

# TWO OLD QUEENS

*Two Old Queens* is a highly entertaining and extremely stylish mainstream show for two actors and piano accompanist from one of Australia's newest production houses, Mirage Makers.

*Two Old Queens* is a musical play that celebrates the friendship between Her Majesty The Queen Mother and theatre legend, Sir Noël Coward. Co-devised by John Senczuk and John Michael Swinbank, the work has its origins in Swinbank's cabaret career and his fascination with the work of the famous playwright and composer.

Set in the foyer of the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane in 1998 on the real occasion of the Queen Mother's unveiling of a life-sized bronze statue of Coward (25 years after his death), the Queen Mother inadvertently causes the supernatural comeback of his 'blithe' but cranky spirit.

Over a martini or two ... or three, they resume their friendship and relive a half-century of magical memories and musical moments, as well as revealing jealously guarded secrets and long-held grudges.

*Two Old Queens* is much more than just a biographical work. As it unfolds, it becomes a comic and poignant meditation on the very nature of friendship and how old friends stick together even when they're falling apart. They know that telling the truth is vital to any relationship, but when it should be told or not is another thing!


*Two Old Queens* was first produced by Mirage Makers at The Blue Room Studio, Perth to a sell-out season in October 2007, winning The Blue Room Best Box Office Award 2008. In 2008 the show transferred to the Subiaco Arts Centre in 2008, and toured to Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney.

The original cast was John Michael Swinbank as Sir Noël and Edgar Metcalfe as HM The Queen Mother. Metcalfe's performance was awarded a 2008 Horatio (Adelaide) for Best Character Study, and nominated for a Best Actor Award in the 2008 WA Equity Guild Awards. The Director of Riverside Theatres, Robert Love exclaimed "*Two Old Queens* is a touring show made in heaven!"

*"A right royal outrageous riot!"*  
- The Sunday Mail

*"Two Old Queens is a touring show made in heaven."*  
- Robert Love



<b>Contact details</b>		<b>Previous presenters</b>
<b>MIRAGE MAKERS:</b> +61 8 9328 4588 info@miragecorporation.com Website <a href="http://www.miragecorporation.com">www.miragecorporation.com</a>		Robert Love, <i>Director</i> Riverside Theatres, Sydney (+61 2) 8839-3350 rlove_riverside@parracity.nsw.gov.au
<b>Specifications</b>		Rachel Fothergill, <i>Manager</i> Chapel Off Chapel, Melbourne (+61 3) 8290 7007 RFotherg@stonnington.vic.gov.au
<b>Target audience:</b> Mainstream, traditional theatre audiences, 40+, baby boomers, English & Commonwealth expatriates, seniors, G&L community, professionals.	<b>Stage requirements:</b> - Min stage size: 5/6m deep with black tabs at upstage extreme and width of at least 5m - 2 x dressing rooms (air-conditioned), one large enough to fit two cast members comfortably and separate room for Musical Director - 3 Phase Power – 60amp - Grand piano (black) – tuned A-440 <b>OR</b> Yamaha P300 or similar - Steaming unit and iron – with drycleaners in locality	 <b>MIRAGE MAKERS</b>
<b>Running Times:</b> 80 minutes <b>Entourage:</b> 3 Cast, 2 Crew <b>Bump in / out:</b> 6 hours / 2 hour <b>Venue:</b> Theatres (<500)		