



29 February 2012

Media Release

SARAJEVO SUITE PERFORMS IN MILDURA ON INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

How would it be to live in a city under siege? To suddenly fear for your life? To be scared when your children play outside? For four years...

Sarajevo Suite tells part of that story with exquisite performances from three women actors from diverse European backgrounds in a poetic work of documentary style theatre.

Three women; two Bosnian and one Serbian, tell their stories of the siege of Sarajevo. They share the small details of their lives, and their great losses. Their stories are vivid and strikingly simple, woven with poetry and music.

Sarajevo Suite is part of La Mama Theatre's *Arts About Us* project, 'Theatre for Our Diverse Community' and will share these experiences of women survivors of war on International Women's Day on 8 March, as part of the Mildura Wentworth Arts Festival.

VicHealth has funded 18 *Arts About Us* projects over three years to develop arts-based programs, shows and exhibitions that celebrate cultural diversity and help people understand the harmful impacts of race-based discrimination.

The performance of *Sarajevo Suite* is part of VicHealth's *Arts About Us* Roadshow, which gives regional communities the opportunity to experience the art-based projects.

"It's important for Victorians to understand that race-based discrimination affects people's health and wellbeing and that we all have a role to play in stopping it," says VicHealth CEO Jerril Rechter.

"Our *Arts About Us* projects such as *Sarajevo Suite* provide a powerful platform for celebrating cultural diversity and strengthening cultural understanding.

"We're excited to be able to bring this performance to Mildura audiences to encourage dialogue about the benefits of cultural diversity and the harm caused by race-based discrimination," she said.

VicHealth's *Arts About Us* Roadshow visits Shepparton, Mildura, Gippsland and Horsham between January and July 2012.

Sarajevo Suite is written by Helen Lucas, directed by Bagryana Popov, performed by Donna Dimovski, Olena Fedorova, Anneli Bjorasen. Anneli has recently been nominated for a Green Room 2011 Award for Excellence for her role in *Sarajevo Suite*.

Sarajevo Suite

Supported by the Mildura Wentworth Arts Festival International Women's Day committee.

Thursday 8 March 2012 at 7.00PM

Venue: MADEC Wesley Church. Corner of Deakin Avenue & 10th Streets, Mildura.

Tickets: \$20 Concession: \$15

Followed by a forum and supper - supplied by Taste of Beirut.

Visit www.arts mildura.com.au

Visit www.artsaboutus.com.au for more information about what's on across Victoria or 'like' the *Arts About Us* Facebook page to keep informed about the program.

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