

The Merchants Of **Bollywood**

21 OCTOBER 2009

Bollywood is back!

All the glitz, glamour, song, dance and romance we know as "Bollywood" returns to the Queensland Performing Arts Centre, (QPAC) in March 2010, in ***The Merchants of Bollywood***, following international rave reviews and success.

After more than 850 performances and seen by over 2 Million people worldwide, ***The Merchants of Bollywood*** returns to Australia after it's critically-acclaimed international tour, featuring a cast of 40 performers direct from Film City Mumbai – the home of Bollywood Cinema.

Bangles and beads, swirling colours in costumes and sets, and high-energy music will excite the senses in this lavish new production that is bigger, bolder, brighter and features all the smash hit songs from the biggest Bollywood blockbusters.

A theatrical dance spectacular, ***The Merchants of Bollywood*** charts the enchanting history of the world's largest and most prolific film industry, and a dynasty of stars that have lit its way over generations.

The Merchants of Bollywood transcends time and is a touching tribute to the Bollywood greats of yesterday and the box-office hits of today, notably "Slumdog Millionaire".

A fictional story, yet based on real life, ***The Merchants of Bollywood*** will reveal to the Western audience the workings of cinema and the part it plays in the heart and soul of Indian society in an extraordinary evening of music and dance at the heart of which lies a heartfelt story of a young girl, her grandfather and their love of dance.

The Merchants of Bollywood features choreography by the internationally famed **Vaibhavi Merchant**, regarded as one of Bollywood's top young choreographers, and the granddaughter of **Hiralalji Merchant**, one the founding fathers of classic Bollywood Cinema. **Vaibhavi** has choreographed all of Bollywood's biggest stars including mega-star **Ashwarya Rai** in hit films including *Bunty Aur Babli*.

The music is written and arranged by Salim and Sulaiman Merchant who wrote the music for *Naach*, and *Dhoom*, which sold over 500 million tickets worldwide.

Salim-Sulaiman (as they are known in India) are currently number one on the Indian pop music charts with their hit *Tauba Tauba*. They composed a song titled 'We Like Being Small', for Nickelodeon USA's popular show *Wonder Pets*. The complete score for the episode 'Save the Bengal Tiger' - won them a nomination for Outstanding Original Song at the prestigious Daytime EMMY Awards for Outstanding Original Song in the Children's-Animation Category.

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The production features 3800 glittering and lavish costumes worth in excess of \$1 Million and 2000 pieces of jewellery - designed by Bipin Tana, and a set designed by Sabu Cyril, who was recently awarded Best Art Design in Bollywood cinema.

The Merchants of Bollywood was produced by Mark & Tony Brady in collaboration with Bollywood's most highly regarded film and stage artists.

The show premiered in 2005 and since then has been staged in over 20 countries inclusive of a hit season in London. It features songs and dance from the smash-hit movies *Lagaan*, *Devdas*, *Musafir*, *Bunty Aur Babli*, *Jhoom Barabar Jhoom*, *Rang de Basanti*, *Dhoom* and *Dhoom 2* - music from the Oscar-winning composer A.R. Rahman, and the great moments of Bollywood live on stage in a lavish production capturing the essence of India, its rich and diverse culture, and its people, in a world of technicolour brilliance.

"...4 stars - Taut and buff bodies glisten.....dazzle, shimmer and sparkle...the choreography and visual appeal is as slick and sexy as any MTV promo"

The London Metro

"Uplifting show.....a real dazzler"

The Birmingham Post

"One can't get enough of this artistic, spectacular"

Berliner Morgenpost

"Enthralling dance steps, lively rhythms and bold sound...splendid, colourful costumes...indulgence for all the sense"

tz, Munich

"...glittery costumes and jewellery, high octane music, flashy dance moves...."

The Star

"Their energy is electrifying, their movements suffused with a rush of joy and yet ruthlessly precise and the frenetic flow of onstage activity is almost non-stop. It's a high octane pleasure!"

****** Stars from The Times, London**

**QPAC and The Merchants of Bollywood Pty Ltd Present:
*The Merchants of Bollywood***

WHERE

Lyric Theatre, QPAC, Cultural Centre, South Bank

WHEN

8 March to 14 March 2010

TICKETS

Premium \$124.90
A Reserve \$89.90 conc \$79.90
B Reserve \$79.90 conc \$69.90
C Reserve \$69.90 conc \$59.90

Students/Children

A Reserve \$79.90 B Reserve \$59.90 C Reserve \$59.90

Groups (6+)

A Reserve \$79.90 B Reserve \$69.90

Family (4 tickets. 2 Adults + 2 Children: 3 to 15 yrs)

A Reserve \$250.00 B Reserve \$230.00

Bookings www.qpac.com.au or 136 246

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