

Media Release

Date: Monday 10 February, 2014

ENRAPTURED **The Art of Costuming: Costumes from Opera Australia** **Tony Mott Rock Photos**

Wagga Wagga Art Gallery is delighted to welcome two great exhibitions wrapped in one amazing package from Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre – **Enraptured**, featuring **The Art of Costuming: Costumes from Opera Australia** and **Tony Mott Rock Photos**. Together, these two shows explore the ways in which fashion and costume are used in music and theatre to create a persona, to reveal a character, or simply to please, tease... or unease the audience!

The Art of Costuming: Costumes from Opera Australia

Opera is unapologetically lavish, opulent and grand. It is a world of epic splendour that is deliberately overwhelming. The technicolour of opera – its tragic characters, opulent sets, show-stopping vocals, and lavish costumes – lifts the audience from the banalities of daily life and transforms them to a world of intensified passions and drama.

The world beyond the stage is no less astounding but simply, of different magnitude. It evokes an unusual kind of awe and wonder to walk into the Opera Australia props warehouse, piled high with the relics of past productions waiting to be called upon again; to be repurposed for a new story. The **Enraptured** exhibition, featuring a selection of costumes and props from the Opera Australia vaults, takes the audience behind the pomp and grandeur. This is a unique and intimate glance behind the scenes; an opportunity for audiences to experience up close what is usually just out of reach, and to decipher for themselves the intricacies and nuances which bring a production to life.

Tony Mott Rock Photos

Tony Mott is one of the world's most enduring and well-known rock photographers. The **Enraptured** exhibition features a large showcase of his works, which includes some of the most iconic images in the history of rock and pop music. Over the last three decades, Mott has photographed the likes of the Rolling Stones, Bjork, Rihanna, and everyone in between – and he's got the stories to go with the pictures.

This exhibition presents a retrospective of portraits of some of the world's most famous music artists, in both intimate and staged environments. The images convey the diverse and fascinating ways in which costumes are used by performers to create a stage persona, or show up their inherent eccentricities, or act as a disguise. Mott has a wry humour towards his job which is manifested in the way in which he recounts his encounters with the stars. Alongside the photographs in this exhibition are Mott's candid commentaries on his subjects – their personas and music – and his blunt observations on the trajectories that the music industry has taken in his 30 year liaison with it. Mott's stories are captivating, his observations are sharp, and his honesty is refreshing.

Enraptured, featuring **The Art of Costuming** and **Tony Mott Rock Photo**, is open to the public at Wagga Wagga Art Gallery from Saturday 15 February until Sunday 6 April, 2014. The exhibitions will be officially launched on Friday 14 February, from 6pm until 8pm.