

STRADA STRETTA CONCEPT

MALTA 2018
EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF CULTURE



STAR OF STRAIT STREET

POLLY MARCH & LARISSA BONACI
star in a new musical play
by Philip Glassborow

4,5,6 April
at **21:00**

Strada Stretta, Splendid

Musical Director:
Geoff Thomas
Choreographer:
Emma Loftus

Under the artistic direction of
Giuseppe Schembri Bonaci

T H E
MACKINTOSH FOUNDATION

THE PHOENICIA
MILWAUKEE



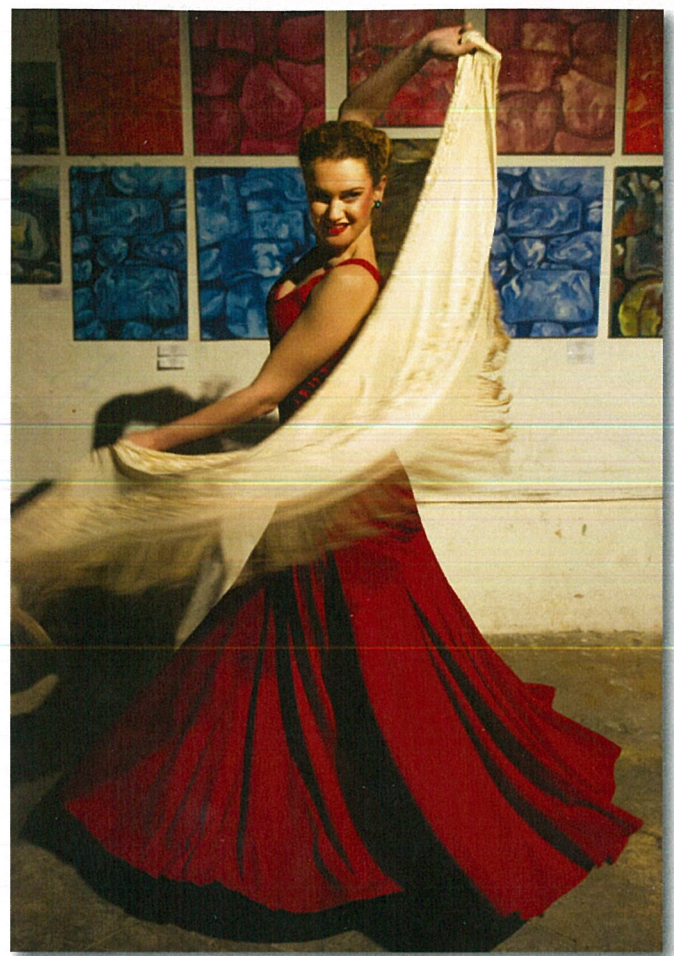
STRAIT STREET – also known as “The Gut” by the sailors on shore leave...

The bars, cafes, dance halls and restaurants of Strait Street were a magnet for visiting servicemen during WW2. It was a vibrant hub of entertainment, featuring artistes from abroad (like the African-American dancer Levy Wine and his Spanish wife Dorothy) alongside popular local stars like the female impersonators ‘Bobby’ and ‘Sugar Ocello’, and contortionist ‘The Sparrow’.





POLLY MARCH plays Christina Ratcliffe in the 1970s...



LARISSA BONACI plays Christina Ratcliffe in the 1940s...

TIMELINE FOR MALTA'S WAR

- Malta's 'greater siege' lasted two years, five months, one week and two days.
- On the very first day, six members of the Royal Malta Artillery were killed at Fort St Elmo, and six Maltese naval personnel in Grand Harbour. In addition, eleven civilians were killed and 130 were injured.
- The island experienced over 3,300 air raids, with almost 1,500 occurring between January and June 1942.
- Malta holds the unenviable record for enduring WW2's heaviest and most sustained period of bombing – lasting 154 consecutive days and nights.
- King George VI awarded the George Cross to Malta on 15 April 1942. 75 years ago.
- By the end of April 1942, 85% of the houses in Floriana, and 75% of those in Valletta, had either been destroyed or damaged.
- Civilian casualties totalled over 5,300. Of those killed, 433 were women and 404 were children.
- The Free French: While most members of the French military accepted the terms of the 1940 Armistice, some – like 19-year old Jacques Méhaus, mentioned in the play – escaped from occupied France and joined Allied fighting units. After the Allied landings in North Africa in 1943, many former Vichy French units also joined the Allies.
- Throughout Malta's war, all fighter and anti-aircraft defences were controlled by No 8 Sector Operations Centre, Royal Air Force Lascaris.
- On 4 June 1943, King George VI awarded the British Empire Medal to six ladies of Lascaris: Miss Irene Arnold, Miss Irene Cameron, Mrs Marigold Fletcher, Mrs Phyllis Frederick, Miss Carmela Galea and Miss Christina Ratcliffe.



