

QUEENSLAND THEATRE

Australia as you've never heard it before. Queensland Theatre presents Robyn Archer: An Australian Songbook

Queensland Theatre will embark on a road trip through the melodic history of Australia when it opens the world premiere of *Robyn Archer: An Australian Songbook*, from Saturday, June 25 – 9 July. Singer, writer, stage director, artistic director, and public advocate of the arts, in Australia and internationally, Robyn Archer is an Australian icon. Her professional singing career began at the age of 12, and since then her voice has taken her around the world, delighting audiences from West End stages to French salons.

Robyn Archer: An Australian Songbook, is a fearless, political and personal celebration of the way song has shaped the Australian identity.

“When people think of Australian songs, they tend to go towards Great Southern Land or Land Down Under, but my role is to present an alternate view of Australian music history. I want to present this incredibly rich palate of songs, which will really surprise you and deliver this alternative view of the musical history of our country,” Archer said.

“This is not a ‘best of’, it’s the voice of our country.”

Archer’s take on the soundscape of Australian music history may be alternative but it is also deeply familiar. Audiences will enjoy looking deep within to remember and love the many songs of our national voice.

“There are hundreds of thousands of Australian songs. This songbook will certainly be unexpected. I don’t expect any one person in the audience to know many of these songs. The list we’re starting rehearsal with was arrived at quite instinctively. Some of the songs I wrote, some I knew, and then I sought some that might reflect certain periods of the 200 years the list covers. I started to let it take shape organically, making sure there’s a great spread of genres - we have my originals, some singer-songwriter, folk, satire, political, musical theatre, art song, country, (almost) rock - and a *lot* of laughs,” Archer said.

Robyn Archer set the world on fire with her original one woman show *A Star is Torn* in 1979. Playing for over a year on the West End, it established Archer as one of our most successful Australian performers, and her voice as one of our greatest exports as she sang her way through the standards of the French and German singing traditions. Her interpretations of Weill, Eisler and Paul Dessau are world famous,

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she has collected ARIAs and Helpmanns, and she was inducted into the South Australia Music Hall of Fame in 2016.

She has used her voice as an artist not only to entertain but to lead, evolving into an Artistic Director of the Adelaide Festival, the Melbourne International Arts Festival and many other arts festivals globally. A Patron and Board Member of many arts organisations in Australia she has been a significant investor in and mentor of generations of Australian artists.

The opportunity for one of our great arts leaders to return to her making practice and create a new work in this time is significant. This work is the culmination of her lifetime of experience as an Australian artist born with a great talent and a drive to use her voice to change the world.

Performing alongside Archer on her melodic road trip are her long-time band members, George Butrumulis (*Zydeco Jump*), Cameron Goodall (*The Audreys*) and Ennio Pozzebon (*Keating: The Musical*), the four artists sharing over a decade's worth of music together.

"I've been performing with these incredible artists for well over a decade now and I've known them for even longer. We've formed this special bond that we share through our songbook. Across the show, we explore such a versatile range from rock and folk, musical theatre, and country, and more, it's an experience that is so unique to the four of us and we can't wait to share it with audiences."

Explore the unique and uncompromising voice of Australian music in *Robyn Archer: An Australian Songbook*. This new work is a gift to the nation from one of our greatest talents.

Tickets are available now for performances from June 25 – July 9:

<https://queenslandtheatre.com.au/plays/australian-songbook>

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Full Creatives and Cast for *Robyn Archer: An Australian Songbook*

Cast

Devisor/Performer Robyn Archer

Accordion/Vocals George Butrumlis

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Guitars/Vocals Cameron Goodall

Keyboards/Vocals Enio Pozzebon



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Queensland Theatre acknowledges the Jagera and Turrbal people who are the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we work, and their unique relationship with the lands, seas and waterways. We pay our respects to their Elders both past and present, and to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.