



## Media Kit

# THE COMING BACK OUT SALON



**SYDNEY  
WORLDPRIDE  
2023**



Australia  
Council  
for the Arts



**CITY OF  
SYDNEY**



**THE  
SYDNEY  
YOUTH  
ORCHESTRA**



**THE  
COMING  
BACK OUT  
SALON**

The Coming Back Out Salon is a spectacular social event celebrating older Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Gender Diverse and Intersex people.

Featuring The Sydney Youth Orchestra with Robyn Archer, Deborah Cheetham, Paul Capsis, Nana Miss Koorie, Tina Del Twist, Nefertiti LaNegra with more performers to be announced.

Start Sydney WorldPride by celebrating our older LGBTIQ+ people in a truly inclusive way.  
A NSW Premiere.

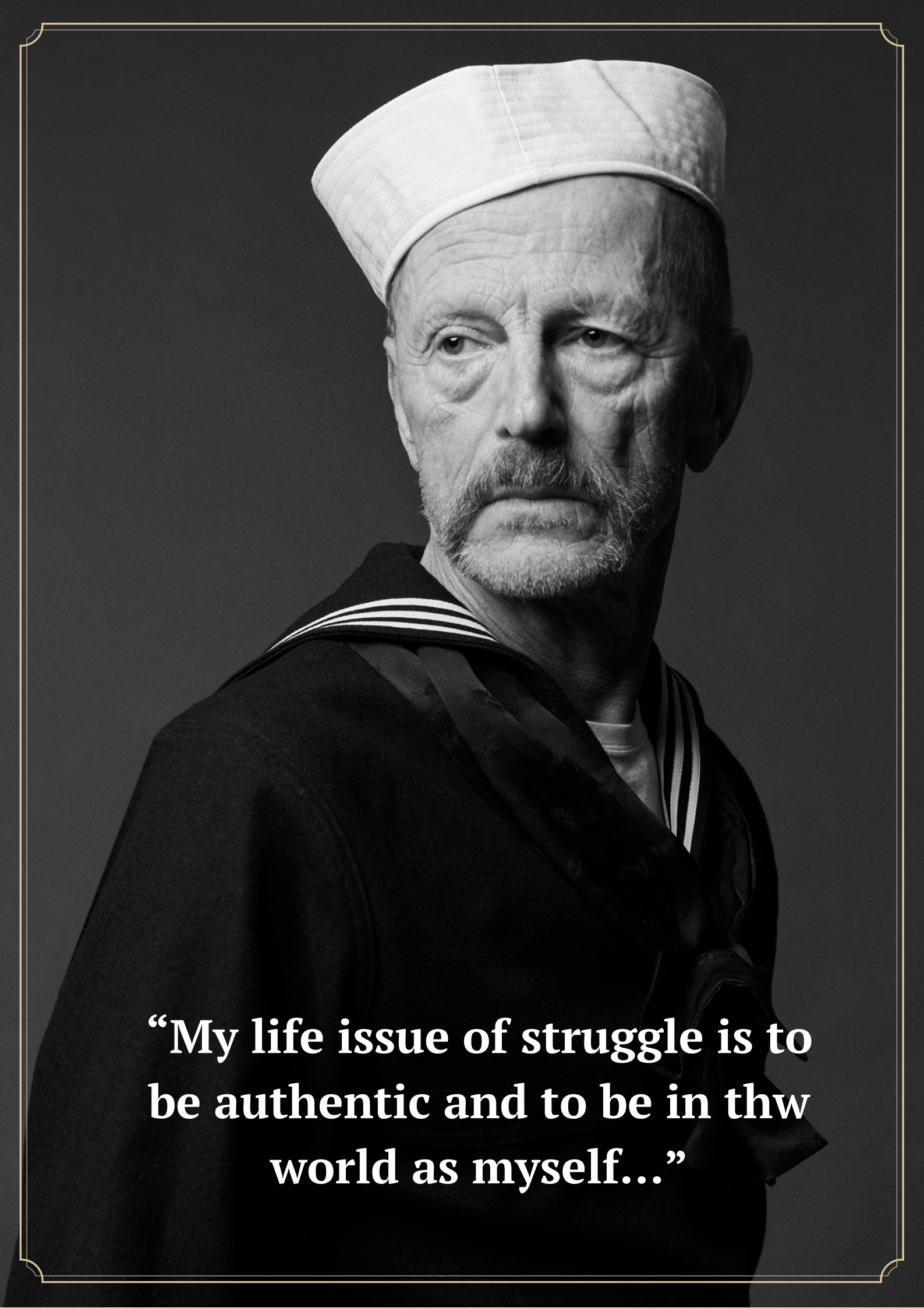
The Coming Back Out Salon is presented by All The Queens Men in association with Sydney World Pride with generous support of the NSW Government, Australia Council for the Arts, Restart Investment to Sustain and Expand (RISE) Fund – an Australian Government Initiative, Create NSW and City of Sydney. In association with ACON and the Love Project.

