

Louise returns with cabaret classics

SARAH McNEILL

Louise Anton was playing a Burt Bacharach song on piano in the cocktail lounge of the Shangri-La hotel in Sydney when Burt wandered up and stood next to the piano.

“I heard you playing my song,” the American singer/songwriter drawled in what sounded like a line from a movie. “I loved it.”

Perth-born singer and pianist Louise had a residency at the hotel where Burt and his band were staying.

They struck up a friendship and before he left Australia, he arranged for Louise to open for his friend Dionne Warwick at the Sydney Opera House.

Sitting in the middle of the stage playing her own songs on a Steinway concert grand piano remains one of Louise’s most enduring memories and just one of the many stories in her long career she’ll share in her new cabaret show, *One Woman, One Piano, One Voice*.

Her first regular solo gig was at age 16 playing the piano in Lady Ponsonby’s restaurant in Perth.

At 18, she hosted Channel 9 TV’s Perth’s Young Entertainers and became everyone’s sweetheart.

She moved to Sydney and was a regular face on television variety

shows and on stage, supporting the likes of Tom Jones, Sting, Powderfinger, Jet, Neil Finn, Kate Ceberano, John Farnham, and Guy Sebastian.

Now Louise is back in Perth and, like a lot of people after a year of lost gigs, is ready to reinvent herself and return to her solo shows.

As part of the inaugural Perth International Cabaret Festival, Louise celebrates 40 years of musical entertainment with a personal musical journey, playing some of her favourite classics from Burt Bacharach, Nina Simone, Joni Mitchell, Carole King, Leonard Cohen and Billy Joel along with her original compositions.

“I want to celebrate the songwriters and divas who have inspired me and tell a few stories along the way,” she said.

Louise Anton performs *One Woman, One Piano, One Voice* on Saturday June 26 at 6pm, Downstairs at The Maj. Book through www.ptt.wa.gov.au.

■ The Perth International Cabaret Festival runs from June 19 to 27, featuring other cabaret stars including Lior, Meow Meow, Michael Griffiths, John O’Hara and Carlotta.

Check out program details on perthcabaret.com.au.



■ Louise Anton returns to her solo cabaret style.

Performers celebrate achievements

It was a night of awards, accolades and farewells.

This week, WA’s professional performing arts sector celebrated the outstanding achievements of actors, directors, producers and theatre and dance creators at the annual Performing Arts WA Awards.

Artist Relief Fund WA bestowed more than 34 awards across theatre, dance, opera and musical theatre, and two Lifetime Achievement awards to director Andrew Ross, founder of Black Swan Theatre Company and director, actor and indigenous mentor, Lynette Narkle.

Andrew Ross accepted the award, saying that a director’s role meant taking credit for everyone else’s talent.



■ Yirra Yaakin’s Noongar production Hecate took out eight awards.

In a moving tribute of Vales, 11 people across the arts sectors who have died over the past year were honoured, including dancer Lucette Aldous and actors Holly Jones and Faith Clayton.

Duncan Ord made a farewell speech after stepping down from his role as director general of Sports and Culture Industries last month.

Now an adviser to the Minister for Culture and Arts, David Templeman,

Duncan joked that the minister was always endlessly enthusiastic about arts projects presented to him but hadn’t figured out a way to pay for them.

Hecate from Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company (in association with Bell Shakespeare and Perth Festival) led the charge in awards, winning eight including Best Mainstage Production and Best New Work for Australia’s first Shakespeare production to be performed entirely in

Noongar.

Hecate adapter/director Kylie Bracknell [Kaarljilba Kaardn] won best director, actors Della Rae Morrison, Cezera Critti-Schnaars and Kyle J Morrison won the top acting trophies, Clint Bracknell picked up best composition and Mark Howett won best lighting design.

STRUT Dance’s Hofesh in the Yard for Perth Festival won best dance production and best dancer (Male) for Mitch Harvey and WA Ballet dancer Candice Adea won best performer (Female) for *The Nutcracker*.

Propel Youth Arts won a special award for Outstanding Digital Engagement During COVID-19 for its KickstART Virtual – a week-long online youth arts festival.

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