



20 January 2017

A timeless cinema experience to open World Science Festival Brisbane

The World Science Festival Brisbane will host the Queensland premiere of *A Live Presentation of 2001: A Space Odyssey*, Stanley Kubrick's classic film digitally remastered and complete with live orchestra and choir.

Known as one of the most epic works in cinema's history, the film will be accompanied by the Queensland Symphony Orchestra and Australian Voices, which will be led by internationally renowned conductor Marc Taddei.

Queensland Museum CEO and Director Professor Suzanne Miller said tickets were now on sale for the signature event which will officially open the festival on Wednesday 22 March.

"We are thrilled to be able to host the Queensland premiere of such an amazing production and I could not think of a more fitting way to open the 2017 World Science Festival Brisbane," she said.

"While making the film, *2001: A Space Odyssey* director Stanley Kubrick created a primarily non-verbal experience to allow the musical score to evoke an emotional response from the audience.

"He more than achieved this in the movie, but to experience this magnificent film complete with live orchestra and choir is a whole different experience."

As well as opening the festival on Wednesday March 22, there will be two additional performances on Thursday 23 March including a matinee.

The film, which is a beautiful blend of science and art deals with a range of themes from existentialism, human evolution, technology, artificial intelligence and extra-terrestrial life and features a rich soundtrack featuring classics such as *Gayane Ballet Suite*, *The Blue Danube* and *Also sprach Zarathustra*.

Queensland Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk welcomed the opportunity for Queensland arts companies The Australian Voices and Queensland Symphony Orchestra to feature prominently in the 2017 World Science Festival Brisbane as part of *A Live Presentation of 2001: A Space Odyssey*.

"The World Science Festival Brisbane will showcase our great arts companies, along with our region's latest innovations and scientific discoveries, highlighting the important intersection of art and science," the Premier said.

"The Queensland Government is committed to the long-term future of the World Science Festival to showcase the region and reinforce the state's reputation as a destination for big events."

The World Science Festival Brisbane is proudly supported by Tourism and Events Queensland and promoted as part Queensland's world-class *It's Live!* events calendar.

Brisbane Lord Mayor Graham Quirk said the performance will complement the festival's innovative program joining the city's calendar of international sporting fixtures, blockbuster shows and exclusive cultural events throughout 2017.

"This exclusive performance of *A Live Presentation of 2001: A Space Odyssey* is another great example of the innovation and collaboration between the arts and science that the festival delivers to Brisbane audiences," Cr Quirk said.

“I look forward to welcoming thousands of visitors and locals to the city to celebrate the work of our leading research and innovation institutions, and experience the warmth and hospitality Brisbane has to offer.”

Queensland Symphony Orchestra’s Chief Executive David Pratt said QSO was excited to be performing the evocative soundtrack to this iconic screen classic.

“This eclectic score features classical works from the 1800s made popular again thanks to *2001: A Space Odyssey*, as well as modern compositions that pushed the boundaries of sound when the film was released in 1968,” Mr Pratt said.

“From the lush romantic crescendos of Johann Strauss’ best known waltz *The Blue Danube* to the booming, monumental soundscape of *Also sprach Zarathustra* that has come to typify space exploration and the greatest achievements of humankind, this expressive soundtrack is vital to the meaning of the movie.

“Hearing a full orchestra perform is a truly captivating experience and we look forward to sharing the power of live classical music with a new audience.”

QPAC’s Acting Chief Executive, Ross Cunningham, said QPAC is proud to once again partner with Queensland Museum on World Science Festival Brisbane.

“This is a major event for our city and it’s exciting to see audiences embracing the combination of arts and science.

“When music is played live, it’s a different sensation to hearing a recording, and the music of *2001: A Space Odyssey* is some of the finest ever composed. Unlike many directors, Stanley Kubrick didn’t use an original score for the movie instead choosing pieces from Wagner, Strauss and Khachaturian to create a magnificent soundscape and one of the most memorable soundtracks of the 20th century.

“Watching *2001: A Space Odyssey* with the wonderful QSO playing the score will be an immersive and thrilling experience for audiences not to be missed.”

Tickets to *A Live Presentation of 2001: A Space Odyssey* are now on sale and available to purchase through www.worldsciencefestival.com.au and are priced from \$60.

Queensland Museum and Queensland Performing Arts Centre in association with Warner Bros., Southbank Centre London and the British Film Institute proudly present *A Live Presentation of 2001: A Space Odyssey* performed by Queensland Symphony Orchestra, at World Science Festival Brisbane.

World Science Festival Brisbane is presented by Queensland Museum with generous support of our partners including Tourism Events Queensland, Brisbane Marketing, Department of Science, Information Technology and Innovation, The University of Queensland, Griffith University and Queensland University of Technology.

Other World Science Festival Brisbane partners include, QGC, Arup, C&K, Department of Environment and Heritage Protection, Queensland Art Gallery and Gallery of Modern Art, QIMR Berghofer, Queensland Theatre, South Bank Parklands, Translational Research Institute Google and Energex.

During the next week the Queensland Museum will release the final lineup for the 2017 World Science Festival Brisbane. To purchase tickets to other exciting World Science Festival Brisbane events visit www.worldsciencefestival.com.au.

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