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**“My life issue of struggle is to be authentic and to be in thw world as myself...”**



## About the Event

Following international acclaim, The Coming Back Out Salon is an afternoon of cultural significance in which the whole LGBTIQ+ community and allies can gather alongside older LGBTIQ+ people to eat, drink, dance, reminisce and dream together into the future.

On Saturday, 18 February 2023, The Coming Back Out Salon will enliven the Sydney Town Hall, acknowledging and celebrating older LGBTIQ+ people as we emerge together from the increased isolation of the past few years. Joined by LGBTIQ+ and allied luminaries including The Sydney Youth Orchestra, Robyn Archer, Deborah Cheetham, Paul Capsis, Nana Miss Koorie, Tina Del Twist, Nefertiti LaNegra (with more to be announced), the Salon will bring older LGBTIQ+ people, allies and community together in an intergenerational celebration.

Created by Australian arts company All The Queens Men, The Coming Back Out Salon is a gift that acknowledges the resilience of the LGTBIQ+ community – it's a gift of visibility to older LGBTIQ+ people who have lived through it all and it's a safe space for those elders just discovering themselves.

The project is guided by a social mission informed by the growing research around isolation and loneliness experienced by older LGBTIQ+ people.



# THE COMING BACK OUT SALON

## About the Event



In Australia, older LGBTIQ+ people lived through times when being LGBTIQ+ could result in imprisonment, enforced medical ‘cures’, loss of employment and rejection by family and friends. For many, impending old age has meant going back into the closet, for fear of being deprived of companionship and quality care when they need it most.

All The Queens Men co-artistic director, Tristan Meecham says, “The Coming Back Out Salon is designed as a gift that celebrates a variety lived experiences. It will be a joyous experience, where we create a fun event for people to eat, drink, dance and connect with others.”



After presenting The Coming Back Out Salon internationally, and with a feature documentary on Netflix, All The Queens Men are proud to present the NSW premiere as an opening event of Sydney WorldPride.



The Salon has been augmented with social transformation projects that include The LGBTIQ+ Elders Dance Club presented in partnership with ACON’s The LOVE Project. All The Queens Men run regular LGBTIQ+ Elders Dance Clubs across Australia in Brisbane, Gold Coast and Canberra.



**“All we wanted was to be treated  
as a normal couple – people like  
anyone else...”**



### Images

- [The Coming Back Out Salon 2019 - see here →](#)
- [The Coming Back Out Ball 2018 - see here →](#)
- [The Coming Back Out Ball 2017 - see here →](#)
- [LGBTIQ+ Elders Dance Club - see here →](#)

### Video

- [Trailer: The Coming Back Out Salon - see here →](#)
- [Trailer: The Coming Back Out Ball 2017- see here →](#)
- [Trailer: The Coming Back Out Ball 2018 - see here →](#)
- [LGTBIQ+ Elders Dance Club - see here →](#)

### References

- [Evaluation: Reflections on The Coming Back Out Ball: a dialogic evaluation - see here →](#)
- [The Coming Back Out Ball 2017 program - see here →](#)

### Media Spokespeople

Tristan Meecham, Artistic Director, All The Queens Men  
Russ Gluyas, Program Coordinator, The LOVE Project ACON  
Peta Murray, Dennis Altman, Neal Price, older LGBTIQ+ advisory  
And older LGBTIQ+ people from The Love Project - all detailed below.





## Media Spokespeople

### All The Queens Men

Regarded as one of Australia's leading community-focused contemporary arts organisations, All The Queens Men champions equality, social health and connection.

Over the past decade, ATQM has built meaningful and extensive relationships throughout the health, arts, and community sectors to create a thrilling body of work, presented globally. The company is a leading voice within the LGBTIQ+ community globally, specifically for championing the rights of older LGBTIQ+ people.

