



Spring Newsletter 2011

Victorian Opera to play world's favourite arias at gala encore

OPERA in the Otways fans have been promised stratospheric arias and uplifting overtures performed by big baritone Roger Lemke, Columbian tenor Carlos Barcenas, rich mezzo soprano Dimity Shepherd and expressive soprano Emily Burke when Victorian Opera plays at Cape Otway Lightstation.

The state opera company's musical director Richard Gill has handpicked works from seven exhilarating and timeless operas to be performed by a 12-piece orchestra with a backdrop of the Southern Ocean and the 1848 lighthouse on Saturday, November 26.

The programme will feature more than 20 works from operas including Rossini's Barber of Seville, Mozart's The Magic Flute, The Marriage of Figaro and Cosi fan tutte, Bizet's Carmen and Verdi's Rigoletto.

"For the Otways we have chosen a gala concert of well-known operatic arias and ensembles from seven popular operas. Tunes galore with more and more," said Richard Gill, a regular on TV's Spicks and Specks.

MC for the soiree, from 2pm-6pm, will be broadcaster and comedian Damian Callinan.

Melbourne's Stiletto Sisters, who play a vibrant blend of Hungarian gypsy, tango and love songs from around the globe, will also perform on the main stage.

The trio are Hungarian-trained violinist Hope Csutoros from My Friend the Chocolate Cake, piano accordion player Judy Gunson, of Cosmo Cosmolino, and Jo To on double bass.

The Stiletto Sisters, perform three-part harmonies in Latin, Yiddish and Hungarian love songs and are regulars at the Famous



Richard Gill

Spiegel tent. They recently returned from a successful European tour.

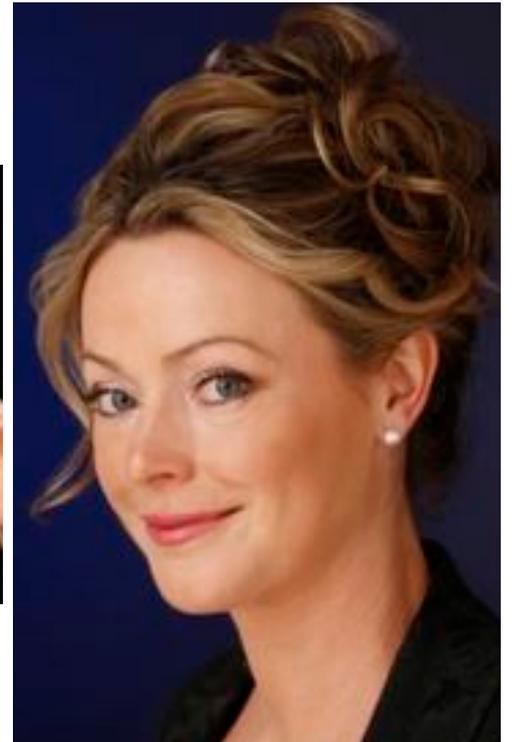
Cape Otway Lightstation manager Paul Thompson said the fourth Opera in the Otways would promote the region's best handmade gourmet delicacies, wines and beers.

"Opera in the Otways is synonymous with good food and wine, great entertainment and a celebration of classics - classic music and classic operas in a classic setting," Mr Thompson said.

"Last year 94 per cent of people surveyed said they would return to Opera in the Otways and recommend it to friends."

High school students from across the region, who will undertake a masterclass with Richard Gill, will also perform as part of the Opera in the Otways programme.

Earlybird tickets are available until October 16 online at www.otwaysopera.com.au or by calling the Lightstation on 5237 9240.



Dimity Shepherd, top, Roger Lemke, below, Stiletto Sisters bottom right and MC Damian Callinan, left.



Opera in the Otways

Saturday, November 26, 2011

www.otwaysopera.com.au

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Ships that shaped Australia

Maritime Museum of Victoria chairman Dr Henry Hudson with a picture of the famous Loch Ard, at the launch of the Ships That Shaped Australia exhibition at Cape Otway Lightstation.

THE Ships That Shaped Australia, an exhibition of 27 paintings of vessels that sailed into our history books has been launched at Cape Otway Lightstation by Maritime Museum of Victoria Chairman Dr Henry Hudson.

Each of the large scale works were painted in the Seventies and Eighties by the late Jack L Koskie, for his book the Ships That Shaped Australia.

Koskie's works capture the high drama of early shipping in Australia including American whale boats, HMS Lady Nelson - the first ship to traverse Bass Strait from West to East in 1801, and the Loch Ard, wrecked in 1878 trying to sight the Cape Otway light.

Included in the collection of acrylic on board works is HMS Investigator which surveyed Australian waters under the command of Matthew Flinders, SS Casino which was wrecked at Apollo Bay in 1932, and HMAS Sydney, famous for her stoush with the German vessel Emden in 1914.

There's also a rare survivor the colonial ketch May Queen, a trading vessel built in 1867, which can still be seen moored at Constitution Dock in Hobart.

Dr Hudson said the collection gifted to the Maritime Museum by the

Koskie family represented the artist's lifelong fixation with all things maritime and his meticulous dedication to research and detail.

The paintings, which can be seen in the Lightkeeper's Café until February were a significant contribution to highlighting and preserving the maritime history and heritage of Australia, he added.

Lightstation manager Paul Thompson said Cape Otway had real links with some of the vessels portrayed in the exhibition such as the SS Casino, a steamship which traded between Melbourne and Port Fairy, and the Marco Polo, captained by the infamous James 'Bully' Forbes who passed Cape Otway on numerous occasions carrying up to 700 passengers in a race against time during the Gold Rush.

"We're thrilled to have the exhibition, which has only been exhibited twice before, at the Lightstation," Mr Thompson said.

"It gives locals and tourists further insight into our amazing maritime history, which the Lightstation is very keen to promote and preserve," Mr Thompson said.

"We're an island nation surrounded by sea, many of our forebears arrived by ship and for at least the first 150 years of European settlement ships were our lifeline to the rest of the world - our maritime heritage is a huge part of our history," Mr Thompson said.



Young detectives get on board

YOUNG sleuths can join the Ship Detective Game at Cape Otway Lightstation during the school holidays in connection with The Ships that Shaped Australia exhibition.

Lightstation manager Paul Thompson said the activity sheet for children, which included a maze and the chance to colour-in a clipper ship, was free for children visiting the heritage precinct.

"Kids are welcome to pick up a copy of the activity sheet and our KIDZONE @ The Cape activity booklet when they visit the Lightstation. Children can also paint an abalone shell when they call into our Aboriginal Heritage Trail," Mr Thompson said.

The exhibition was ideal for children and helped them gain an understanding of Australia's important maritime heritage.

Pictured left are young detectives Angel Thompson, Tom Gilbert & Brook Thompson