



Sydney Opera House presents

**MARY
COUSTAS**

This



Is



Personal

25 – 29 MAY

PLAYHOUSE



A NOTE FROM MARY COUSTAS

Performing *This is Personal*, my most intimate show, at the Sydney Opera House is a dream come true for me. It's exciting and scary. Good scary. But you don't grow unless you stretch. I'm hoping that by the end of this season we'll all go home, myself and the audience, with happy stretch marks.

For the last 30 plus years so much of my work has been around race and belonging, no matter where you're from or who you are. Effie became my public comedic human shield to address and ricochet the racism that I experienced as a child. And for that I am eternally grateful.

Comedy has allowed me to address the issues that are hard, that so many of us face. Putting laughter around the pain is a small and healthy way to distance ourselves momentarily from the tough stuff.

Years ago, after my own personal heart-breaking odyssey to become a mother became public, I realised people were invested in Mary, they wanted to hear more of her. So I want to dig deeper. To finally go commando without Effie. And to give my audience me. This is that show.

We all deserve to feel that we belong in any room regardless of race, gender, class or sexual inclination. And what greater room is there than the one in the most Iconic House—the Sydney Opera House?

I'm beyond thrilled that my diverse and awesome audience will get a chance to come to this breathtaking venue to experience a show that will reveal so much about what's shaped me.

The funny, the sad and often the mad. I want the audience to experience the characters that I discovered, created and eventually, the precious one I gave birth to.



A NOTE FROM EBONY BOTT

Head of Contemporary Performance
Sydney Opera House

As one of our national treasures, many Australians identify with Mary, having grown up with the characters she brought to stage and screen. The breadth of her experience and the diversity of her audiences means this new work is a fitting addition to the Contemporary Performance program as we shine a light on the voices and stories that shape our cultural landscape. We hope you enjoy the world premiere of *This Is Personal* and perhaps you may find resonance in your own life within the rich tapestry of Mary's own experiences.



CREATIVE CREDITS

Mary Coustas
Actor & Writer

Chris Anastassiades
Script Editor & Additional Writing

Nanette Fox
Creative Producer

Blazey Best
Director

Verity Hampson
Lighting Designer

Sara Holt
Stage Manager

George Betsis
Script Consultant

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Sydney Opera House Presents

Fiona Winning
Director, Programming

Ebony Bott
Head, Contemporary Performance

Rachel John
Senior Producer, Contemporary Performance

Jamie Winbank
Associate Producer, Contemporary Performance

Mimi Nightingale
Marketing Manager

Esther Crowley
Marketing Associate

Emily Edgar
Marketing Coordinator

Shelley Watters
Senior Communications Manager

Georgia O'Connor
Communications Manager

Gevin In
Communications Coordinator

Aubs L. Tredget
Production Manager

Tracy Askew
Account Manager

Athena Vlotis
Programming Coordinator

Dan Ingham
Creative Director

Rohan Cain
Senior Creative, Creative Studio

Kate Di Mattina
Head of Operations & Business Management

Alethea Giles
Legal Counsel

SPECIAL THANKS

Jamie Betsis
Tess Fox
Craig Illot

Janelle Koenig
Bruna Papandrea & Steve Hutensky

And all the fantastic peeps at the Sydney Opera House—you know who you are, Ebony, Jamie and the list goes on....thank you!

Thank you to the NSW Government and our family of Corporate Partners & Donors for their support.

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