

Thursday 12 March 2015

HELPMANN AWARDS SECURED FOR SYDNEY

Destination NSW has secured the nation's pinnacle event for the live entertainment and performance industry, the Helpmann Awards, for a further two years, Destination NSW Chief Executive Officer Sandra Chipchase announced today.

The Awards, produced by Live Performance Australia, recognise distinguished achievement and excellence in Australia's live performance sectors, including musical theatre, contemporary music, comedy, opera, classical music, theatre, dance and physical theatre, children's presentations, regional touring and cabaret.

"Sydney is the creative and cultural capital of Australia, and the natural home of events like the Helpmann Awards, so we are delighted that NSW will host the Awards again in 2015 and 2016," Ms Chipchase said.

"NSW is the home to major awards ceremonies in the film, television and music industries. These include the AACTAs, the ARIAs and the ASTRAs. This announcement continues Destination NSW's commitment to the creative arts industry.

"Since its inception in 2001 the Helpmann Awards have grown significantly, and now receive major recognition both nationally and internationally. I look forward to seeing them develop even further in Sydney over the next two years," she said.

Ms Chipchase said that the Helpmann Awards were part of a packed calendar of cultural events for Sydney in 2015.

"In 2015 Destination NSW will again deliver a wonderful line-up of artistic and cultural events, such as Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour, Vivid Sydney, the Australian premiere of Tim Minchin's *Matilda: The Musical*, and with many more to come," Ms Chipchase said.

The Awards will be held on 27 July at the Capitol Theatre in 2015. Tickets will go on sale later in the year.

Media Contact: Hugh Cavill 0467 728 181