WHITEHORSE<sup>T</sup>
CENTRE



## A TOUCH OF GRACE

SEASON 2019



HOW WOULD IT SOUND IF WE ONLY SPOKE WITH GRACE?
HOW WOULD IT FEEL TO ALWAYS MOVE WITH GRACE?
HOW WOULD IT BE TO LIVE IN A WORLD FULL OF GRACE?
GLOBALLY WE ARE STRUGGLING WITH GRACE.
LOCALLY WE CAN CHOOSE GRACE.

IT'S TIME FOR GRACE...



## ABBA-SOLUTELY FABULOUS

#### Friday 22 February 8pm Saturday 23 February 8pm

2 hrs (including interval)

Australia's most loved dancing queen Rhonda Burchmore has teamed up with the exceptionally talented Lara Mulcahy to bring their hilarious live concert ABBA-solutely Fabulous to the Whitehorse Centre.

The original dynamos from the worldwide sensation Mamma Mia! will delight with their irresistible humour and spectacular singing. Dressed in lycra jumpsuits with Rhonda in crystal-studded stiletto boots and Lara in chunky platforms, the banter flows freely as they tell stories about growing up being huge ABBA fans. Accompanied by a four piece band, the duo will sing their way through ABBA's greatest hits, including Dancing Queen, Waterloo, Mamma Mia, Take a Chance, Ring Ring, Fernando and many more.

Unlike any ABBA show you will ever see, ABBA-solutely Fabulous is the ultimate party night to open the 2019 Season!



## JAZZ AND THE SILVER SCREEN

#### Friday 15 March 8pm

1 hr 50 mins (including interval)

This intimate evening showcases jazz classics and selections from celebrated film scores that started life on the silver screen. The stunning vocals of awardwinning musical theatre star Alinta Chidzey are accompanied by an ensemble of Melbourne's most accomplished jazz musicians and members of Melbourne Symphony Orchestra & Orchestra Victoria.

In Jazz and the Silver Screen, Hook Turn Orchestra melds the worlds of jazz and the classical concert hall, whilst reinventing much-loved classics and under-appreciated film score masterpieces. The show features toe-tapping tunes from Puttin' on the Ritz, to Somewhere Over the Rainbow and all the way to Joni Mitchell's masterpiece, Both Sides Now.

Experience iconic songs that will fill you with nostalgia, in what promises to be a magical evening in the theatre.



## **CIRCA'S PEEPSHOW**

## CREATED BY YARON LIFSCHITZ WITH LIBBY MCDONNELL AND THE CIRCA ENSEMBLE

#### Wednesday 27 March 8pm

1 hr 40 mins (including interval) Patron advice: suitable for 12+ years

#### Director Yaron Lifschitz

Technical Director & Co-Lighting Designer **Jason Organ** Co-Lighting Designer **Richard Clarke**Associate Director & Costume Design **Libby McDonnell**Original Music by **Ori Lichtik** 

Circa's Peepshow turns cabaret on its head, literally. Join Circa as they embark on a seductive dance through the hall of mirrors that is your imagination. Circa's Peepshow lurches from the thrillingly acrobatic to the comically playful. Expect teetering towers of balanced bodies, extreme bending and devilishly precarious aerials.

Circa's Peepshow combines some of the finest acrobatic talent on the planet under the direction of circus visionary Yaron Lifschitz to create a playfully exhilarating ride into the beautifully bizarre recesses of your mind.

Come to Circa's Peepshow and see the world from the other side of the mirror.



"...an exciting fusion of circus and cabaret ...Peepshow makes the seemingly impossible, possible." — Theatre Weekly, UK



"...one of the most entertaining, unbelievable things you will ever see."

- The Reviews Hub, UK







Circa acknowledges the assistance of the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body and the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland. Circa respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the lands, waters and seas on which we work and live paying respects to Elders, past, present and future.





#### Friday 12 April 8pm (post-show Q & A) Saturday 13 April 2pm & 8pm

1 hr 30 mins (no interval)

Patron advice: contains references to domestic violence, suitable for 15+ years

#### With Brian Meegan, Kate Raison

Director Mark Kilmurry
Set and Costume Designer Alicia Clements
Lighting Designer Matthew Marshall
Sound Designer Neil McLean

Jim Cartwright's timeless comedy Two introduces fourteen colourful characters, all skillfully played by Brian Meegan and Kate Raison.

