

100 St Kilda Road  
Melbourne 3004  
Australia  
PO Box 7585  
St Kilda Road Vic 8004

T + 61 3 9281 8000  
F + 61 3 9281 8282  
info@theartscentre.com.au  
theartscentre.com.au

the Arts Centre  
ABN 83 295 983 059



media release

30 September 2011

## MUSIC, THEATRE AND DANCE UNITE IN A GREEK STORY FROM THE HEART

*"This play deserves a large audience. It's about as original as they come"*  
Australian Stage

***Café Rebetika!*, an epic theatre production which tells of a dramatic love story set in the slums of 1930s urban Greece amongst the rise of *rebetika*, the "Greek blues", is returning to the Arts Centre from 3 to 13 November 2011.**

*Café Rebetika!* celebrates the exotic, passionate music of Greek rebetika, 'the Greek Blues', and is a musical form and defiant philosophy that arose from the struggles of displaced and outcast people in the 1920s and 1930s. The rebetika songs, some darkly beautiful, others full of dance rhythms, express their deep feelings of despair, love, sensuality and elemental joy.

Set in a 1930's hashden in the slums of Piraeus, the port city of Athens, the performance features cabaret, music, theatre and dance all uniting in a celebration of life and the exotic and gutsy sub-culture of rebetika and captures the characters at the heart of the Greek blues - drug addicts, prostitutes, anarchists, refugees, prisoners, Communists and drifters.

This new-form, original performance hybrid is at the forefront of contemporary Australian theatre and is certain to strike a chord with its deeply moving depiction of the underbelly of Greek urban-folk culture and the birth of an enduringly popular musical form.

Conceived and directed by Stephen Helper, who has numerous Australian and Broadway credits (*Fiddler on the Roof*, *Smokey Joe's Café*), the design team for *Café Rebetika!* is led by Tony Award winning lighting designer Nigel Levings.

*Café Rebetika!* features a stellar cast of seven, including Harry Pavlidis, Sophia Katos and Alex Bias, plus the internationally acclaimed band *Rebetiki* led by musical director Achilles Yiangoulli.

The acclaimed band, Rebetiki, have also written original songs for *Café Rebetika!*, which feature instruments including the bouzouki, the baglama (miniature bouzouki) and guitars.

*"Helper has achieved something in Café Rebetika! that will move you in a profound manner"*  
NeosKosmos

con't

theArts Centre in association with The Follies Company presents  
Café Rebetika  
Directed by Stephen Helper

3 – 13 November 2011  
the Arts Centre, Playhouse  
Tickets \$31 - \$72  
Phone 1300 182 183 or visit [www.theartscentre.com.au](http://www.theartscentre.com.au)

**CAST**

ALEX BLIAS - YIORGOS, MICHALIS  
SOPHIA KATOS - FOFO  
LUCY NAJM - KATERINA  
MICHAEL KOTSOHILIS - GRIGORIS, NIKOS  
HARRY PAVLIDIS - STAVRAKAS  
JENNIFER VULETIC - ARETI  
STEPHEN LOPEZ - PETRAKIS

REBETIKI - ARGYRIS ARGYROPOULOS, ACHILLES YIANGOULLI, TAKIS DIMITRU, TONY ILIOU

STEPHEN LLOYD HELPER - DIRECTOR, CONCEIVER, WRITER, CO-PRODUCER  
THOMAS PAPATHANASSIOU - CO-WRITER, CHOREOGRAPHER  
NIGEL LEVINGS - LIGHTING DESIGNER  
ADRIENNE CHISHOLM - COSTUME DESIGNER  
BILL BUCKLEY - SET DESIGNER  
DAVID FRANZKE - SOUND DESIGN  
RICHARD VABRE - LIGHTING ASSOCIATE

**TICKETS ON SALE NOW**

The Arts Centre is the flagship of the performing arts in Victoria, and the focal point of Melbourne's cultural precinct. To find out about what's on offer visit [www.theartscentre.com.au](http://www.theartscentre.com.au) or become a fan of the Arts Centre on facebook.

**-ENDS-**

**For further media information, interviews or images please contact:**

Jessica Bendell, Senior Publicist on 03 9281 8442 / 0427 040 086 or [jessica.bendell@theartscentre.com.au](mailto:jessica.bendell@theartscentre.com.au)