

22 June 2010

Flamenco Fire's *Al-Andaluz*



Evocative...Sensual...Timeless...

Flamenco Fire will premier its spectacular new production – ***Al-Andaluz*** – with four performances at the Queensland Performing Arts Centre's (QPAC) **Playhouse** from 29th to 31st July 2010.

Drawing from the rich influences of over five centuries of music, dance and culture, ***Al-Andaluz*** is many stories told together, always glancing backwards in time, with a gentle sense of movement through the centuries.

Tracing the evolution of flamenco from the last Moorish King (1492) to its 'golden age' in Seville (19th century), ***Al-Andaluz*** celebrates the evocative mix of the sacred and secular music and culture of the Moors (the generic name given to the people of Islamic North Africa), the Sephardic Jews, the Gypsies and the Northern Europeans.

Alongside a stellar collection of Australia's finest flamenco artists including dancer **Simone Pope** and guitarist **Andrew Veivers**, the QPAC season will feature special guests **Fernando Mira** (Dance), **Doolan Bastista** (Vocals) and **Yuval Ashkar** (Oud).

The creative vision of Sunshine Coast based Director and renowned Flamenco guitarist - Andrew Veivers - ***Al-Andaluz*** captures the exotic clash of cultures that, over the centuries, provided the foundation of the great art of flamenco.

"I have taken three cultural elements that find strong expression within the flamenco story – Architecture, Storytelling and Dress – using these as the inspiration to develop new music and choreography, as well as the rearrangement and re-orchestration of traditional melodies and songs. The resulting narrative is driven by the representation,

through music, song, and movement, of important transitional points throughout the 400 year evolution of flamenco,” says *Andrew*.

From humble beginnings in Brisbane in 1999, Flamenco Fire has grown into one of **Queensland’s most successful arts exports** and **Australia’s only national flamenco company**. Flamenco Fire is a true collaboration of the talents of Australian flamenco artists. Using predominantly original content, it not only showcases the dance form but also the music and songs of contemporary and traditional flamenco.

“A long way from the tourist bars of Madrid, flamenco is fast becoming a truly international art form, and like its stable mate ballet, flamenco regularly graces the major concert halls and theatres around the world. This border leaping, class defying art form not only represents the universality of musical communication, it embraces both insider and newcomer alike and gives a voice to all and sundry to cry aloud a passionate OLÉ,” says Veivers

Flamenco Fire **Al-Andaluz** is presented by Queensland event's company Red Chair in association with Queensland Performing Arts Centre.

QPAC and RED CHAIR Present

Flamenco Fire Al-Andaluz

Dates: Thursday 29th to Saturday 31st July 2010
Times: 7.30pm (+ 1.30pm Matinee on Saturday)
Where: Playhouse Theatre, QPAC
Tickets: \$49.50- \$39.50 (inc. fees)
Bookings: 136 246 or www.qpac.com.au

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