

*The Greek festival of Sydney*  
*JUTE & QPAC presents*

# *MY Of-Course LIFE*

*Tuesday the 11<sup>th</sup> and Wed 12<sup>th</sup> April, 7pm - 10pm*  
*Tom Mann Theatre, Chalmers street Surry Hills.*

By Toni Allayialis



A JUTE and Queensland Performing Arts Centre Co-Production

*Rich colourful theatre, overflowing with love, life, music and  
cultural crossfire.*

Directed by Maryanne Lynch  
Music by Irine Vela  
Set Design by Alison Ross  
Lighting Design by Jonathan Driver

Cast  
Stage Manger

Toni Allayialis  
Kylie Mitchell

The Play explores love, life family and traditions through colourful characters, food and music. Playwright/performer Toni Allayialis will take you on a touching voyage, mixing traditional and contemporary songs and storytelling to bring her Greek and Croatian ancestors and madcap Australian family to life. The work is enriched by the traditional songs and original compositions by Irine Vela. *My Of-Course Life* is semi-autobiographical but also tells the collective stories of generations of women living through the realities of centuries of warring conflict.

The play takes a journey through Toni's own ancestral cultures, through stories about her Greek and Croatian grandparents and their experiences of migrating to Australia, and Far North Queensland in particular, in the 1930s and 1940s.

# *MY Of-Course LIFE*

By Toni Allayialis

**Toni Allayialis** is a singer, dancer, actor, composer and writer. She has sung for Paul Kelly, INXS, Vince Jones and Australian Art Orchestra to name a few. Her theatre and film credits include, *The Mowtown Story*, *Pearls Before Swine*, *the Fabulous Singlettes*, *Kelly's Republic*, *Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome* and most recently *Testimony*, *The Legend of Charlie Parker* for Sydney and Melbourne Festivals. Toni is a member of Toni Nation, an original world music group which has toured nationwide and overseas performing at festivals in the Philippines, Singapore & Jamaica.

## **About the Co-Producers:**

**JUTE:** Established in 1992 Just Us Theatre Ensemble (JUTE) is an award-winning theatre company producing bold seasons of contemporary theatre from the evocative North.

**AWARDS:** 2003 Queensland Writers Centre "the Johnno" award; 2004 Playlab Award

**TOURS:** JUTE has toured productions throughout regional Queensland and to Brisbane, Darwin, Canberra & Sydney.

**QPAC** The Queensland Performing Arts Centre (QPAC) is Queensland's premier venue for live performance as well as a producer and presenter of cultural product. *My Of-Course Life* was co-produced by JUTE and QPAC as part of QPAC's Suitcase Series, which creates and promotes Queensland product that has the potential to tour.

[www.jute.com.au](http://www.jute.com.au)

[www.qpac.com.au](http://www.qpac.com.au)

## **What reviewers & patrons have said about *My Of-Course Life***

"Applause rocked the theatre at CoCA in Abbott Street, Cairns. Most of the audience rose and gave her a standing ovation" (Cairns Post)

"Toni Allayialis gives an extraordinary performance" (Barfly)

"It is intense, witty and requires your full attention" (Courier Mail, 04 Oct)

This is Genuine Good Stuff, well written, well directed and passionately performed. *My Of-Course Life* is more than the 'mere' ethnic comedy of *Acropolis Now* or *The Wog Boy*. It's a tale of a second-generation Australian as she reconciles her past and present, the strong cultural and historical influences on her life, and the need to establish a place in the present for her family. I sincerely hope the show tours. (M/C Online Reviews)

"...what a wonderful show is My Of-Course Life. I thoroughly enjoyed the production and am truly amazed at the abundance of talent Toni has. She is incredible. " (Pip Miller – unsolicited email from audience member)

"A wonderfully warm & humorous play, with an extraordinary lead performance. It touched us with its "truths" "laughs" & cultural diversities. Just beautiful.....of course!" (Raelene Blandford – unsolicited email from audience member)

*More info;*

9750 0440, or [www.greekfestivalofSydney.com.au](http://www.greekfestivalofSydney.com.au)