Set in the local pub, you'll meet all the regulars — a misfit crowd of eccentric and hilarious individuals. They all have their own story to tell. There's Moth, who loves Maud (and every other woman); Mrs Iger, with her passion for quiet, strong men; possessive Roy, jealous of anybody who looks at Lesley; there's Alice and Fred and their Elvis obsession; and the publicans themselves — a married couple with an unspoken secret...how will their story end?

Two is a universal piece capturing the essence of what it is like to live in a community. These characters are recognisable, truthful and very real. We'll see life's challenges; we will feel their frustration, boredom, love, longing and even death. Yet instead of a grim play we get a celebration in comedy of what it is to be human. By turns funny, heart-warming and poignant, don't miss this smash hit theatre experience.

"Meegan is comedy gold...strong stuff beautifully performed... two exceptional actors...very fine and dazzlingly versatile."

Stage Noise













## **HEART & MUSIC**

#### Friday 26 April 8pm Saturday 27 April 8pm

1 hr 50 mins (including interval)

#### With Simon Gleeson, Natalie O'Donnell

International musical theatre stars Simon Gleeson and Natalie O'Donnell share not just the stage...but also a life and two children.

Helpmann Award winner Simon Gleeson, best known for his acclaimed portrayal of Jean Valjean in Les Misérables, is a leading man with credits that span the main stages of Australia and London's West End.

Natalie O'Donnell most recently delighted audiences as Donna in Mamma Mia! for which she received a Helpmann Award nomination. Natalie has carved out a celebrated career in London and Australia on stage and screen.

Join them as they come together for an evening of classic songs ranging from Rodgers and Hammerstein through to The Greatest Showman, and even some Billy Joel. Heart & Music offers an intimate evening of song and storytelling, which celebrates the music that has shaped both their careers and lives together.

"He showed not only a great power and command of the stage, but an exceptional tenderness." — Aussie Theatre

"Most memorably, O'Donnell's poignant, nuanced performance is inspiring." — The Guardian



## THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO PAUL

#### WRITTEN AND PERFORMED BY JONATHAN BIGGINS

Friday 24 May 8pm (post-show Q & A) Saturday 25 May 2pm & 8pm

1 hr 15 mins (no interval)

Patron advice: 15+ years, coarse language

Director **Aarne Neeme**Designer **Mark Thompson**Lighting Designer **Verity Hampson**Sound/AV Designer **David Bergman** 

One of Australia's favourite performers, Jonathan Biggins, is Paul Keating — visionary, reformer and rabble-rouser — in this highly anticipated new comedy. Full of intelligence and wit, this show is a funny, insightful and occasionally poignant portrait of Paul Keating; the man that — as he tells it — single-handedly shaped contemporary Australia.

Jonathan Biggins' performance as Keating is well known from the long-running Sydney Theatre Company success story, The Wharf Revue. Beyond the canny impersonation, Jonathan, like so many Australians, has long been fascinated by Keating and what Keating means to Australia. Showcasing his eviscerating wit, rich rhetoric and ego the size of Everest, The Gospel According to Paul distils Keating's essence, focusing on key biographical milestones, landmark political achievements and personal obsessions. It shows the man who grew up in the tribe of the Labor Party and gained an education at the knee of Jack Lang, who treated economics as an artform, and demanded we confront the wrongs of our colonial past.

Biggins asks the question — what can we learn today from this singular politician and the momentous time in our country's history that he dominated?









## QUIET, PLEASE! THERE ARE LADIES ON STAGE!

Friday 21 June 8pm Saturday 22 June 2pm & 8pm

1 hr 40 mins (including interval)

Bernadette Robinson returns from her solo season at the Ambassadors Theatre on London's West End with a sparkling concoction of musical delights, accompanied by brilliant musicians Mark Jones and Paul Noonan in a concert of leading ladies. Best known for her remarkable ability to evoke the voices of famous singers, what sets Bernadette apart is her extraordinary ability to also capture the vulnerability, power and resilience of each of the singers she portrays.

Bernadette pays homage to some of the greatest female singers of the 20th century, including Billie Holiday, Edith Piaf, Eartha Kitt and Patsy Cline, enthralling audiences around Australia and abroad. In 2018 London critics and audiences raved about her performances in the one-woman musical play Songs For Nobodies, which had previously captivated Melbourne audiences.

Quiet, Please! There are Ladies on Stage! will also feature Bernadette's interpretations of songs from some of her favourite contemporary songwriters. There will be surprise guests (think Shirley Bassey and Julie Andrews) and much more. This will be a concert not to be missed.



