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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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Tuesday 25 September, 2012

### **NSW GOVERNMENT CONGRATULATES 12<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL HELPMANN AWARD WINNERS**

NSW Minister for Tourism, Major Events and the Arts, George Souris, has congratulated the winners of the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Helpmann Awards, the pinnacle event for Australia's live performance industry held last night at the Sydney Opera House.

Mr Souris, who presented Paul Capsis, Julian Meyrick and Hilary Bell from the Griffin Theatre Company for Angela's Kitchen with the award for Best New Australian Work,

Mr Souris said it had been a tremendous year for live entertainment in Australia, particularly NSW and Sydney, with a dream run of major musical productions including, *Annie*, *Mary Poppins* and *An Officer and a Gentleman*, and the blockbuster Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour production of *La Traviata* which won four major Helpmann Awards.

"The Helpmanns are the premier awards event for the live performance industry, highlighting the significant contribution the sector makes to our State and country, engaging and entertaining the community through the arts.

"Like most Australians, I am a real fan of our live performance culture and greatly admire the artistic brilliance and creativity celebrated through the Helpmann Awards held Sydney, the live performance capital of Australia.

"The extraordinary talent of our vibrant live performance industry continues to shine both on stage and behind the scenes.

"Sydney is now Australia's number one city for first run musicals and there is no doubt our global city is also home to the country's foremost performing arts companies.

"Destination NSW estimates that live stage productions can generate \$20 million over a six month run in direct economic impact for NSW.

"With 37 per cent of Australia's creative industry located in NSW, supporting creative industries is a large part of the NSW Government's strategy to rebuild the NSW economy.

"This Government, through Destination NSW, has been investing in the Helpmanns since 2009 and last year we re-affirmed our commitment to the arts by announcing a three-year investment in the Awards until 2014."

A list of winners is attached.



## 2012 Winners

### Best Male Actor in a Supporting Role in a Musical

**Bert LaBonte**

An Officer and a Gentleman  
Sharleen Cooper Cohen, John Frost

### Best Female Actor in a Supporting Role in a Musical

**Nancye Hayes**

Grey Gardens  
The Production Company

### Best Male Actor in a Supporting Role in a Play

**Bob Hornery**

The Importance of Being Earnest  
Melbourne Theatre Company

### Best Female Actor in a Supporting Role in a Play

**Robyn Nevin**

Summer of the Seventeenth Doll  
Belvoir

### Best Costume Design

**Toni Maticevski and Richard Nylon**

Aviary: A Suite for the Bird  
Phillip Adams BalletLab in Melbourne Festival 2011

### Best Scenic Design

**Brian Thomson**

La Traviata  
Opera Australia - Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour

### Best Lighting Design

**Paul Jackson**

Little Match Girl  
Malthouse Theatre in association with Meow Meow Revolution

**Best Sound Design**

**Tony David Cray**

La Traviata

Opera Australia - Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour

**Best International Contemporary Concert**

Prince Welcome 2 Australia

**Prince, presented by Van Egmond Group and Chugg Entertainment**

**Best Contemporary Music Festival**

MONA FOMA

**Museum of Old and New Art**

**Best Australian Contemporary Concert**

Kylie Aphrodite Les Folies Tour 2011

**Kylie Minogue and The Frontier Touring Company**

**Best Choreography in a Dance or Physical Theatre Production**

**Stephen Page**

ID from Belong

Bangarra Dance Theatre

**Best Choreography in a Musical**

**Kelly Devine**

Rock of Ages

Rodney Rigby and the Rock of Ages Australia Management LLC

**Best Direction of a Musical**

**Roger Hodgman**

Grey Gardens

The Production Company

**Best Direction of an Opera**

**Leonard Foglia**

Moby Dick

State Opera of South Australia

**Best Direction of a Play**

**Benedict Andrews**

Gross und Klein (Big and Small)

Sydney Theatre Company

**Best Special Event**

**La Traviata**

Opera Australia – Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour

**Lotterywest Festival Celebration: Place Des Anges by Les Studios De Cirque**

2012 Perth International Arts Festival

**Best Original Score**

**David Page and Steve Francis**

Belong

Bangarra Dance Theatre

**Best Individual Classical Music Performance**

**Evgeny Kissin**

Evgeny Kissin

Presented by Sydney Symphony and Brisbane Festival

**Best Chamber &/or Instrumental Ensemble Concert**

Tafelmusik 'The Galileo Project: Music of the Spheres'

**Musica Viva Australia**

**Best Symphony Orchestra Concert**

Evgeny Kissin Plays Chopin

**Sydney Symphony**

**Best Music Direction**

**Iain Grandage**

Little Match Girl

Malthouse Theatre in association with Meow Meow Revolution

**Best Male Performer in a Supporting Role in an Opera**

**Grant Doyle**

Moby Dick

State Opera of South Australia

**Best Female Performer in a Supporting Role in an Opera**

**Orla Boylan**

Elektra

A Co-Production of West Australian Opera, ThInIce, Perth International Arts Festival and Opera Australia

**Best New Australian Work**

**Paul Capsis, Julian Meyrick and Hilary Bell**

Angela's Kitchen

Griffin Theatre Company

**Best Comedy Performer**

**Tim Minchin**

Tim Minchin vs The Orchestras Round II  
Fox in the Snow

**Best Cabaret Performer**

**Meow Meow**

Little Match Girl  
Malthouse Theatre in association with Meow Meow Revolution

**Best Regional Touring Production**

Namatjira  
**Big hART, created with the Namatjira family**

**Best Presentation for Children**

Boats  
**Terrapin Puppet Theatre**

**Best Visual or Physical Theatre Production**

CIRCA  
**Circa**

**Best Male Dancer in a Dance or Physical Theatre Production**

**Paul White**

Anatomy of an Afternoon  
Martin del Amo, Performing Lines and Sydney Festival

**Best Female Dancer in a Dance or Physical Theatre Production**

**Charmene Yap**

2 One Another  
Sydney Dance Company

**Best Male Performer in an Opera**

**Anthony Dean Griffey**

Of Mice & Men  
Opera Australia

**Best Female Performer in an Opera**

**Emma Matthews**

La Traviata

Opera Australia - Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour

**Best Male Actor in a Musical**

**Mitchell Butel**

The Mikado

Opera Australia

**Best Female Actor in a Musical**

**Pamela Rabe**

Grey Gardens

The Production Company

**Best Male Actor in a Play**

**Paul Capsis**

Angela's Kitchen

Griffin Theatre Company

**Best Female Actor in a Play**

**Cate Blanchett**

Gross und Klein (Big and Small)

Sydney Theatre Company

**Best Ballet or Dance Work**

Can We Talk About This?

**Presented by DV8 Physical Theatre and Sydney Opera House. Co-produced with Théâtre de la Ville and Festival d'Automne, Paris, National Theatre of Great Britain and Dansens Hus Stockholm.**

**Best Opera**

Moby Dick

**State Opera of South Australia**

**Best Play**

Ganesh Versus the Third Reich

**Presented by Back to Back Theatre, Malthouse Theatre and Melbourne Festival**

**Best Musical**

A Chorus Line

**Tim Lawson in association with the Adelaide Festival Centre**