

MEDIA RELEASE

Level 5, 10 Hickson Road The Rocks
Sydney NSW 2000 Australia
Phone 61 2 8248 6500 Fax 61 2 8248 6599
sydneyfestival.org.au



Hakawati

WORLD PREMIERE
National Theatre of Parramatta, Australia



Photo: Eric Berry

Based on an ancient tradition of breaking bread and storytelling, **National Theatre of Parramatta** is turning the genre on its head with a contemporary, subversive, Western Sydney twist.

This is a feast, not just of food, but also of storytelling. Don't miss out on these tales, as our story tellers delve into universal themes of family, generational differences, love, status, money and sex. Relish in tales of heroism, tragedy and comedy that are both humorous and deeply moving.

Devised and directed by **Wayne Harrison AM**, taking as inspiration Hakawati, an Arabic word, translating to 'the teller of tales'. Often subversive, always engaging, they were a form of entertainment in many Arabic communities before television arrived.

In the intimate setting of award-winning restaurant **EI-Phoenician**, their art is revived by performers **Olivia Rose, Dorje Michael, Sal Sharah** and **Sandy Gore**.

Wayne Harrison AM is the former Artistic Director/CEO of Sydney Theatre Company, Creative Director of Sydney's New Year's Eve celebrations on Sydney Harbour and Director of the Closing Ceremony for the Melbourne Commonwealth Games.

Wayne's recent directing credits include *Young & Jackson* (45DS, Melbourne), *The One Day of the Year* (Finborough Theatre, London), *Shellshock* (Riverside Theatres, Parramatta), *Letter to Larry* (Theatre Nesle, Paris), *For Crying Out Loud* (The Grand Theatre, Ontario, Canada), *The Choir of Man* (Darwin Festival), *Celebrity Autobiography*, *What I Wore* and *Love, Loss* (Sydney Opera House).

EI-Phoenician, a Festival Feast favourite for many years, is an award winning restaurant and will provide a sumptuous meal. Traditional Arabic music will accompany the performance.

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Where EI-Phoenician, 328 Church St, Parramatta

When Preview: 11 January at 7pm
12 & 13 January at 6.30pm
14 January at 1pm & 6.30pm
15 January at 6.30pm
17-21 January at 8.30pm
18 & 21 January also at 1pm

Duration 160mins
Late comers will not be admitted

Tickets \$75, including meal

Bookings Sydney Festival on 1300 856 876
sydneyfestival.org.au/hakawati



Multipacks are available for Sydney Festival events. Book 3 or more events and save up to 15%. Discounts apply to full price A Reserve or General Admission tickets.

For interviews and further information contact:

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The logo for EI-Phoenician, featuring the name in a stylized font with a decorative flourish above the 'i' in 'Phoenician'.
The Private Room on Church