



Media Release

Monday 16 July 2018

[MEDIA EMBARGO 9.45pm AEST Monday 16 July 2018](#)

18th Annual Helpmann Awards

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

Final 2018 Helpmann Award winners announced!

A complete list of 43 Award winners plus the 2017 Centenary Award recipients will be available from 9.45pm on Monday 16 July.

[Click here](#)

The 2018 Helpmann Awards Act II tonight was a star-studded ceremony in front of a full house at the Capitol Theatre Sydney on the set of Priscilla Queen of the Desert the Musical. Hosts for this stellar evening were music writer **Glenn A Baker AM**, acclaimed choreographer **Rafael Bonachela**, celebrated musical theatre star and TV host **David Campbell**, multiple Helpmann Award winning mezzo soprano **Jacqueline Dark**, comedian **Anne Edmonds** and Olivier and Tony Award Nominee **Tony Sheldon**.

The high profile presenters for the evening included singer **Christine Anu**, **The Hon Don Harwin MLC** Minister for the Arts, musical theatre star **Amy Lehpamer**, arts administrator **Michael Lynch CBE AO**, ballet royalty **David McAllister AM** and **Marilyn Rowe CBE AM**, **Graeme Russell** CEO Media Super and actor **Charles Wu**.

Twenty three (23) 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 yesterday at the Helpmann Awards Act I. The Helpmann Awards are the premier celebration of Australia's vibrant live performance industry.

In 2017, to mark Live Performance Australia's (LPA) one hundred years of service to the live performance industry, ten luminaries of Australia's live entertainment and performing arts industry were honoured with the 2017 Centenary Awards. These much loved and revered

industry titans were acknowledged from the stage. The recipients of the 2017 Centenary JC Williamson Award recognising outstanding contribution to the Australian live performance industry were **Robyn Archer AO, Reg Livermore AO, Robyn Nevin AM, Archie Roach AM** and **Jim Sharman**. The recipients of the 2017 Centenary Sue Natrass Award for outstanding service to the live performance industry were **Carrillo Gantner AO, Ian McRae AO, Susan Provan AO, Rhoda Roberts AO** and **Frank Van Straten AM**.

The Helpmann Awards were established in 2001 by Live Performance Australia (LPA). **Andrew Kay AM** President of LPA said “We are proud to present the 18th Annual Helpmann Awards across two nights this year. 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 2018 Helpmann Award Nominees and Winners!”.

The 2018 Helpmann Awards are supported by the New South Wales Government via its tourism and major events agency, Destination NSW.

NSW Minister for the Arts Don Harwin said, “The Helpmann Awards celebrate Australia’s exceptional live performance industry and showcase the remarkable talent across the sector. This year’s winners have made such a positive impact on our artistic and cultural experiences, and I extend my congratulations to all of them for their wonderful contribution to the industry.”

Performances at the Helpmann Awards Act II included a vivacious stampede of sass with the cast of Priscilla Queen of the Desert The Musical, an evocative duet from Sydney Dance Company dancers **Davide Di Giovanni** and **Charmene Yap**, triple ARIA winners **David Bridie, Helen Mountfort** and **Hope Csutoros** from My Friend the Chocolate Cake, the stars of *Muriel’s Wedding the Musical* and the Brisbane born international indie pop sensation **Sheppard**. The commanding **Maggie Dence** delivered a moving poem to colleagues past, preceding the In Memoriam.

The show closed with the biggest line up of Australia’s leading vocalists from the Sydney Symphony Orchestra’s concert production of *Funny Girl*. Divas and funny girls themselves **Trevor Ashley** (*Hairspray*), **Michaela Banas** (*Upper Middle Bogan*), **Natalie Bassingthwaite** (*The X Factor*), **Casey Donovan** (*Australian Idol*), **Virginia Gay** (*First Tuesday Book Club*), **Verity Hunt-Ballard** (*Mary Poppins*) **Dami Im** (*Eurovision*), **Maggie McKenna** (*Muriel’s Wedding*), **Zahra Newman** (*Book of Mormon*) and West end and Broadway star **Caroline O’Connor** had the audience standing in their seats and cheering for more.

The Helpmann Awards Act II was preceded by the Red Carpet Walk with its fun and fabulous frocks, hosted by the darling of Australian musical theatre **Rhonda Burchmore OAM**. The celebrations continued late into the night with the After Party at the Sydney Town Hall.

Yesterday at the Helpmann Awards Act I at Sydney Town Hall, hosts **Rhoda Roberts AO** and **Michael Lynch CBE AO** were joined by special guest presenters actor **Mitchell Butel**, director **Neil Armfield AO**, musical theatre stars **Verity Hunt-Ballard, Matt Lee** and **Sharon**

Millerchip, choreographer **Kelley Abbey**, actor **Peter Carroll**, musical director **Vanessa Scammell** and composer **Max Lambert**. Performances included Monkey Baa Theatre Company, the Sydney Youth Orchestra Quartet, **Georgina Hopson** and dynamic opera duo **Andrew Jones** and **Jenny Liu**.

Both Helpmann Award events were directed by internationally renowned producer, director and choreographer, Olivier Award winner **David Atkins OAM**.

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Helpmann Awards ACT II Monday 16 July

Capitol Theatre 8pm,
Red Carpet 6 – 7.30pm

The Helpmann Awards 2018 Broadcast Details

ABC TV Monday 16 July 9.35pm.

Catch up anytime on ABC iview.

The 2018 Helpmann Awards Act II will be broadcast as live with highlights included from Sunday's 2018 Helpmann Awards Act I.

ENDS

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