



Presented by JUTE and the Greek Festival of Sydney

My "Of-Course" Life

By Toni Allayialis

Directed by Maryanne Lynch

Music by Irine Vela



Toni Allayialis is fast gaining a reputation for delighting audiences with her one-woman play, "My Of-Course Life". Described as rich colorful music theatre, the play positively overflows with love, life, music and cultural crossfire.

The Play explores love, life family and traditions through colorful 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, 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 explores 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.

Here is what the reviewers and patrons said about *My Of-Course Life* last year...

"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)

Toni Allayialis

is a singer, dancer, actor, composer, writer and teacher. She has sung for Paul Kelly, INXS, Vince Jones to name a few. Her theatre and film credits include, the Motown story, Pearls before Swine, the Fabulous Singlettes, Kelly's Republic, Fast Talking, Mad Max beyond Thunder dome and most recently Testimony, The Legend of Charlie Parker for Sydney Festival 2002.

She has trained in Australia and overseas in Flamenco, African, Afro-Cuban, Creek and Polynesian dance and created a dance form called 'Global Dance'. She is a member of Toni Nation, an original world music group who truly represent multicultural Australia. Having toured national wide and overseas performing at festivals in the Philippines, Singapore & Jamaica.

My Of-Course Life

COST: \$18.00

VENUE: *Playing at the Tom Mann Theatre*

136 Chalmers Street, Chippendale

Ph; 97500440

DATES: *Tuesday the 11th April*

Wednesday the 12th of April

TIMES: *7.30pm – 9.30pm*

For more information into the program and to book tickets to selected events please go to www.greekfestivalofsydney.com.au

High-resolution images are available on request.

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