Strada Stretta Concept, artistic director Dr Giuseppe Schembri Bonaci, under the auspices of the Valletta 2018 Foundation, presents the world premiere of a new musical play

POLLY MARCH, LARISSA BONACI and GEOFF THOMAS

in

STAR OF STRAIT STREET

by Philip Glassborow

based on the works of Christina Ratcliffe and the book, 'Malta's Greater Siege and Adrian Warburton DSO* DFC** DFC (USA)'

by Paul McDonald OBE.

at **The Splendid, Strada Stretta, Valletta,**
4, 5 and 6 April 2017

In conjunction with the 2017 Maltese Presidency of the Council of the European Union.



Commemorating the 75th anniversary of the award of the George Cross to the people of Malta.

Musical director: Geoff Thomas
Choreographer: Emma Loftus

Assistant Director: Erica Muscat
Lighting & technical assistance at
The Splendid: Jason Masini
Music associates: Elizabeth David,
ARCM, Helen Williams
Hair & make-up styling: Jackie
Grima

Wardrobe: Laura Bonnici
Photography: Justin Mamo
Creative Consultant: Dr Giuseppe
Schembri Bonaci
Media Consultant: Paula Fleri-
Soler

Associate producer: Pat Armitage
Directed by Philip Glassborow

Volunteers at The Splendid
include: Elizabeth Micallef, Sonia
Bezzina, Katel Delia, Melanie
Erixon, Jennifer Icao-Calleja,
Lizzie Glassborow, Moira Davies,
Vladislav Ilich, Ritienne Borg

RAF announcements voiced by
Chris Carnegie
USAF announcement voiced by
Dave Arnold

For Strada Stretta Concept:
Dr Giuseppe Schembri Bonaci,
Melanie Erixon, Katel Delia

For the Valletta 2018 Foundation,
Jason Micallef, Jean Pierre Magro,
Annaliza Borg

Thanks to Mr Vincent Muscat,
Permanent Secretary, Ministry of
Tourism

For The Splendid, Jason Masini,
Marc Cabourdin [ftz.org.mt/
ftz_wp/?page_id=122](http://ftz.org.mt/ftz_wp/?page_id=122)

The producers gratefully
acknowledge the kind assistance
of Mario Farrugia, Chairman &
CEO of Fondazzjoni Wirt Artna,
and the ground-breaking work
of Frederick R. Galea, author of
Women Of Malta and *Carve Malta
On My Heart*.

The production is sponsored by
The Phoenicia Malta and The
Mackintosh Foundation.

Very special thanks to Steve
Trotter for starting off the whole
adventure

Grateful thanks to
John Rhys-Davies

VIP accommodation provided by
The Palace Hotel

Thanks to Peter A. Vella and
Christina Darmanin, "Visit Malta",
Malta Tourist Office

Poster design by Paul Caruana.
Paul Caruana Watercolours –
<http://paul-caruana.net>

Thanks to Ingrid Eomois at The
British Council

Thanks to Steve Vassallo, PRS For
Music, Malta

Thanks to Engelbert Grech and
Jean Pierre Borg at Malta Film
Commission

Thanks to John Borg Barthet,
Stretta Craft Beer
www.strettacraftbeer.com

On-site catering by Il Kapitali,
Valletta www.ilkapitali.com

Thanks to David Caruana,
ABC Stationers & Printers Ltd

Books:

'Women of Malta' and 'Carve Malta
On My Heart' by Frederick R.
Galea...

'Strait Street: Malta's "Red-
Light District" Revealed' by John
Schofield & Emily Morrissey...

'Strada Stretta, "The Gut" Which
For Many Years Lit Up Valletta' by
George Cini

This production will be touring.
To book a performance, please
contact starofstraitstreet@gmail.com
for availability.



Issued at: 18/01/18 09:02:04

TicketLine**NAME:** Marco Galea**CONFIRMATION NUMBER** S193774

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EVENT: The Star of Strait Street**DATE:** Friday 23 February 2018**EVENT STARTS AT:** 19:00**VENUE:** Teatru Salesjan, Tas-Sliema**DOORS OPEN AT:** 18:30**ENTRANCE:****SECTION:** General Admission**ROW:** General Admission**OTHER INFO****PRICE:** € 9.52**VAT:** € 0.48 (5%)**TOTAL:** € 10.00Teatru Salesjan
VAT No MT 1609 6101

VAT Permit 046/18