
Media Release

JOSEPH THE MUSICAL RETURNS TO SYDNEY IN SUPPORT OF QLD FLOOD VICTIMS

Starring Gary Pinto, Jason Stevens & Joanna Cole

Andrew Lloyd Webber & Tim Rice's classic musical **JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOUR DREAMCOAT** will return to the **Seymour Centre**, Sydney this October in a special new Australian production being staged in support of the QLD Flood victims.

This new production sees "**JOSEPH**" return to the Seymour's York Theatre, the same stage where the original 1975 **JOSEPH** played in its first Australian season. The new 2011 revival stars former CDB lead singer **Gary Pinto** in the title role alongside renowned footballer and TV personality **Jason Stevens** (Pharaoh) and Australian opera soprano **Joanna Cole** as Mrs Potiphar.

Originally written by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice in 1968, **JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOUR DREAMCOAT** tells the Biblical story of Jacob and his twelve sons as told in the Book of Genesis. After being sold into slavery by his brothers, Joseph battles persecution, false accusations and ultimately imprisonment. But Joseph and his brothers are destined to meet again - and not in Canaan but in Joseph's adopted homeland where Joseph has now been appointed as Governor of all Egypt.

"Joseph is one of the world's all time favourite musicals," said Kieran Walton, the Producer of the 2011 production. "Gary Pinto is an absolutely outstanding performer and will be a fantastic Joseph. Supported by the incredible operatic voice of Joanna Cole, the comic entertainment of Jason Stevens and a cast & orchestra of over 100 people, this is going to be a really fun show."

GARY PINTO is no stranger to the stage. From 1991-99 Pinto sang with the Melbourne based band CDB. He had top 20 Australian Hits including "Hook Me Up" and "Hey Girl" as well as "Let's Groove" which reached #2 on the Australian Singles Chart. "It is a genuine honour to be able to play the role of Joseph - one of the strongest and yet most forgiving figures in the Old Testament," said Gary Pinto. "This is an enduring story and its themes of, betrayal, rejection and reconciliation are all common human emotions that everyone can relate to."

In contrast to Pinto's vast musical background, the former rugby league international and now successful TV personality **JASON STEVENS** will play the role of Pharaoh. Stevens played 231 first grade games for Cronulla and St George as well as representing

NSW and Australia in 26 fixtures. Following his retirement from rugby league in 2005, Stevens is now a much sought after author, speaker, television presenter, actor and now singer. "Andrew Lloyd Webber originally wrote the role of Pharaoh in the style of Elvis and this seems quite appropriate for me in particular because my mum was born in Egypt and Elvis and I share the same birthday - January 8. So I suppose you could say I was born for the role," joked Stevens.

Likewise **JOANNA COLE** is looking forward to the change from her usually more serious operatic roles. "JOSEPH is a really colourful and family friendly musical and I'm really looking forward to the distinctly Australian flavor of this production." said Cole who's Opera Australia roles have included Violetta in Verdi's *La Traviata*, the title role in *Lucia Di Lammermoor*, Micaela in *Carmen* and Lindy in the 2002 World Premiere of Moya Henderson's *Lindy* at the Sydney Opera House. Cole also played Mary MacKillop in the 2010 musical *MacKillop* which was staged by Artes Christi as part of the Canonisation celebrations for Australia's first saint.

Producers of *JOSEPH*, **Artes Christi** are a Sydney based production company that strive to produce and promote creative work which is authentic, transcendent and inspiring for people of every age. Previous productions have included *A Man For All Seasons* (2011) and *MacKillop* (2010).

JOSEPH will open at the Seymour Centre on October 28th with the season running for two weeks till 5th November. Every ticket sold for the production will help support the Vinnies QLD Flood Appeal. Adult \$40, Concession \$35, Group Tickets from \$30. Ph. Seymour Centre 9351 7940 or www.theword.org.au/joseph

JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOUR DREAMCOAT

Booking Information

SYDNEY (Seymour Centre) Cnr City Rd & Cleveland Sts, Chippendale

Friday 28th October (8pm) OPENING NIGHT, Saturday 29th October (3pm), Saturday 29th October (8pm), Thursday 3rd November (8pm), Friday 4th November (8pm), Saturday 5th November (1pm), Saturday 5th November (4pm)

Adults \$40, Conc. \$35, Groups \$30 Ph. 9351 7940 / www.theword.org.au/joseph

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