



Black Swan State Theatre Company and Company B Belvoir present

## The Sapphires

By Tony Briggs



23 January – 10 February 2010  
Playhouse Theatre

Featuring Aljin Abella, Hollie Andrew, Christine Anu, Jimi Bani, Casey Donovan, Kylie Farmer, Kenneth Ransom and Oliver Wenn

Musicians: Simon Bourke (lead musician), Ben Collins (sax), Daniele de Paolo (drums), Andrew Weir (guitar)

Director	<b>Wesley Enoch</b>
Set Designer	<b>Richard Roberts</b>
Costume Designer	<b>Tim Chappel</b>
Choreography	<b>Tony Bartuccio</b>
Lighting Designer	<b>Trent Suidgeest</b>
Musical Director & Sound Designer	<b>Peter Farnan</b>
Sound System Design	<b>Tom Brickhill</b>
Assistant Director	<b>Kyle Morrison</b>
Assistant Musical Director	<b>Simon Bourke</b>

Meet the McCrae sisters – four gorgeous singers from country New South Wales whose biggest dream is to become as famous as their Motown idols. It is 1969, and their Supremes cover band is performing in St Kilda's Tiki Club when the sisters are spotted by a talent scout. Soon they are dreaming of fame, fortune and glamorous international careers.

Instead, these Koori divas find themselves in the war zone of Vietnam, entertaining the troops. Based on the true story of his mother's and aunts' showbiz careers, Tony Briggs has created a steamy and swinging medley of the highs and lows of family, love, war and the hottest soul music in the jungle of 'Nam!

This new co-production by Black Swan and Company B Belvoir of the hit musical *The Sapphires* will be bigger and better than ever, and features a stellar cast led by **Christine Anu** and **Casey Donovan**. Wesley Enoch directs this feel-good production full of the Motown classics that defined a generation, and our leading ladies are sure to raise the roof of the Playhouse Theatre as they perform such hits as *Stop in the Name of Love*, *Chain of Fools*, *Sex Machine*, *Knock on Wood* and *Respect*.

*"... a gem of a play ... heartfelt and joyous."* The Sydney Morning Herald

Duration: approx. 2 hrs 30 minutes [including one interval]  
 Warning: Contains strong language and smoking suggesting drug use.

## Performance Dates & Times

The Sapphires						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
					23 Jan 2.15pm & 7.30pm	
25 Jan 7.30pm		27 Jan 7.30pm	28 Jan 7.30pm	29 Jan 7.30pm	30 Jan 2.15pm & 7.30pm	31 Jan 5pm
	2 Feb 7.30pm	3 Feb 7.30pm	4 Feb 7.30pm	5 Feb 7.30pm	6 Feb 2.15pm & 7.30pm	7 Feb 5pm
	9 Feb 7.30pm	10 Feb 11am & 7.30pm				

## Ticket Prices

<b>Standard:</b>	\$54.50
<b>Concession</b> (Friends of the Festival, Senior, Pensioner, Unemployed):	\$44.50
Previews:	\$39.50
<b>Family Package</b> (2 adults, 2 children/students)	\$120
<b>Groups 8+</b> (plus 1 free ticket for every 10 purchased):	\$42.50
<b>Students:</b> (Full time students with photo ID):	\$19.95
<b>Student Rush</b> (full time students with valid ID, only available at box office on the night 30 mins before curtain up, subject to availability):	\$14.95

Tickets through BOCS Ticketing, [www.bocsticketing.com.au](http://www.bocsticketing.com.au) or 9484 1133.



A Perth International Arts Festival Event.

## About Tony Briggs

**As an Actor:** **Black Swan:** *Jandamarra, Corrugation Road, Burning Time.* **Other Theatre:** Melbourne Theatre Company: *Twelfth Night.* Melbourne Workers Theatre and Playbox: *Crowfire, Enuff.* Melbourne Workers Theatre: *Who's Afraid of the Working Class, Up the Ladder, Yanagai! Yanagai!* The Dreaming Festival: *A Midsummer Night's Dream.* NYID: *K and Scenes from the Beginning to the End.* **Musical Theatre:** Chamber Made: *Walkabout.* NIDA Company: *Nathaniel Storm.* **TV:** *Stingers, Wicked Science, Blue Heelers, Ocean Girl, The Man From Snowy River, Ratbag Hero, Gargantua, Eugenie Sandler PI, The Genie from Down Under, Pacific Drive, Comedy Company* and *Neighbours.* **Film:** *Australian Rules, On the Nose, Joey, The Life of Harry Dare, The Order* and *Djarns Djarns.* **As a Playwright:** *The*

*Sapphires*. **Awards:** 2005 Helpmann Awards for Best New Australian Work and Best Play for *The Sapphires*.

