



KATE CEBERANO

I'm Talking Reunite at Live at the Foreshore

➔ **WORDS** MICHELLE MEEHAN - *Features Writer*

After more than 35 years in the music industry, everything old is seemingly new again for celebrated Aussie songstress **Kate Ceberano**.

The award-winning pop icon has gone back to her musical roots, linking up with her first band, *I'm Talking*, to hit the road on a reunion tour that coincides with the 30th anniversary of their debut album *Bear Witness*.

I'm Talking will be supporting sophisticated British crooner Bryan Ferry as he headlines *A Day on the Green* shows throughout February and March in Perth, Victoria's Yarra Valley and Mt Cotton in Queensland.

Australian '80s alt-rock groups *Died Pretty* and *Models*, who Ceberano sang back-up vocals for as a teenager, will also feature on the bill.

Ceberano will step back into the lead vocal role for *I'm Talking* alongside fellow vocalist Zan Abeyratne, with original band members Robert Goodge, Barbara Hogarth and Stephen Charlesworth also back in the line-up.

But while it has been more than three decades since she hit the spotlight as a talented 15-year-old singing hits such as *Trust Me*, *Do You Wanna Be?* and *Holy Word*, the now 52-year-old told *intouch Magazine* late last year that the music still feels fresh and new.

"*I'm Talking* start rehearsing this week, and we haven't been together in the same room for 30 years," Ceberano said.

"But that was so exciting because, after 30 years, material that had seemed so stale and so disinteresting in the 80s to me was suddenly just so charming.

"It's almost archival. We're like, 'Oh, it's like we've been in a cryogenic cabin for 30 years!' It's amazing; it's so fresh.

"We were just this sort of art-funk-punk-band (when we started), and it's still as artful and funky and punk as it ever was. It's amazing."

I'm Talking formed in Melbourne in 1983. Their debut album included three top 10 singles and achieved platinum status, while also scoring them the Best New Talent gong

at the 1984 Countdown Awards. This was followed by Best Female Artist awards for Ceberano at the '85 and '86 Countdown Awards.

The band was lauded for pioneering a New York-style art-pop sound in Australia, but despite their early success Ceberano left a year later to pursue her solo career, and *I'm Talking* disbanded, with just the one official release to their credit.

But with the original line-up once again feeling the chemistry of performing together as they prepare for their *A Day on the Green* gigs, Ceberano said there was no telling what might come of the reunion, including the possibility of new music.

"Ooh, I hope so! I hope so! I can't commit to that without having consulted the band, but... I think it'll be irresistible; we won't be able to resist," she said.

"It's amazing, it's so delightful (being back together). It's like, for yourself if you've ever looked back on photographs and gone, 'Oh, God, I hate that photograph?' But then, if you give it enough time, you look at it and go, 'Aww, look at who I was, how cute!' We're very proud of the group it's going to be a lot of fun."

However, the upcoming tour with Bryan Ferry is just one of the many projects already on the table for Ceberano in 2019.

Having carved out an enviable solo career over the years since leaving *I'm Talking*, Ceberano is never short of a gig, while her passion for creating original music across a whole range of genres remains as strong as ever.

In the next two months alone Ceberano has ten different shows lined up, including co-headlining the massive **Live at the Foreshore** event on **March 16** alongside fellow Australian music icons **Leo Sayer**, **Marcia Hines** and **The Divinyls**, who will all perform full sets.

A host of supporting acts will also perform some of their greatest hits throughout the day to really get the party started on the picturesque Newcastle Foreshore.

The Badloves will bring their *Green Limousine* vibes to the stage, while Shannon Noll is sure to spark a huge singalong with hits *What About Me* and *Lift* blasting out of the speakers at full force. 1927 return to perform singles *That's When I Think Of You* and *If I Could*, while Pseudo Echo is sure to have the crowd on their feet with the iconic synth sounds of *Funky Town*.

Thirsty Merc, Wendy Matthews, Eurogliders, MI-SEX, Boom Crash Opera's Dale Ryder and Newcastle legends DV8 will round out the line-up during what will be an epic return to the city's music festival calendar for *Live at the Foreshore* after its one-year hiatus.

