

# Pre-Show In-The-Know

## Così

BY LOUIS NOWRA

DIRECTED BY SARAH GOODES

### CURRICULUM LINKS

#### DRAMA

Links to HSC Drama Topic 1: Dramatic Traditions in Australia  
Links to Drama Stage 5: Realism/Scripted Drama

### PLOT SYNOPSIS

A joyous love-letter to the stage.

This heart-warming and hilarious Australian comedy comes to STC for the first time.

Set in a psychiatric facility, *Così* is a play about friendship, romance, community and difference. It's 1971 and Australia is protesting the war in Vietnam. But inside the hospital, the inmates are listening to Mozart, learning their lines and occasionally skipping their medication. It's art, it's mayhem, it's a wonderful roller coaster all the way to opening night.

The icing on the cake is that it's all based on playwright Louis Nowra's own life. In the 1970s, he himself directed a musical with inmates from Melbourne's Mont Park Psychiatric Hospital. The one-off performance brought joy to everyone involved.

Now, Helpmann Award-winning Director Sarah Goodes (*The Children*) brings this joy to our stage. With its cast of loveable characters, *Così* offers a touching reminder of how art can make our spirits soar.

### CAST AND CHARACTERS

Gabriel Fancourt - Nick/Zac  
Esther Hannaford - Julie/Lucy  
Glenn Hazeldine - Henry  
Bessie Holland - Cherry  
Sean Keenan - Lewis  
Robert Menzies - Roy  
Rahel Romahn - Doug  
Katherine Tonkin - Ruth  
George Zhou- Justin

### STYLE

- Australian Theatre
- Comedy

### RUNNING TIME

2 hours 40 minutes (INCLUDING INTERVAL)

### THINGS TO LOOK OUT FOR

- How conventions of Epic Theatre are used
- A play within a play
- Elements of magic realism
- Political context of 1970s Australia