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## About Christine Anu



Christine is arguably Australia's most successful Indigenous performer and popular recording artist. Trained in dance at the National Aboriginal Islander Skills Development Association (NAISDA) her career spans two decades including music, theatre, dance, film, television and children's entertainment. She has appeared on screen in Baz Luhrmann's *Moulin Rouge*, *The Matrix Reloaded* and *Dating The Enemy*; on television in *Wildside*, *The Alice*, *East West 101*, *Playschool* and was a judge in Channel 7's *Popstars*. Following a period of time at Bangarra Dance Theatre, Christine had success in musical theatre including *Bad Boy Johnny* and *the Prophets of Doom*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Kissing Frogs* and *Rent* for which she received a Green Room Award for Best Actress in a Musical. She is a multi-award winner and nominee with two platinum solo albums including ARIA Song of the Year for *My Island Home*, ARIA Best Female Artist for *Stylin' Up* 1996 and ARIA Best Video for Bazmark's *Now Until the Break of Day* with David Hobson. In 2009, Christine made her play debut in Riverside Theatre's production of *Rainbow End*. This is her first production for Company B and Black Swan State Theatre Company.

## About Casey Donovan



Casey Donovan studied music at the *Australian Institute of Music* before becoming the youngest winner of *Australian Idol*, winning the second season at the age of 16. Casey is a multi-award winner and nominee, including an ARIA No #1 Award for *Listen With Your Heart* and Deadly Awards for *Best Album*, *Best Single* and *Most Promising New Talent*. After the hype of *Australia Idol* died down, Casey spent time re-evaluating her career, re-establishing herself as a solo independent artist, with the release an independent EP *Eye 2 Eye*. Now as a 21 year old, Casey has re-emerged as one of Australia's most promising Indigenous entertainers, with regular appearances on *Vibe Alive Tours* and a segment on *Deadly Sounds* (which is syndicated across ABC Radio). Casey made her theatrical debut in 2009 in the *Rhoda Roberts* production of *Miracle In Brisbane* for the *Brisbane Festival*. This is her first production for *Company B* and *Black Swan State Theatre Company*.

## About Wesley Enoch



Wesley Enoch hails from Stradbroke Island in Queensland. He is Nuccual Nuugi.

He has written and directed extensively for the stage. He is noted for his focus on Indigenous issues, a strong commitment to new work and new writing, strong community storytelling, his ability to communicate with an audience and his excellence in executing his craft.

In 2007, Wesley's *The Story of the Miracles at Cookie's Table*, was directed by Marion Potts for the Griffin Theatre Company. Wesley was the winner of the 2005 Patrick White Playwright's Award for this play. Earlier that same year, he directed Howard Brenton's *Paul* and Alana Valentine's *Parramatta Girls*. *Parramatta Girls* earned Wesley a 2007 Helpmann award nomination for Best Direction and Best Production.

Wesley's directing credits include *Eora Crossing* (2003), a spectacular outdoor event for Legs on the Wall, Museum of Sydney and the Sydney Festival, *Riverland* (2004) for Windmill Performing Arts and the Adelaide, Perth and Brisbane International Festivals, and *The Sapphires* (2004) for Melbourne Theatre Company which was remounted for the 2005 Sydney Festival. These works were all nominated for

Helpmann Awards with *Riverland* winning Best Children's Work, and Best Production and Best New Australian work for *The Sapphires*. Wesley was also nominated as Best Director for *Riverland*.

Wesley has been artistic director of Kooemba Jdarra Indigenous Performing Arts and Ilbijerri Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Theatre, an associate artist with the Queensland Theatre Company, resident director at the Sydney Theatre Company, director of the Indigenous section of the opening Ceremony of the 2006 Commonwealth, a member of the Hothouse Artistic Directorate, associate artistic director at Company B Belvoir, a trustee of the Sydney Opera House, a member of the NSW Government Arts Advisory Council and numerous other committees.

Principal Partner

**RioTinto**

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