### THE SAPPHIRES

#### WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY TONY BRIGGS

Friday 12 July 8pm (post-show Q & A) Saturday 13 July 2pm & 8pm

2 hrs 20 mins (including interval)

Patron advice: suitable for 7+ years, some adult themes, simulated warfare and a small amount of coarse language.

Producer Christine Harris & HIT Productions Playwright and Director Tony Briggs Associate Director Kylie Bracknell (Kaarljiba Kaardyn)

Musical Director Nathaniel Andrew Set and Lighting Designer Mark Howett

Choreographer Leonard Mickelo Cast includes Matilda Brown, Mindy Kwanten,

Lorinda Merrypor, Ngaire Pigram, Mike Smith

The Sapphires is one of Australia's best-loved stories. This multiple award winning musical play is coming to the Whitehorse Centre for the first time.

Four young Aboriginal women from regional Australia, who like singing country music, suddenly get the chance to change their tune and their lives. Wearing sequins and armed only with microphones they find themselves trying to spread joy in the hell that is the Vietnam War.

The Sapphires is a funny, heart-warming tale inspired by the true story of Tony Briggs' mother – the incredible journey of four Yorta Yorta Women, who sing classic soul hits against the backdrop of personal change and massive social upheaval. It is an energetic, fun and engaging play that affirms life and the realisation of dreams.

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

"Sheer enjoyment. The Sapphires is a fun show with loads of appeal." — The Age









### L'AMANTE ANGLAISE

#### BY MARGUERITE DURAS

Friday 19 July 8pm (post-show Q & A) Saturday 20 July 8pm

1 hr 45 mins (no interval)

Patron advice: 15+ years, spoken in English

With **Rob Meldrum, Jillian Murray**Director **Laurence Strangio** 

A classic psychological thriller from one of France's most renowned authors. The novella L'amante Anglaise is based upon a true event; it is a poignant and emotionally powerful portrait of lost passion and an extraordinary inner life.

A brutal murder is committed in a small town in France. The dismembered corpse is dropped from a railway viaduct onto passing trains below...all except the head. This modern classic psychological thriller from celebrated French author Marguerite Duras, takes you right inside the heart and mind of the perpetrator and is a fascinating and compelling true crime story.

Over the course of the drama, Pierre and Claire Lannes effortlessly reveal the beauty and brutality of their inner selves and create a painstaking portrait of lost passion. Performed and directed exquisitely, L'amante Anglaise is a rare and unmissable work of theatre, pure and simple. After four sold out Melbourne seasons this is an edge of your seat drama.



"an engrossing theatrical experience with assured acting and direction.

Duras should be delighted." — Herald Sun



"Both actors are utterly assured in this absorbing, perversely humorous, and impressively still production." — Australian Book Review













## SUNDAY IN THE PARK WITH GEORGE

MUSIC AND LYRICS BY STEPHEN SONDHEIM BOOK BY JAMES LAPINE

Friday 9 August 7.30pm (post-show Q & A)
Saturday 10 August 1.30pm & 7.30pm
2 hrs 30 mins (including interval)

With Nick Simpson-Deeks, Vidya Makan, Jackie Rees Directors Dean Drieberg & Sonya Suares Musical Director Dominic Woodhead Choreographer Rhys Velasquez

In Paris, 1884, George Seurat strives to transform the way we see. While he sketches in a park, preoccupied with composition, balance, light and harmony, his subjects are busy wrestling with life in a changing world - in particular, his muse and mistress, Dot, who feels both alive and invisible within his gaze. A century on, another visual artist - also named George - faces a similar dilemma as he attempts to forge a new direction amidst the pressure of high-end commissions and the merciless glare of New York critics.

Inspired by Seurat's Impressionist painting, A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte, Sunday in the Park with George is a masterpiece in its own right. Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine bring the past into the present tense, with poignant and painful truths about life, love, the creation of art and the struggle to be seen. One of the most acclaimed musicals of our time, this moving study won a Pulitzer Prize and was nominated for an astounding ten Tony Awards, including Best Musical.

Following a sell-out season of A Little Night Music in 2018, acclaimed Sondheim repertory company, Watch This, is thrilled to return to the Whitehorse Centre with Sunday in the Park with George.

