



## **An Audience with Billie Holiday**

Chapel off Chapel

May 7 – 25

Art Events Australia presents the world premiere of “An Audience with Billie Holiday”, a compelling and moving musical stage play, written by award-winning playwright Neil Cole and starring acclaimed Melbourne-based cabaret performer, Mama Alto as Billie Holiday, accompanied by multi-award winning composer, pianist and musical director, Warren Wills at Chapel Off Chapel from May 7<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>.

The legendary jazz singer, Billie Holiday was one of the greatest singers of all time, and had a seminal influence on jazz and pop music. Her tumultuous background as a black woman brought up in abject poverty in early 20<sup>th</sup> century, underwrote her unique singing ability.

“An Audience With Billie Holiday” is a tribute to the woman they called “Lady Day”; told in the first person by Mama Alto as the great artist, the story focuses on her development as a singer, her tragic back story that shaped her personality, talent and success, and the songs that saw her achieve unprecedented popularity.

The mesmerizing Mama Alto is known in Melbourne as the “The Countertenor Diva “ performing regularly at The Butterfly Club and a must-see at Melbourne Cabaret Festival & Melbourne Fringe Festival. Mama’s recent show, “Countertenor Diva” recently thrilled audiences and critics alike at the Perth and Adelaide Fringe festivals, garnering four star reviews:

"Mama Alto... hypnotically beautiful as a silent screen star, elegant and mysterious.. 4 STARS" (Adelaide Advertiser)

"The entire experience was intriguing; her performance is at the same time strong and fragile, her voice a beautiful instrument that challenges perceptions of gender and identity. 4 STARS" (RIP IT UP Magazine, Adelaide)

"From an ethereal whisper to a full-bodied bellow, each crescendo feels organic." (the [music.com.au](http://music.com.au))

"Mama Alto possesses that rare commodity, a genuinely unusual voice, which was used to strong effect in interpretations which were at times evocative of jazz greats " ([stagewhispers.com.au](http://stagewhispers.com.au))  
[www.mamaalto.com](http://www.mamaalto.com)

Multi-Award winning composer, musical director and pianist, Warren Wills has graced many West End productions as both performer and MD. Composing and MD'ing for Woody Allen, RSC, Sheila Ferguson, Three Degrees, and Pamela Anderson, to name a few. Australian-born Warren brings the complexity and subtleties required to accompany Mama Alto's role of the great Billie Holiday. Warren is no stranger to performing Billie Holiday's music, having performed in Nina Kristofferson's Billie Holiday Story at The Electric Theatre, Guildford the British Theatre Guide described his performance as "... integral to this show and his superb playing brings to life this story of elation and heartbreak ...".

[www.warrenwillsmusic.com](http://www.warrenwillsmusic.com)

**An Audience with Billie Holiday**  
**May 7<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> Tuesday – Sunday**  
**Chapel off Chapel**  
**12 Little Chapel Street**  
**Prahran.**  
**Tickets \$38.00 +BF**

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**[www.chapeloffchapel.com.au](http://www.chapeloffchapel.com.au)**

**[www.arteventsaustralia.com](http://www.arteventsaustralia.com)**

The logo for Jameson PR, featuring the name 'JAMESON PR' in a stylized, outlined font. A horizontal line extends from the right side of the logo across the page.

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