Ceberano said she was looking forward to sharing the bill with so many awesome acts, many of whom she has played alongside time and again over the years.

"Most of the year is booked ahead already, and I have several tours, the one with *I'm Talking*, and then, later on, there's a big secret tour coming up, and then Paul Grabowsky (pianist) and I will do a tour for our jazz record together. I'll also spend a bit more time overseas," she said.

"So now is the time I've just got to get myself gig fit and a concert like *Live at the Foreshore* is one of those things that allows me to get back in with my community of artists (after the Christmas break).

"I love all those people that I'm sharing the bill with. They're genuine people that I've worked with and admire, and I just like hanging out with, so in actual fact, the gig is almost like a little bit of a play date for me.

"And consequently, when you do get us all like that, and we all sort of have mutual play dates, it's kinda good vibes. It's very difficult to make that feel anything less than joyfull."

Aside from her packed touring schedule, Ceberano is also looking forward to releasing several new albums of music this



year, including one with Steve Kilbey from seminal Australian rock band The Church, as well as a jazz-based collaboration with award-winning pianist and composer Paul Grabowsky.

The diversity of the musical releases is typical of Ceberano, who has spent her entire career refusing to be defined by one style.

"I guess the one valuable thing I've been afforded, is that I've escaped definition and for an artist, I think that's freedom," she said.

"I think for me that's really good because I haven't yet decided who I want to be."
"The only times I've ever had any regrets in my life is when I assumed someone else knew better than me about my own taste."
"There's just no way that someone can be on the inside of your head, and hear things the way you hear it, or taste, or
(Continued next page) ►



“ Biggins almost out-Keaters Keating... If only we had someone this clever running the country. ”

Lloyd Bradford Syke, Crikey



CIVIC THEATRE
NEWCASTLE

SOFT TREAD ENTERPRISES

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO PAUL

A new comedy about a critical time in Australian history and the man that shaped it.

Thurs 7 Mar 8pm
Civic Theatre

BROUGHT TO NEWCASTLE BY
SWS
LAWYERS



Box Office Call 4929 1977 or visit civictheatrenewcastle.com.au





sense, or experience. So, why would you give them all that power? And then you're the only one that's standing there to take the criticism. It's someone else's take but shit man, well I'm sorry, you're to blame.

Staying true herself and refusing to be pigeonholed has certainly ensured an interesting and diverse career for Ceberano.

After going solo in 1987, she earned plenty of praise for her jazz, pop and soul repertoire, winning Best Female Artist at the '88 and '89 ARIA awards, with her triple platinum album, *Brave*, nominated as ARIA Album of the Year.

Brave was the 20th highest-selling album in Australia during the 1980's, with her hit single *Bedroom Eyes* the fifth highest-selling single in Australia in 1989 and the highest-selling single by an Australian artist that year.

Ceberano's string of accolades continued in 1990 when she took home three Mo Awards for the best Jazz Performer, Female Rock Performer and Contemporary Concert Performer

of the Year – once again proving her vocal versatility and ability to blur the lines between genres.

She changed tack slightly in 1992 when she hit the stage to perform the role of Mary Magdalene in the musical *Jesus Christ Superstar*. The show's star-studded cast, which included Australian icon John Farnham, toured nationally, performing over 80 arena shows, with the subsequent stage show album release becoming the biggest hit of the year after earning four times platinum status.

She followed this success with her first foray into television, hosting a late-night cabaret show on the ABC called *Kate Ceberano and Friends*, while years later she was one of three celebrity judges on the inaugural series of *X Factor Australia* (2005), with Mark Holden and John Reid. She has also appeared on *Dancing with the Stars* (2007), *It Takes Two* (2007 and 2008) and the SBS series *Who Do You Think You Are?* which examined her family tree and musical career. In 2011 she was a presenter on the *Getaway* travel series on Channel 9 and was later announced as the host of the network's new television series *Excess Baggage*.

Over the years she has also made the step up into film work, playing Jenna in *Dust off the Wings*, which was directed by her husband Lee Rogers, as well as starring in the 1999 movie *Molokai: The Story of Father Damien*, which was directed by Paul Cox.

However, music has always remained her core focus, and since hitting the spotlight, she has barely drawn breath, racking up 25 albums over 35 years to become the most prolific Australian female recording artist of this era.

