

Artes Christi presents a new Australian musical by Xavier Brouwer

MACKILLOP

Media Alert

'Looking for Mary': launching Australia's newest musical MACKILLOP

A nation-wide search is on for actors for the new Australian musical **MACKILLOP** which will be launched tomorrow at 10.30am at Mary MacKillop Place, North Sydney. Sr Sheila McCreanor, the Secretary General of the Sisters of St Joseph will launch the campaign along with the composer of the work, Xavier Brouwer and the artistic director of the production, Anthony McCarthy. Damien Smith from Channel 7 will MC the launch.

"There are many characters in the **MACKILLOP** story but most importantly we're looking for Mary" said Anthony McCarthy. "She's Australia's first saint so this is quite literally an 'iconic role'.

"We're also looking for Mary's parents, brothers and sisters, as well as younger actors to the play children in the numerous schools she established. The production also requires three priests, two bishops and a pope - including someone to play Fr Tenison Woods (the co-founder of the Josephites).

MACKILLOP will be staged in October 2010 in Sydney and Melbourne and will include a cast of 60-80 actors plus a live orchestra. The production is being staged by the Sydney-based production company Artes Christi and the show will form part of the celebrations marking the Canonisation of Blessed Mary MacKillop.

MACKILLOP powerfully portrays the story of the life and work of Mary MacKillop, added Sr Sheila McCreanor, Secretary General of the Sisters of St Joseph. "From humble beginnings and overcoming significant struggles, Mary co-founded Australia's first religious order. In her life-time the Josephites then grew to more than 500 Sisters across Australia with the order running over 100 schools as well as numerous other works of charity. She was a true Australian pioneer."

MACKILLOP has been almost 10 years in the making and follows consultation between the composer Xavier Brouwer and a number of Josephite Sisters as well as with Fr Paul Gardiner SJ, the former postulator of the cause of Mary MacKillop. Bringing to life the story of Mary MacKillop has been a labour of love for Xavier Brouwer: "The magnitude of what she achieved is extraordinary - I think even for non-Catholics she's a fascinating figure."

100% of profits from **MACKILLOP** will go to the Mary MacKillop Canonisation Appeal ensuring the production will have an enduring impact with those on the margins of society.

MACKILLOP LAUNCH

When: Tuesday 6 July, 10.30am

Where: Mary MacKillop Place (Mount St, North Sydney)

For further information or comment contact the Producer

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For more information or to hear sample recordings of the music visit

www.mackillop.info

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