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Extravagant Sydney Festival production *Qween Lear* adds PAULINI to all-star cast, Michael Cormick to take lead role.

In news that will delight musical theatre lovers, *Qween Lear*, the fierce and fabulous adaptation of *King Lear* premiering at the Sydney Festival, has added to its ensemble, with chart-topping vocalist PAULINI set to join the production.

Qween Lear takes place over one wild night in ancient Sydney - before the Olympics – in a world ruled by drag qweens and fuelled by love. Long-reigning gay club monarch Qween Lear is abdicating the spotlight, whilst her drag daughters Regan, Goneril and Cordelia claw for her coveted 4am slot. Who will nab the ultimate night crown?

Hilarious, extravagant and extremely naughty, *Qween Lear* is Shakespearean theatre of decadent drag show proportions.

Heralded as one of the finest vocalists and performers to come out of Australia, PAULINI takes on the role of Qween Lear's trusted friend and consigliere, Kent. The Fijian born songstress rose to fame through television screens on the very first season of Australian Idol. One of only ten female artists to have a #1 debut album on the ARIA charts, PAULINI's musical theatre credits include her critically acclaimed leading turn as Rachel Marron in *The Bodyguard*, as well as lead in *Saturday Night Fever* and the 50th anniversary production of the musical *Hair*. Most recently PAULINI returned to television in 2019 in the hit show *The Masked Singer* and in 2021 on *I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here Australia*.

"We are so excited about PAULINI joining our amazing cast. She's an Aussie icon, with a singular voice," said ***Qween Lear* co-creators Lucas Jervies and Hugh O'Connor**, "Stepping into the role of Kent, we can't wait for her to stun audiences as the diva voice behind the drag Qween Lear."

The casting changes announced today also see internationally renowned Australian musical theatre legend Michael Cormick take the leading role, and step into the sequined heels of Qween Lear.

With a career spanning Australia, the UK and the USA, Cormick's incredible resume includes starring roles in the Australian productions of *Beauty and the Beast*, for which he won an Australian MO Award, *Cats*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat*, *Grease*, *Sunset Boulevard* and *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*. Internationally he's taken leading roles in some of the world's most prominent productions including *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Calamity Jane*, *Romeo & Juliet*, *Chess*, *Evita*, *End of the Rainbow* and Lloyd Webber's *The Woman in White*

Originally cast in the role of Gloucester, Cormick takes over in the role of Qween Lear from Minnie Cooper, who will depart the production due to a scheduling conflict.



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Featuring pulsating dance score by Laura Murphy and dazzling set and lighting design by Hugh O'Connor and Trudy Dalgeish, *Qween Lear* is packed to the hair pins with Australia's best and boldest performers including Seann Miley Moore (*X Factor UK, The Voice AU*), Etcetera Etcetera (*RuPaul's Drag Race Down Under*) and Morgan Palmer (*We Will Rock You, The Book of Mormon*).

ENDS

***Qween Lear* Cast:**

The Old Guard/Generation

Qween Lear	Michael Cormick (He/Him)
Kent	PAULINI (She/Her)
Gloucester	To Be Announced
Dresser/Fool	Jay Wymarra (He/Him)

New Generation

Cordelia	Seann Miley Moore (He/She/They)
Goneril	Patrick Dibben (He/They)
Regan	Etcetera Etcetera (She/Her)
Albany	Darlene Illyana (She/Her)
Cornwall	Monique Salle (She/Her)
Edmund	Heath Keating (He/Him)
Edgar	Morgan Palmer (He/Him)

Creative and Production Team

Created by Lucas Jervies and Hugh O'Connor
Music and Lyrics by Laura Murphy
Adapted by Nick Coyle

Director & Choreographer	Lucas Jervies (He/Him)
Design	Hugh O'Connor (He/Him)
Musical Director & Arrangements	Laura Murphy (She/Her)
Lighting Design	Trudy Dalgeish
Wig and Hair Design	Drew-Elizabeth Johnstone (She/Her)
Associate Director	Imara Savage (She/Her)
Sound Design / Associate Musical Director	Andrew Worboys
Music Producers	Peewee Ferris Beth Yenn Davide Carbone Andrew Worboys



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Intimacy Director/Coordinator	Chloe Dallimore
Design Assistant	Emma White (She/Her)
Producer	Adam J. Lowe (He/Him)
Head of Production	Pam Kekos (She/Her)
Production Coordinator	Joel Mallett (He/Him)
Stage Manager	Frej Baskeyfield (He/Him)
Assistant Stage Manager	Maddie Hodges (She/Her)
Costume Supervisor	Alana Canceri
Wigs Supervisor	To be announced

NOTES TO EDITOR

***Qween Lear* premieres as part of the Sydney Festival 7 - 16 January at the Hordern Pavilion**

Sydney Festival 2022
6 – 30 January
www.sydneyfestival.org.au

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