

## MEDIA RELEASE

### South Australian Pride Hall of Fame Announces Inaugural Inductees: Ian Purcell AM and Vonni

The South Australian Pride Hall of Fame proudly unveils its inaugural inductees, Ian Purcell AM and Vonni. Recognising their extraordinary contributions to the LGBTQIA+ community and culture of South Australia, the induction ceremony will be a highlight of the South Australian Pride Gala, taking over Her Majesty's Theatre on Saturday, June 15 2024.

**Ian Purcell AM**, who sadly passed away in 2016, was a steadfast champion of LGBTQIA+ rights and equality in South Australia for over four decades. He dedicated his life to promoting acceptance, understanding, and inclusivity. His groundbreaking work not only paved the way for legislative reforms but also fostered a more compassionate and welcoming society. Ian's unwavering commitment to social justice and his tireless efforts to empower marginalised communities earned him the Order of Australia Medal, reflecting his profound impact on the state and beyond.

**Vonni** is an iconic figure in South Australia's arts and entertainment scene, captivating audiences with her unparalleled talent, charisma, and authenticity. With a career spanning over three decades, Vonni has graced stages across the globe, leaving an indelible mark with her electrifying performances and boundless creativity. Beyond her artistic achievements, Vonni has been a mentor and advocate for emerging artists, nurturing talent and fostering innovation within the local arts community. Her enduring legacy as a trailblazer and cultural ambassador continues to inspire generations of artists and audiences alike, solidifying her status as a beloved icon of South Australian culture.

The induction ceremony will be held during the **South Australian Pride Gala**, an event that celebrates diversity, inclusion, and the vibrant LGBTQIA+ community in South Australia. The gala will also play host to the South Australian Pride Awards, recognising individuals and organisations that have made significant contributions to advancing LGBTQIA+ rights and visibility in the state. With its glittering festivities and profound significance, the South Australian Pride Gala is poised to become a standout fixture on the state's cultural calendar.

Speaking on behalf of Pride Adelaide, Eric Kuhlmann, Chair of Pride Adelaide, said, "We are thrilled to honour Ian Purcell AM and Vonni as the inaugural inductees into the South Australian Pride Hall of Fame. Their remarkable achievements and unwavering dedication have had a profound impact on our community, and we are delighted to celebrate their legacies at this year's gala."

**Media Contact:**

Dave Newman  
Media Contact, Pride Adelaide  
Email: [hello@prideadelaide.org](mailto:hello@prideadelaide.org)

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## About the South Australian Pride Hall of Fame:

Established to recognise individuals who have made exceptional contributions to the advancement and enrichment of the LGBTQ+ community in South Australia, the South Australian Pride Hall of Fame celebrates excellence across various fields, including arts, culture, community service, and more. Through its induction ceremonies and ongoing initiatives, the Hall of Fame aims to inspire future generations and preserve the legacy of those who have shaped the identity of South Australia.

## About the South Australian Pride Gala:

The South Australian Pride Gala is set to be an annual celebration that embodies the spirit of diversity, inclusion, and pride within South Australia's LGBTQIA+ community. This signature event is not just a vibrant party but a powerful platform that recognises and honours the ongoing efforts and achievements of LGBTQIA+ individuals and allies. Featuring a mixture of live entertainment, heartfelt tributes, and the recognition of community champions through the South Australian Pride Awards, the gala fosters a sense of unity and shared purpose.

By hosting this event, Pride Adelaide continues its commitment to promoting LGBTQIA+ rights, raising awareness about critical issues, and supporting the welfare and happiness of the LGBTQIA+ population. The gala serves as a critical reminder of the vibrant culture and contributions of the LGBTQIA+ community to broader South Australian.