In 2014 Ceberano became the first – and only – Australian woman to be inducted into the Australian Songwriters' Association (ASA) Hall of Fame. Then two years later she was awarded a member of the Order of Australia on the Queen's



Wendy Matthews will be performing at Live at the Foreshore on March 16.

Birthday Honours List for significant service to the performing arts and charitable organisations such as the National Breast Cancer Foundation, for whom she was the Victorian Ambassador.

While longevity and relevance are issues every artist has to face, Ceberano's career remains as strong as ever as she approaches her fourth decade in the business.

“You know, I can't speak for all the other artists of my age, but I just love that we were writing original music, and those ►

DON'T MISS THE JETS PLAY IN THE AFC CHAMPION'S LEAGUE

+ THREE EPIC HYUNDAI A-LEAGUE GAMES THIS MONTH AT MCDONALD JONES STADIUM



JETS v PHOENIX

KICK-OFF: 7.50pm

at McDonald Jones Stadium



JETS v CITY

KICK-OFF: 7.50pm

at McDonald Jones Stadium



JETS v PRELIMINARY STAGE 1 WINNER

KICK-OFF: 7.00pm

at McDonald Jones Stadium



JETS v ADELAIDE

KICK-OFF: 5.00pm

at McDonald Jones Stadium



NON-STOP FOOTBALL ACTION
PURCHASE TICKETS NOW AT NEWCASTLEJETS.COM.AU



original songs became hits, and they've become impressed into the whole landscape of Australian music," she said.

"I don't really know what the chemistry is that makes a song stick with us, but I do know that very specific songs were the soundtracks of people's lives.

"All my life I was a champion for having new material out there all the time, especially original material. I was showing up every Saturday for *Countdown*, and I'd watch all the bands that came from Europe and America, and I just decided by the time I was 16 that I want to make a life's worth of work.

"And I think you kind of have to start almost that far back, you know, you sort of have to keep working at it. So, with I'm Talking we had five top-10 hits off that record and then shortly after that I had another five top-10 hits off my solo record.

"You sort of build up your momentum so that, at a certain point, you don't kind of ever go away, you've created this space for yourself in the history of the music of your place.

"That's what I see as being the alchemy behind an artist's longevity."

Growing as an artist and exploring different voices, different styles and different directions is also crucial to a long, successful career according to Ceberano, who is looking forward to whatever comes next in her musical journey.

"When you are writing original music, you're constantly striving to outdo yourself, or out-best an interest that you've had," she said.

"If you put together a profile of an artist's life, and especially someone like me whose career stretches over 30 years, my first concerns were adolescent, and to do with love and heartbreak. And then the next was about the journey in my 20's, you know, about who I was going to become, what my life might be.

"Then in your 30's, you're considering children, and connections with partners, and whether you can live beyond society's expectations.

"So you're sort of singing for all of the different decades of your life, for all the different people who are joining you on that journey.

"And that's what keeps you interested in your career because you're literally diarising your experiences.

"I look at people like Sharon Jones and the Dapto Kings, and I look at other artists who have reached a certain age, and there is a shelf where women, you know I don't mean to be sexist, but this is particularly true for me at 50 plus, you become a lot more consolidated about who you are, and you're less inclined to be influenced by others.

"I think that's a very sturdy and lovely place to start a brand new part of a career. You just can't be pushed around or, as I said, influenced. It's just whatever turns you on.