### Tristan Meecham

Tristan Meecham is a queer performer and artist. Together with Bec Reid, he is the Artistic Director of All The Queens Men. Tristan has become a leading creative voice within the LGBTI+ community nationally and internationally, specifically for championing the rights of LGBTI+ older people. Through a relational engagement practice, he co-designs creative projects that enable communities improved access, not only to the arts experiences, but broader community health and social services.

### Dr. Dennis Altman

Dennis Altman is the son of Jewish refugees, and a writer and academic who first came to attention with the publication of his book *Homosexual: Oppression & Liberation* in 1972. Since then Altman has written fifteen books, exploring sexuality, politics and their inter-relationship in Australia, the United States and now globally.

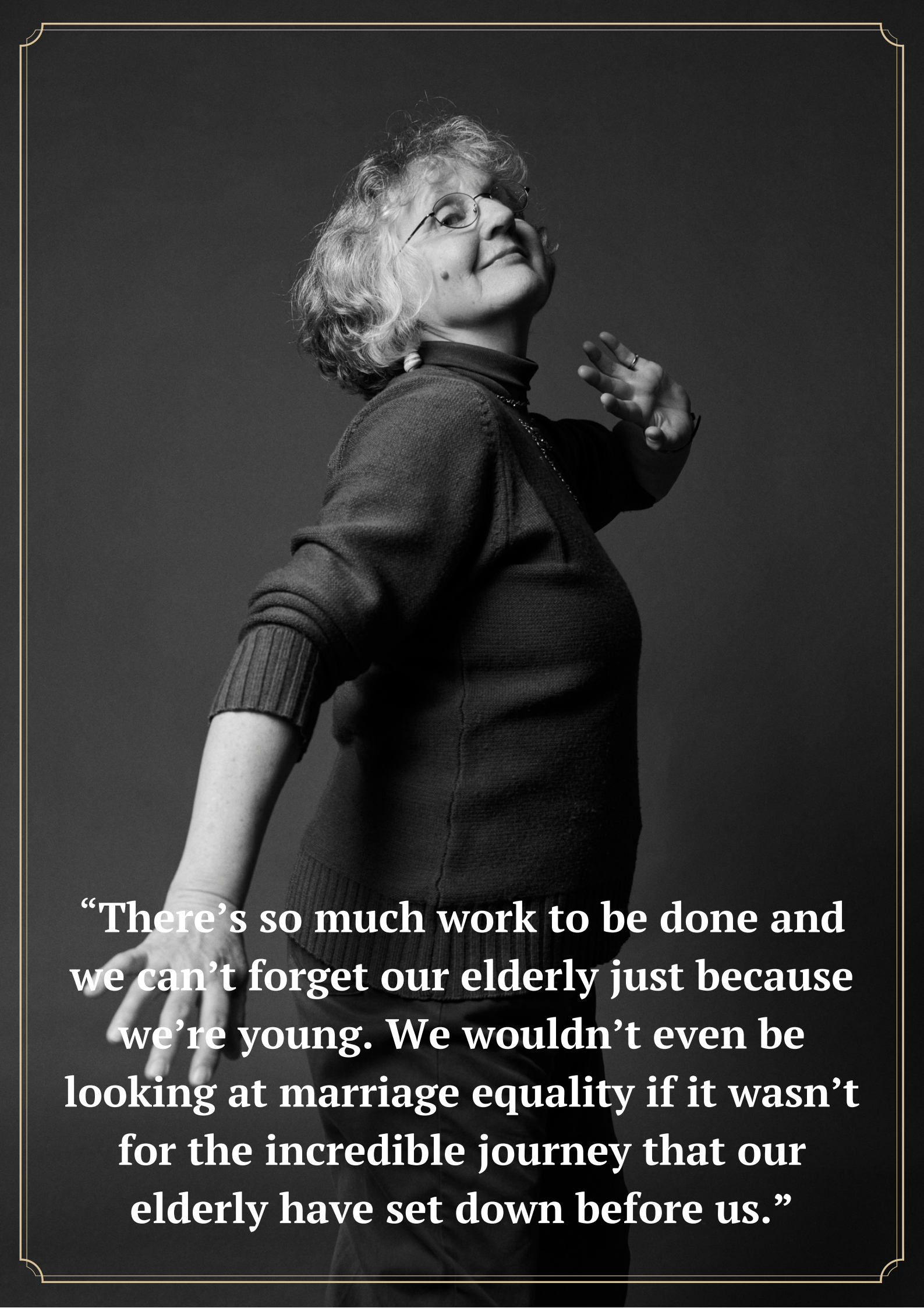
### Dr. Peta Murray

Peta Murray was awarded a PhD from RMIT University, where she is now a Vice-Chancellor's Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the School of Media & Communication. She brings playwriting & theatre-making skills to bear in quest of new methods for communal conversation and collaborative practices that invite embodied experience, sensory immersion, and the witnessing afforded by live encounter in performance.

