melbourne

7.30pm State Theatre, Arts Centre Melbourne

6 -7.15pm Red Carpet

2019 Helpmann Awards will be BROADCAST LIVE on ABC Comedy Channel at 8pm Monday 15 July.

Repeat broadcast on ABC TV on Sunday 21 July at 10pm. Catch up anytime on iView.

The Helpmann Awards are proudly supported by the Victorian Government, via its tourism marketing agency, Visit Victoria.

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