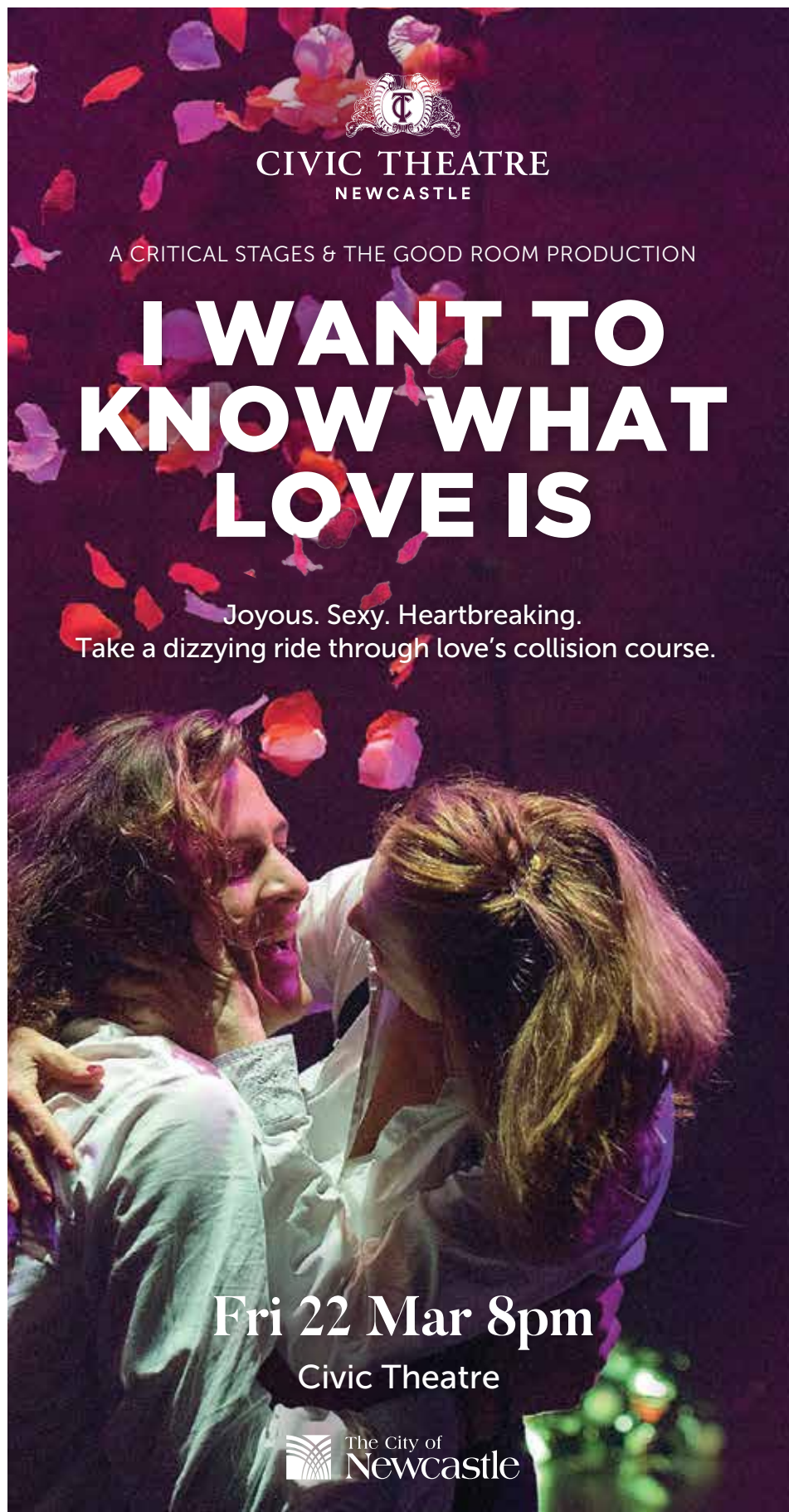
"And I think maybe I've been living my whole life to get here."

Live at the Foreshore featuring Kate Ceberano, Leo Sayer, Marica Hines, The Divinyls and more will be held on the Newcastle Foreshore on **Saturday, March 16**. For more information or to buy tickets visit www.liveattheforeshore.com.au ■

WIN!

Thanks to the team at *Live at the Foreshore*, we have a **double pass** to give away to one lucky reader. Visit the Giveaways page at www.intouchmagazine.com.au for your chance to win! Entries close February 28, 2019.

Leo Sayer will be performing at Live at the Foreshore on March 16.



CIVIC THEATRE
NEWCASTLE

A CRITICAL STAGES & THE GOOD ROOM PRODUCTION

I WANT TO KNOW WHAT LOVE IS

Joyous. Sexy. Heartbreaking.
Take a dizzying ride through love's collision course.

Fri 22 Mar 8pm
Civic Theatre

The City of Newcastle

TICKETEK Box Office Call 4929 1977 or visit civictheatrenewcastle.com.au  



This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body.