"The gift of this production is its quiet insistence that looking is the art by which people shape their lives." — New York Times





### FLUTE & HARP

#### **Tuesday 3 September 8pm**

2 hrs (including interval)

Melbourne Chamber Orchestra
Flute Prudence Davis Harp Alice Giles
Director William Hennessy

Two exquisite instruments and uplifting classical spirit in abundance. One of Mozart's most loved works, the concerto for flute, harp & orchestra is pure elegance and magic. Don't miss this reunion of legendary Australian musicians Alice Giles and Prudence Davis, who have performed this work together over decades.

To complement, Haydn's lyrical and intimate Mercury symphony, the sparkling brio of Tchaikovsky — and a new composition by MCO audience favourite Nicholas Buc, commissioned by residents of Yackandandah where the orchestra tours annually.

MCO's unique, approachable style is enjoyable for both newcomers and experienced concert-goers; this will be an evening of inspiring and beautiful music making.









### LADY BEATLE

#### Friday 20 September 8pm Saturday 21 September 8pm

1 hr 15 mins (no interval) Patron advice: 15+ years

Created by Adam Brunes & Naomi Price Starring Naomi Price with Mik Easterman, Andrew Johnson, Michael Manikus, Jason McGregor Lighting Design Jason Glenwright Sound Design Jamie Taylor Costume Design Leigh Buchanan

From the creators of Rumour Has It comes the must-see live music event of the year.

Starring Naomi Price and inspired by true accounts, Lady Beatle is a rollicking magical mystery tour soundtracked by The Beatles' biggest chart toppers, including Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds, Eleanor Rigby, Yellow Submarine and Penny Lane.

Rediscover The Beatles' immortal catalogue reimagined and reinterpreted through sparkling original arrangements. Flanked by a live band, Price transports audiences to 1960s Liverpool, taking them along for the ride as she riffs off the cuff, invites them to join in the big numbers, and ultimately has them on their feet for the show's epic mega-mix finale dance party.

Lady Beatle epitomises The Little Red Company's unmistakable brand of cabaret: tremendous heart and charm, world-class musicianship, seamless audience interaction, striking design and a triumphant central performance from Naomi Price

"Utterly brilliant...I found the show so powerfully sentimental that I was misty-eyed for much of it and was so thankful to hear the soundtrack of my life played with such verve and love." — The Courier-Mail

















## THE SONGS OF EVA CASSIDY

#### Wednesday 13 November 8pm Thursday 14 November 8pm

1 hr 40 mins (including interval)

#### With Silvie Paladino

Accompaniment David Cameron

The Songs of Eva Cassidy is a celebration of one of the great voices of the 20th Century and who better to pay tribute to this genius, than Australia's own Silvie Paladino.

When Eva Cassidy died at the tender age of 33, she was unknown outside of Washington USA, but within two years of her death, her albums topped the charts in the UK, Europe, Australia and the rest of the world.

Silvie is one of Australia's most versatile and talented entertainers. She is a popular concert performer and recording artist, and has starred in musicals such as Mamma Mia!, Cats and Les Misérables in Australia and on London's West End. She is also well known to Australian audiences as a regular on Carols by Candlelight.

This show features Silvie's inspired re-imaginings of such classic tunes as Over the Rainbow, Fields of Gold, Autumn Leaves, Time After Time, Ain't No Sunshine, Bridge Over Troubled Water, What a Wonderful World and, of course, Songbird.





## THE WHARF REVUE 2019

#### WRITTEN AND CREATED BY JONATHAN BIGGINS. DREW FORSYTHE AND PHILLIP SCOTT

Thursday 5 December 8pm Friday 6 December 8pm (post-show Q & A) Saturday 7 December 2pm & 8pm 1 hr 30 mins (no interval)

#### With Simon Burke, Drew Forsythe

Back with a bang.

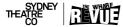
The all-singing, all-dancing, side-splittingly funny solution to all the world's problems returns for another year of satirical genius.

The West is crumbling, democracy is besieged and the world is run by morons with funny hair. You have to laugh. And that's exactly what The Wharf Revue delivers. The indefatigable team is back once more to dig through the year's political dirt and unearth comedy gold. From the movers to the shakers, from the winners to the losers, the stage will be filled with uncanny impressions of the year's most memorable characters and the moments they'd prefer to forget.

Stalwart performer Drew Forsythe returns with special triple-threat guests including the hilarious Simon Burke. The choreography is tight, the wigs are loose, the punchlines are loaded. Everything is ready for a big night of laughter and mayhem.



