

## Dick and Christa Hughes

ABOUT AN HOUR

Australia



Photo: Dick and Christa Hughes © KellyAnn Denton

"It's low-down, 24-carat, badass, barrelhouse, bluesy and inimitable Hughesy." **Australian Stage**

"Christa has a knack for the delightfully outrageous. Together they summon up that original spirit many have forgotten about, the force that made this music so edgy and radical when it first came out." **The Age**

"Christa has it in spades and more. Equally, her father Dick is a true stalwart of Australian jazz." **Adelaide Advertiser**

"Great fun!" **Sydney Morning Herald**

Legendary jazz pianist **Dick Hughes** and his singing daughter **Christa Hughes**, share the Sound Lounge stage to transport you back to the explosive jazz and blues scene of the 1920s and 30s for just four nights this January.

The father and daughter duo first started performing together in the 1980s when Christa was still a teenager. Dick would pound the beer-soaked piano as Christa belted out the blues every Sunday at the Shakespeare Hotel in Surry Hills. It wasn't until much later in 2010 that they started performing again and finally released their ARIA-nominated debut album *21st Century Blues* in 2010, which they toured around Australia. The album is a collection of jazz and blues songs from the roaring jazz age, including compositions by **Bessie Smith, Memphis Slim** and **Jelly Roll Morton**. This unconventional but highly compatible duo brings their boozy blend of 21st-century blues and cabaret to Sydney Festival in celebration of the city where their shows first began.

An undisputed legend of the Australian jazz scene, Dick Hughes was forbidden by his grandmother to listen to the coarse and radical music he so reveres. Hughes is a veteran broadcaster, who has presented his *Speakeasy Swing Hard* jazz program for years on Classic FM Radio. He was also the first to play jazz solo piano at the Sydney Opera House, and the first Australian author of a book about jazz.

Christa spent many years overseas singing and performing in New York, London, Edinburgh, Hong Kong and Shanghai. Christa returned to Australia in 2000 and wrote and performed her cabaret shows, including *Beer Drinking Woman*, and was commissioned by the Sydney Opera House to write and perform *Sleepless Beauty*. Christa (aka KK JUGGY) joined rock band Machine Gun Fellatio before she became the singing ring mistress for *Circus Oz*.

Together, Dick and Christa have toured around the country and have performed sold-out shows at the Sydney Opera House, the Adelaide Cabaret Festival, Darwin Festival, His Majesty's Theatre Perth, the Melbourne Jazz Festival and The Famous Spiegeltent.

They have been featured along with grandfather, and great-grandfather **Richard Hughes** in Brendan Young's A.F.I award-winning film *You Only Live Twice - The Incredibly True Story Of The Hughes Family*, screened on the ABC. Dick and Christa have also appeared on TV including performances on *Spicks 'n' Specks* (ABC), *The Sideshow* (ABC), *The Circle* (Ten) and *The Late Sessions* (SBS).

## MEDIA RELEASE

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# SYDNEY FESTIVAL 2015

8-26 JAN

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After three decades of playing together, the Hughes' shows are only getting wilder and rowdier so hold onto your seats, your hats and your healthy appreciation for the slightly saucy.

Where            Sound Lounge, Seymour Centre

When            15 January at 7pm  
                    16 January at 6pm  
                    17 & 18 January at 6.30pm

Price            \$35 General Admission

Duration        60minutes no interval

Bookings        Sydney Festival 1300 856 876  
                    Seymour Centre 02 9351 7940  
                    [sydneyfestival.org.au/hughes](http://sydneyfestival.org.au/hughes)

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