



**Sunday Age**  
**Sunday 2/12/2012**

Page: 44  
Section: Supplements  
Region: Melbourne, AU  
Circulation: 194040  
Type: Capital City Daily  
Size: 701.10 sq.cms.



**slice**  
CUT STRAIGHT TO YOUR NEWS

press clip

# That's entertainment

**War Horse heads a line up of top summer shows.**

**S**ummer has arrived, and with it a hot line up of musical performances, live theatre, tours, exhibitions and family entertainment.

Arts Centre Melbourne's program opens in January with the production of **War Horse**. The highly acclaimed show has won five Tony Awards, several popular choice and critics' awards, and has been described as "the theatre event of the decade".

For sheer ingenuity, the production is hard to beat. There are breathing, galloping, charging horses on the stage – their 'flanks', 'hides' and 'sinews' made from steel, leather and aircraft cables. They are life-size puppets strong enough for men to ride. And that's just one element of this theatrical showpiece.

*War Horse* tells of a boy's love for his horse that has been sold and shipped to the fighting fields of France at the outbreak of World War I. Caught in enemy fire, the horse ... well, that would be starting to spoil the story. Suffice to say that the boy, by now a young man, embarks on a dangerous

mission to try to find his horse. *War Horse* will play at the State Theatre from January 2 until February 10.

January also sees the start of some of Australia's biggest dance parties. **BLAZE The Show** is on at Hamer Hall from January 23 to 27. Directed and choreographed by Anthony van Laast (*Mamma Mia*, *Sister Act*), the show features 12 of the best streetdancers and breakers in the world and stunning set designs by Es Devlin, set designer for Kanye West, Mika, *Take That*, *Pet Shop Boys* and the Lady Gaga Monster Ball tour.

One of the biggest dance parties is **Summadayze**. The 14 hours of frenetic music and dancing – to the likes of Timmy Trumpet, *Aeroplane*, Kimbra and Jesse Rose – happen at Sidney Myer Music Bowl on New Year's Day. It starts at 9am and goes until 11pm.

Following the release of their new collaborative album *Love this Giant*, the New York-based duo **David Byrne & St. Vincent** will perform songs from the album, sometimes trading verses and sometimes



press clip

singing in unison. David Byrne (ex-*Talking Heads*) and St. Vincent (aka Annie Clark) will be backed by a brass band in lieu of a traditional rock line-up. They will perform at Hamer Hall on January 15 and 24.

And for fine family fare, the circus-style show **Oh Suivant!** is a winner for kids of all ages. European performers D'Irque and Frien present street and circus entertainment in a kids and family show jam-packed with juggling and acrobatics. It takes place at Fairfax Studio Arts Centre Melbourne from January 15 to 27.

Arts Centre Melbourne also hosts a variety of tours and markets throughout the summer season, including the Sunday market. From 10am until 4pm every Sunday, local artists and producers fill Arts Centre Melbourne's lawn to showcase a variety of handmade goods, ranging from arts and crafts to freshly made delicacies. Also on Sundays, entertaining guides will take you on a backstage tour of the three theatres.

And there's their **Aperitivo Tour**, a 45-minute, behind-the-scenes tour during which guides regale with tales of the stars and secrets of the Concert Hall. It finishes with a special 'signature series' box of canapés and a glass of bubbly. It takes place at 5.30pm on Tuesday and Thursday and at 11am on Friday.

Making a return to Princess Theatre from January 10 is the hit musical **The Jersey Boys**. A night of hit songs (*Sherry*,

*Can't Take My Eyes Off You* and many, many more) from Franki Valli and *The Four Seasons*, this is the story of a group from the wrong side of the tracks that invented their own sounds and sold 175 million records worldwide.

#### **So Frenchy So**

**Chic** is coming to

Werribee Park. It's all about the music, the food, the wine and the fun of a day in the French countryside ... without leaving Melbourne. It's the perfect garden party with a soundtrack to match.

Bring a picnic rug, pick up a gourmet hamper, stretch out under the shade of the trees and enjoy a glass of something sparkling. It's happening on January 20 at Werribee Park; \$77 per person, free for under 12s.

#### De Bortoli is hosting the **Yarra Valley Wine**

**Adventure** from its Yarra Glen winery base at \$140

per person. The day starts in the cellar door trophy room with an introduction to the various wine styles produced at the winery. Then



*War Horse*, above, and Elvis Costello, right.



press clip

tour the vineyards and follow the grape trail from vine to bottle, and try maturing wines directly from the barrel. The adventure includes a three-course lunch and a gourmet cheese platter, matched to De Bortoli's flagship dessert wine, Noble One, and other fortified wines.

Rock on at Mt Eliza's Morning Star Estate with Jimmy Barnes and other Australian rockers on their **Red Hot Summer Tour**. Also on the bill are *Chocolate Starfish, Dragon*, Ian Moss and *Baby Animals*. It's happening come rain, hail or shine on January 20. Gates open at 1pm; tickets \$79.90 per person.

The Goulburn River Valley region has a range of events through January – the Alexandra bush race, wild bush brumby races, live music, face painting and other activities. For adults there will be a TAB van present and bookies taking bets on local, metro and interstate races. And there'll be music by the *Alexandra Brass Band*. It's the **True Blue Family Fun Day** at the picnic races on January 5.

And check out the grand old dame, **Luna Park**. Celebrating 100 years of operation, it retains a scream-worthy collection of fun rides, attractions and activities, from the carousel and Ferris wheel to the ghoulish ghost train and what's claimed to be the oldest, continually operating, wooden roller coaster in the

world. It's open daily throughout January.

For a night to remember take in the Shakespearean comedy **Twelfth Night** at Cloudehill Gardens, on January 5 and 6, at 6.30pm. Cloudehill's gardens complement the stately pastoral setting of the play.

Did you know that Victoria has 69 country racetracks? Over summer, the odds-on favourite day at the track is **Racing At The Rock** on New Year's Day. Located within the natural amphitheatre of Hanging Rock, this event presents an ideal way to recharge your batteries with friends and family after a big new year's eve.

All you need is a deck chair and a picnic rug to see Elvis Costello strut his stuff at Rochford Winery's **Day On The Green** concert on Australia Day, backed by the trusty *Imposters* band. Also on the bill are *Jo Jo Zep* and the *Falcons*, Tex Perkins and the *Dark Horses*, and Stephen Cummings. Food and fine wines are available. Take some bug repellent, too. Entry is \$99 per person.

Nothing there to suit your fancy? Other options, especially if you like watching sport, include tennis at the **Kooyong Classic** (January 9 to 12), the **Australian Open** tennis at Melbourne Park (from January 14 to 27) and the **Boxing Day Test** against Sri Lanka (January 26 to 30).

**ANTHONY HEALEY**

**CONTACT DETAILS, PAGE 62**