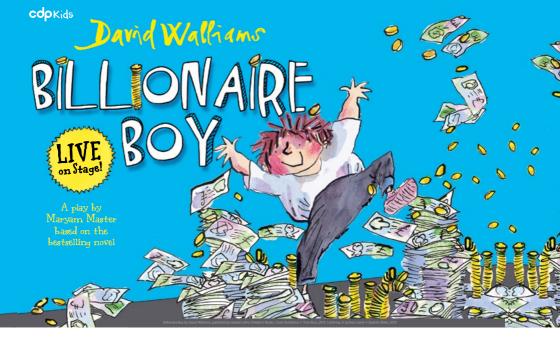
"The Wharf Revue offers a welcome dose of political satire and budgie-smuggling hilarity." — Limelight











Whitehorse Centre presents a CDP Kids production

### **BILLIONAIRE BOY**

A PLAY BY MARYAM MASTER BASED ON THE BOOK BY DAVID WALLIAMS

#### Wednesday 17 April 10am & 12pm

1 hr (no interval) Suitable for children 6 - 12 years

Twelve year old Joe has everything a boy could ever want, from a golden underwater Ferrari to his very own cinema. Joe and his Dad have more money than you could imagine, but what Joe really needs is a friend. When Joe arrives at his new school, life really gets tough. Facing the school bully, his Dad's new girlfriend and the world's worst school canteen, Joe is about to learn that money might buy you a lot in Raj's shop, but it can't buy you everything.

Don't miss this original Australian adaptation as the team behind Mr Stink return with songs, laughs and yes, that cat sick and sweet potato mash from the canteen...





Whitehorse Centre presents a Circus Trick Tease production

## CHILDREN ARE STINKY

#### Tuesday 9 July 11am

45 mins (no interval)
Suitable for children 3 - 10 years

#### With April Dawson, Kyle Raftery

Children are Stinky is an exciting award-winning children's comedy by Circus Trick Tease.

Set in the 90s (with all our favourite tracks) this extremely talented duo will astound with their incredible circus skills and laughing till your sides hurt. The show challenges children to step on stage and prove themselves worthy, smart, co-ordinated and imaginative against these ridiculous circus performers resulting in wonderful interaction and an audience of proud kids and parents.

"This show has it all" — The List









Whitehorse Centre presents a Monkey Baa Theatre Company production

## **POSSUM MAGIC**

#### BASED ON THE BOOK BY MEM FOX AND JULIE VIVAS

#### Tuesday 24 September 10am & 12pm

50 mins (no interval) Suitable for children 3 - 8 years

## Adapted for the stage by **Eva Di Cesare and Sandra Eldridge** Director **Sandra Eldridge**

For more than 30 years, Mem Fox's Possum Magic has captivated and enchanted young people all over Australia.

Grandma Poss loves making magic. She makes wombats blue and kookaburras pink. She makes dingoes smile and emus shrink. But one day, when danger arrives in the form of a snake, Grandma uses her most magical spell to make Hush invisible. Hush has many wonderful adventures. But being invisible isn't all it's cracked up to be, and Hush longs to see herself again. One problem. Grandma Poss can't find the spell to make Hush visible again. And then she remembers...this particular magic requires something more, something special, and something to do with food...people food.















## BE A **GRACEFUL** SUBSCRIBER

**5 REASONS TO SUBSCRIBE** 

#### It's Great Value

Become a subscriber and save. The more shows you see in the season the more money you save.

#### **Choice of Seats**

Lots of our shows sell out. By subscribing you have the best available seats to all of the hottest shows in town. Jump the queue with a priority booking period until 6 January.

#### Pay in Instalments

A delayed debit program means you only pay when you see the show. That's right, no up-front payment. We also understand that your plans can change and if you need to swap performances it's at no cost to you.

#### **A Good Night Out**

Plan a regular date with friends, grab a drink at our bar and make a night of it. Happy times are to be shared!

#### And a Little Bit More...

As a Gold Subscriber you receive a special treat — a complimentary drink or ice cream at each theatre and variety program performance. You also receive an additional discount off ticket prices to our Variety Program.

## **PLAN YOUR VISIT**



The Whitehorse Centre is located behind the Whitehorse Civic Centre and Library at 397 Whitehorse Road Nunawading.

#### P PARKING

There is free parking within the Council precinct and adjacent to the centre at Walker Park. There is additional free parking behind the Civic Centre after 6pm weekdays and on weekends.

#### PUBLIC TRANSPORT

The 901 Smart Bus stops in front of the Civic Centre and the Nunawading train station is a comfortable 10 minute walk.