### Neal Price

Neal Prices is the Director of The Creative Ageing Centre, which supports the creativity and artistic self-expression of older people. He works in pursuit of discovering creative and fun ways of maintaining the good health and wellbeing of our ageing population. He believes in the power of the arts to deliver innovative, arts-centered products and services to the aged care sector.





**“There’s so much work to be done and we can’t forget our elderly just because we’re young. We wouldn’t even be looking at marriage equality if it wasn’t for the incredible journey that our elderly have set down before us.”**



#### **Russ Gluyas and The LOVE Project (Sydney)**

The LOVE Project (Living Older Visibly & Engaged) is an ACON initiative that's all about creating better conversations and improved social engagement with our older LGBTI community members. By understanding people's preferences we can facilitate greater social connectivity, improve social inclusion and evolve services to meet the needs of our LGBTI elders. The friendly health promotion team of the LOVE Project welcomes you to get on board to share experiences, interact with other members of the LGBTI community and create a healthier, active and social lifestyle for yourselves and those around you.

#### **Colleen Windsor**

Hailing from the UK, Colleen Windsor started performing in the famous Les Girls, King Cross in the mid-1970s and through the late heady eighties at the Flinders Hotel, part of the then fabulous Golden Mile. As a retired showgirl and proud trans woman elder who has a longstanding and fond relationship with the local community Colleen has been associated with several Sydney community organisations.

#### **Trevor Pritchard**

Trevor is a 70 year old volunteer and participant in ACON LOVE Club. He is a Community Visitor Support volunteer in which he visits ageing gay men in aged care facilities. He is the Treasurer of Mature Age Gays MAG which is social group for ageing gay and bisexual men and their supporters, and the Treasurer of the Pride History Group which records and documents LGBT+ history.

#### **David Polson**

David Polson was amongst the first 400 people diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in Australia in 1984. He undertook 28 HIV drug trials with the late Professor David Cooper. In tribute to David Coopers incredible work with the HIV/AIDS field, David founded and is Chair of Qtopia Sydney -Sydney first Queer museum featuring an AIDS memorial. David has been a vocal HIV advocate for nearly 30 years.

#### **Jacqy Hardy**

Jacqy Hardy is a 65-year-old lesbian involved in the LOVE Project for the last three years. She is on the Community Advisory Group guiding the current City of Sydney funding that ends in June 2023. She is a member of the 10/40 Executive Committee, Bush Lemons, the Pride History Group and Mature Age Gays. Our LGBTIQ+ community needs a strong voice and presence for the over 55s and the LOVE Project is an important part of this. Jacqy likes to dye her hair purple and dance naked in the rain.

#### **Apple Jack (AJ) Brown**

Apple Jack or AJ, they/them pronouns is a proud Gender Queer, trans masculine person NB or NON binary, sexuality Queer. Growing up in Derbyshire in the UK they travelled to Sydney, Australia at 21 in search of the LGBTQI+ community. AJ, has designed + constructed gardens all over Sydney. They have a deep love of nature and the Arts. For the past 3 years AJ has been and has been the sitting President for NFP organisation Trans Pride Australia, that currently has over 6,000 members.

# THE COMING BACK OUT SALON



## The Coming Back Out Salon

**Saturday, 18 February 2023**

2pm - 6pm

Sydney Town Hall, 483 George St, Sydney

Dress: Fabulous!

Refreshments: a drink and a sweet treat on arrival

Tickets \$50 Full, \$40 Concession

Bookings via Moshtix:

<https://moshtix.com.au/v2/event/the-coming-back-out-salon/143631>

#AllTheQueensMen #ComingBackOutBall  
#ComingBackOutSalon

[www.allthequeensmen.net](http://www.allthequeensmen.net)

## Credits

Created by All The Queens Men  
Artistic Director: Tristan Meecham

Event Director: Bec Reid

Designer: Jonathan Oxlade

Lighting: Ben (Bosco) Shaw

Creative Producer: Anna Pidgeon

Video: Logan Mucha

Photography: Bryony Jackson

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