

**Olivier Award nominee Joanna Murray-Smith to open
Tony Award® winner
Susan Hilferty's**



THE BROADWAY MUSICAL
WICKED
THE UNTOLD STORY OF THE WITCHES OF OZ

PRESENTED BY **ANE**



Costume Sketches Exhibition

Olivier Award nominee Joanna Murray-Smith, Australia's most internationally respected and successful playwright, will open the WICKED Costume Sketches Exhibition of Tony Award® winner Susan Hilferty.

The exhibition, in the Lobby Gallery of Melbourne's Arts Hotel, the Sofitel Melbourne on Collins, will open on Wednesday 4 March from 5.30 to 7 p.m.

Part of L'Oreal Melbourne Fashion Festival Cultural Program, the exhibition will show a range of sketches of Susan Hilferty's Tony Award® winning costumes in **WICKED**. An Emerald City costume will be on display along with fabric samples and Susan Hilferty's notes.

At the opening, four cast members will model costumes from **WICKED**.

Susan Hilferty designs sets and costumes for theatre productions, opera, dance, film and television. She has had three other Tony Award® nominations, has designed 20 productions for Athol Fugard and is currently working with him as co-director and designer. Her work for ballet includes designs for Eliot Field, Alvin Ailey and Jennifer Muller. She has received many awards for her work including the 2001 Obie for Sustained Excellence in Costume Design.

Joanna Murray-Smith, who will talk on costume designing for theatre, has had more plays produced in the West End and on Broadway than any Australian playwright. *Honour* has been staged in both theatre capitals, and like Joanna's *Bombshells*, produced in the West End in 2004, has been seen in dozens of countries.



Susan Hilferty.

Her satire, *The Female of the Species*, recently seen on the West End with Dame Eileen Atkins, and inspired by a recent incident in Germaine Greer's life, has been nominated for this year's Olivier Award for Best New Comedy. Critics and the public applauded (but not Ms Greer).

The critics again applauded when Sir Trevor Nunn commissioned Joanna to adapt Ingmar Bergman's film, *Scenes From a Marriage* for the Belgrade Theatre, and it has been optioned for a London transfer this year. Her next play, *Rockabye* premieres at the MTC this year.

Joanna has worked with many of the world's greatest theatre practitioners, including Meryl Streep, Sam Waterston, Annette Bening, Dame Diana Rigg, Laura Linney and Corin Redgrave.

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**FOR INTERVIEWS WITH SUSAN HILFERTY AND JOANNA MURRAY-SMITH:
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