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**human,...right?**



**Human,...right?** A CONCERT PROMOTING INTERNATIONAL PEACE, THE MIDDLE EAST, GUANTANAMO CLOSURE, THE LIBERTY AND PROTECTION OF WRITERS, MUSICIANS & ARTISTS – A FUNDRAISER FOR INTERNATIONAL PEN, Melbourne.

**ST.KILDA TOWN HALL, FEBRUARY 16<sup>TH</sup> 2009, @ 7:30pm (\$50/\$40)**

International PEN, an organization dedicated to the welfare and freedoms of writers across the world who are subject to persecution and torture, together with internationally acclaimed, award winning virtuoso pianist, Australian born, **WARREN WILLS** are putting together an extraordinary event; 'a musical celebration of peace across borders'. This is a unique concert that ties in with the campaign of International PEN centers in Australia who are involved in freeing Melbourne journalist, Harry Nicolaidis, imprisoned in Thailand.

The president of the Melbourne Centre of International PEN, **Arnold Zable**, who has co-ordinated the PEN campaign, has pointed out that as far as International PEN are aware, this is the first time an Australian writer has been imprisoned overseas for the peaceful expression of his views. He has also highlighted ongoing campaigns on behalf of writers worldwide who are currently imprisoned, threatened, exiled and persecuted for the peaceful pursuit of their craft.

The evening is presented by **WARREN WILLS**, who has worked in projects over the past two years with the Royal Shakespeare Company, Margaret Atwood, Woody Allen, Hong Kong City Festival, and in the Middle East, Beirut and Cairo, as well as being a virtuoso in National Styles, particularly, Jewish and Arabic. The current conflict in Gaza will be viewed from the perspective of finding common ground among all parties in the dispute, through the cultural ties that unite, rather than divide. The starting point in any successful outcome of the dispute remains a mutual acknowledgement of our common humanity.

Warren's performances are interspersed with readings by celebrated author **Arnold Zable**, and Iraqi actor, **Majid Shokor**, and a sneak-preview of the trailer '**On the Banks of the Tigris**' a documentary film currently in production, in which Majid Shokor explores the suppressed history of Jewish, Islamic and Christian Iraqis who performed, composed and worked together in pre-Saddam Iraq. **Special guest appearances include guitar sensation, SLAVA GRIGORYAN**, MTC/Billy Elliot actor, **Richard Piper**, Australian-Spanish comic actor, **Simon Palomares**, singer/songwriter folk legend, **JOE DOLCE**, renowned Klezmer violinist, **Ernie Gruner**, Greek-Australian singer/songwriter, **Anthea Sidiropoulos**, singer/songwriters **Phil Splitter** and **Susie Davies-Splitter** and highly respected **Mutti Mutti Man, KUTCHA EDWARDS**.

The show will form part of an international endeavor by Warren to highlight the peoples, of the Middle East and explore through music, the commonalities which bring people of the world and specifically from this region, together.

**Human,...right? is a celebration and a fundraiser for international PEN, Melbourne**, coordinated by singer Anthea Sidiropoulos in order to catch the winds of change, during this extraordinary time of recent inauguration of Barak Obama and Warren's brief trip to these shores.

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