

ALIVE

NOTICE BOARD

by Chris Urankar

ALIVESYDNEY.COM.AU

A LINE-UP OF THE BEST EVENTS IN TOWN



MY WEEKEND

TARA DENNIS

Plus! Soho spokeswoman (plush.com.au), interior designer, decorator and presenter on Channel 7's *Better Homes and Gardens*

Favourite Sydney restaurant: Still loving *Bothers Pavilion*, great food, amazing location.

Cafe: *Cafe Sopra*, *Danks St Waterloo*. Amazing food and very informal. You can then just pop downstairs for some delicious pantry essentials.

Bar: *Soho Bar & Lounge*, *Victoria St Potts Point*. Very cool – relaxed, elegant and of course, love the decor!

Club: Can I sound a little boring here and say it's been while since my clubbing days – the only club I've seen lately is *kid's club*.

Special Sydney place: Without a doubt, home first, followed by any one of Sydney's glorious beaches.

Best Sydney deal: A ticket on the *Manly ferry* – what a small price to pay for such a fantastic view

SOUNDS OF MUSIC

Live music has made a triumphant return to Double Bay – and who better to lead the charge than the adored *Monica Trapaga*.

Affectionately dubbed “the heart and soul” of Double Bay, the *Cosmopolitan Cafe* is an institution of the stylish suburb and is reopening after a fresh makeover. *Monica Trapaga* is headlining the reintroduction.

Still very much the place to be seen and also one of the only places to enjoy live music in the suburb, the *Cosmopolitan Cafe* is building on its 40-year history with exciting live acts such as *Trapaga* making full use of the incredible acoustics of the piano bar.

“We can never have too many live venues in Sydney,” *Trapaga* says.

“When I started performing 25 years ago we used to perform every night of the week, but sadly licensing laws and poker machines have killed off so many great venues. I really hope the eastsiders come along and enjoy the *Cosmo* and live music – we need to support these places and bring back some good old-fashioned entertainment.”

Audiences can expect *Trapaga's* strong cabaret element in her show, teamed with a love of jazz and a twisted sense of humour.

“I’m always thrilled to play live in Sydney whether it’s in the *State Theatre* or a more intimate room like the *Cosmo*. In all honesty sometimes the cosier the room the better. I like getting up close and personal with my audience,” *Trapaga* says.

Monica Trapaga and Encore play at the Cosmopolitan Cafe on Saturday, March 27. 7pm. \$65 (dinner and show). moshix.com.au



HOT TICKETS

STADIUM SPECTACULAR: Cue the superlatives because *Ben Hur* is coming to ANZ Stadium and it's the biggest theatrical event ever seen in Australia. It's been described as a biblically grand event that combines the spectacle of the Sydney Olympic Games Opening Ceremony with the most famous classic film starring *Charlton Heston*. October 22 and 23. \$69-\$292. ticketek.com.au

COMEDY: *Il Dago* is back, and this time with an Asian persuasion. The wildly popular comedy stand up show featuring the talents of *Joe Avati*, *George Kapiniaris*, *Simon Palomares* and “wok boy” *Jason Chong* is a hilarious look back at growing up in multicultural Australia. May 15 at *North Sydney Leagues Club*. ildago.com.au

“I COULD NEVER WEAR ANYTHING LADY GAGA WEARS”

FRANZINA CONFESSES SHE CAN'T COMPETE WITH THE REIGNING QUEEN OF WACKY OUTFITS.



GIVEAWAY

STEALTH CRUISES

Put down the BlackBerry and call your girlfriends for a fun ladies' night out with just the right amount of naughtiness. *Stealth Cruises* is launching a dining experience with an all *Male Revue* show on April 10.

Stealth Cruises and *NINETOFIVE* are giving you the chance to win the *Ultimate Ladies' Night Out* package for you and NINE of your girlfriends! We're giving away five packages for the April 10 cruise worth \$990 each. A further 50 runners-up will receive VIP members passes giving you a 10% discount on any booking.

To enter, simply tell us about your most memorable girls night out – funny or embarrassing stories get brownie points!

Enter at: alivesydney.com.au

VS MACBETH

Sam Haren directs a fresh take on Shakespeare's great play with a focus on the larger anxieties associated with the play's superstitious history as a work prone to accidents and mistakes. At *Sydney Theatre* until April 3. \$25-\$40. sydneytheatre.com.au

TWO SHOWS

Fresh from appearing at the *Laneway Festival*, *Philadelphia Grand Jury* is performing two shows at the *Oxford Art Factory* with support from *The John Steel Singers*. The new single from *Philadelphia Grand Jury* is the instantly catchy *I Don't Want To Party (Party)* released to iTunes today. April 15 and 16. moshix.com.au

OLYMPICS TORCH RUN

Register online to be part of the *Law Enforcement Torch Run* for the *Special Olympics* to be held in Athens in 2011. The CBD torch run will be on Tuesday, March 30 starting at 10am at the *Opera House*. To be part of this fulfilling and supportive event register online at runwiththelaw.com.au.