#### CYCLING

There are bike bays available in front of the Centre and near the Library.



whitehorsecentre.com.au

## **BOOKING INFORMATION**

Box Office: Monday - Friday 10am - 4:30pm

Telephone: 9262 6555 whitehorsecentre.com.au

SUBSCRIPTION PACKAGES Choose a minimum of just four theatre shows to create a package and enjoy the benefits of priority booking until 6 January 2019. Take advantage of the delayed debit payment plan, reduced prices on the variety program and free ticket exchange. Choose six theatre shows to create a gold package and receive a complimentary drink or ice cream at each performance.

DELAYED DEBIT PAYMENT Choose any package and have the option to pay in instalments each time you see a performance. Please note the following terms and conditions:

- · You must be a current subscriber.
- You are committed to paying the full amount of your package and at no time can your package be cancelled.
- If your credit card (MasterCard or Visa) expires during the year please contact us with your new expiry date.
- Delayed debit payments will appear on your credit card statement as 'City of Whitehorse'.

ADDITIONAL TICKETS FOR SUBSCRIBERS Package buyers have the option to purchase additional tickets to all shows for friends and family. Even if they are not subscribers, you can add their tickets to your booking form and all be seated together. (Non-subscribers using separate booking forms will have their booking processed when individual tickets go on sale on 7 January 2019).

INDIVIDUAL TICKETS Individual tickets to all shows go on sale 7 January 2019 and can be purchased online, in person, by phone or by mail using the booking form in this brochure. Please note: phone bookings incur a \$4.00 handling fee and internet bookings incur a \$3.00 handling fee.

\$25 YOUTH TICKETS (U25) If you are under the age of 25 then take advantage of this great offer of \$25 tickets as part of the Professional Season. Proof of age may be required.

TICKET EXCHANGES You may exchange your ticket to a show for another performance of the same show (where available), provided the ticket is received by the box office prior to the first performance of that show. This service is free for subscribers. Sorry, refunds are not available at any time.

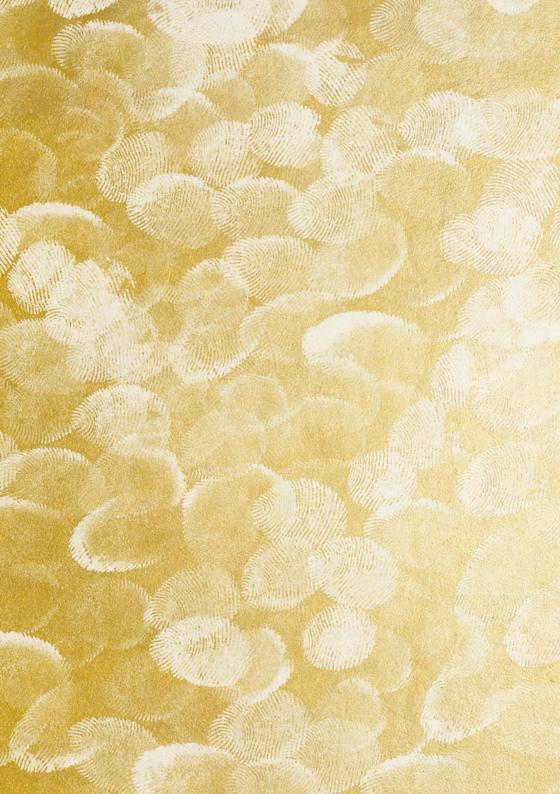
#### ACCESS AND ACCESSIBILITY

- · Melway map 48 G9.
- The Whitehorse Centre is accessible for patrons in wheelchairs or with limited mobility. If you require a wheelchair space in the theatre, please request this when booking tickets.
- Free and accessible parking is available at the Whitehorse Centre.
- A wireless lightwave system using headphones or a neck loop is available and can be requested when booking tickets. An audio loop for patrons wearing a hearing aid with a T switch is also available in selected seats.
- Patrons with a hearing or speech impairment can call us via the National Relay Service on 133 677 then quote 9262 6333.





# DON'T GO ANYWHERE... ALL PERFORMANCES ARE AT THE WHITEHORSE CENTRE IN 2019



# NNECTED BY A\_\_\_\_\_TOUCH OF GRACE



The Whitehorse Centre is owned and operated by Whitehorse City Council who proudly presents the 2019 Professional Season, one of the major features of its arts program.



f whitehorsecentre.com.au