

BRISBANE FESTIVAL

Media Release

Embargoed until 9am, Thursday 17 June 2021

BRISBANE FESTIVAL TRANSFORMS SOUTH BANK PIAZZA WITH PREMIERE PERFORMANCES FROM QUEENSLAND POWERHOUSES

The soaring sounds of big bands and Boldly Brisbane artists will fill South Bank Piazza this September, leaving Brisbane Festival audiences shaken, stirred and seriously entertained.

The versatile venue in the heart of South Bank Parklands will be transformed into an exciting new performance space, hosting a jaw-dropping line-up of world-class musicians, singers and performers from **3-25 September**.

Brisbane Festival Artistic Director Louise Bezzina said South Bank Piazza will be the beating heart of this year's Festival, alive and pumping with art, dance and music fit for audiences from families to late night revelers.

"Block out your September because you are going to want to be part of this party!" Ms Bezzina said.

Ahead of its full program launch on July 14, Brisbane Festival is thrilled to announce two premiere performances from Brisbane powerhouses **Kate Miller-Heidke** and **The Little Red Company**.

Queensland born-and-raised, Miller-Heidke begins her first national tour since releasing her acclaimed 2020 album *Child in Reverse* with a special Brisbane Festival performance on **24 September 2021**.

With a full six-piece band of musical geniuses, a back catalogue of bona fide hits and a suite of brand-new songs, Miller-Heidke will again show Brisbane that she is one of the most versatile and exciting live performers in the world.

The homegrown superstar's talents span indie-pop and opera to musical theatre and TV and she remains the only artist in the world to have performed at Coachella, the New York Metropolitan Opera and the Eurovision Song Contest.

"It has felt like an eternity waiting for this tour to begin. I'll be playing with my favourite musicians and we are bursting with joy and excitement at the prospect of hitting the road again after so long. We will be premiering some brand new material plus selecting some deep cuts from the back catalogue, as well as celebrating some old favourites.



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Playing live has always been a pivotal part of what I do - the connection with you all and sharing loved moments in time and space. This one is going to be special," Miller-Heidke said.

Brisbane's The Little Red Company channels the style and swagger of the incomparable James Bond film franchise in *Skyfall*, converting the Piazza into a glamorous Monte Carlo club from **14 - 18 September**.

Queensland's leading couple of song, **Naomi Price** (*Beautiful: The Carole King Musical, Ladies in Black*) and **Luke Kennedy** (*The Voice Australia, Swing on This*), take audiences deep inside the high rollers' room where stakes are high and martinis are dry in this unmissable homage to the spy who loved us.

They are joined on stage by Little Red's talented band and some of Brisbane's best brass players and an evolving line-up of secret agents and special guests performing fresh arrangements of Bond's iconic theme songs.

"All of the great Bond theme songs have really similar attributes: sweeping dynamic strings, a dangerous horn sound with a big brass section and lyrics that always tackle epic themes like love, desire, separation and betrayal. We don't tend to have that elevated drama in popular music at the moment," Price said.

She and Kennedy will breathe new life into songs made famous by superstars including Shirley Bassey, Tom Jones, Nancy Sinatra, Gladys Knight, Paul McCartney and Adele.

"For me, you can't beat *Goldfinger*. There's something about the chord progression in that song that makes me feel excited; it feels dangerous and daring and sexy and it makes my heart race. Shirley Bassey's performance is phenomenal, although I'll do my best!

"Luke is obsessed with Gladys Knight's *Licence to Kill* so we'll add a few 'surprise and delight' moments to reposition females in Bond's narratives, address outdated gender politics and shake up who sings what."

The Piazza takes on a new level of intimacy with cabaret table seating, the scale of an arena production with concert lighting and sound systems, screens and the glamour of Bond's world with stylish costumes and sets.

Brisbane Festival returns to fill the city with art, music and joy from **3 – 25 September 2021**.



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For Brisbane Festival program announcements, visit brisbanefestival.com.au or follow Brisbane Festival on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

Skyfall is presented by Brisbane Festival and South Bank Parklands.
Brisbane Festival is an initiative of the Queensland Government and Brisbane City Council.
Brisbane Festival is delivered within Queensland Health's COVID Safe Events framework.

ENDS

Brisbane Festival presents
Kate Miller-Heidke
24 September 2021
South Bank Piazza

Tickets: \$60 – \$75
On sale from 12pm Wednesday 23 June 2021 at brisbanefestival.com.au

Brisbane Festival and South Bank Parklands present
Skyfall
The Little Red Company
14 - 18 September 2021
South Bank Piazza

Tickets: \$45 – \$65 Cabaret seating or general admission
On sale from 12noon Thursday 17 June 2021 at brisbanefestival.com.au

Media Enquiries:

Claudia Ferne, Aruga

E: claudia@aruga.com.au

M: 0452 474 413

