Arts Centre Melbourne

Media Release

Iconic costumes worn by Barry Humphries on display at Arts Centre Melbourne



Photo credit: John Timbers & Jeff Busby

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, 18 JULY 2023 – A time capsule of items exploring the career of iconic Australian comedian **Barry Humphries** will be on display at **Arts Centre Melbourne's Smorgon Family Plaza** until **30 August 2023.**

The free display curated from the **Australian Performing Arts Collection** includes garments worn by **Dame Edna Everage** at the peak of fame, as well as programmes, screenplays and artefacts from Humphries' meteoric rise.

Arts Centre Melbourne's Head of Curatorial Margot Anderson hits nostalgic notes with the display, exploring the journey of the star.

"It is challenging to sample Edna's expansive wardrobe, but we chose three costumes that have been favourites with visitors in the past. Barry Humphries donated a rich selection of Edna's costumes over many years creating a lively record of her rise from humble beginnings in 1950s Moonee Ponds to international 'megastardom' in the 1990s," she said.

With more than one thousand individual items of Humphries' career in the Collection, Anderson and the team channelled the vibrancy and uniqueness of Dame Edna for curatorial inspiration.

"These costumes all have Edna's trademark pizzazz and a three-dimensional quality that would have made her performance on stage even funnier. In addition to the costumes, we've selected items from Barry's extensive collection including programmes, photographs and correspondence that capture the many facets of his career," she said.

The Australian Performing Arts Collection was founded in 1975 and is the largest specialised performing arts collection in the country holding close to 800,000 unique items relating to the history of circus, dance, music, opera, and theatre in Australia.

Images and a full list of what can be seen on display can be found here.

Arts Centre Melbourne acknowledges the traditional owners of the land on which we stand, the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people, and pays respect to their Elders, past and present.

Arts Centre Melbourne
100 St Kilda Road Melbourne VIC 3004
PO Box 7585 Melbourne VIC 3004
artscentremelbourne.com.au
ABN 83 295 983 059

Arts Centre Melbourne

Media Release

For more information including: our current health and safety policies; bookings for free and ticketed events; and other digital content and experiences, please visit artscentremelbourne.com.au or phone 1300 182 183.

Connect with Arts Centre Melbourne on Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, Instagram and Tik Tok.

For further media information and interviews, please contact Senior Media and Communications Advisor Suzanne Robson on 0407 443 271 or suzanne.robson@artscentremelbourne.com.au

Arts Centre Melbourne
100 St Kilda Road Melbourne VIC 3004
PO Box 7585 Melbourne VIC 3004
artscentremelbourne.com.au
ABN 83 295 983 059