

Contact: Jane Cox
Governors State University
Phone: (708) 235.2811
Email: jcox1@govst.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Greatest Love of All: A Tribute to Whitney Houston Starring Belinda Davids Comes to Governors State University

January 13, 2020 (University Park, IL) — Showtime Australia's acclaimed tribute concert *The Greatest Love of All: A Tribute to Whitney Houston starring Belinda Davids* comes to Governors State University Center for Performing Arts on Saturday, February 8 at 8 p.m.

The Greatest Love of All is embarking on its second U.S. tour in as many years, following rave reviews. Producer and director Johnny Van Grinsven explains, "...the overwhelming reaction we got...was a surprise. So many people said they weren't expecting that level of show, and people who haven't seen Belinda before are always shocked to hear her voice in real life because it really is unique. But now that they've heard her firsthand they can't get enough of it and that's why we're coming back to the U.S. so soon – pure demand."

Born in South Africa, and growing up in the turbulent 1980s during apartheid, as a girl of color, Davids' dreamt not only of a singing career but also of achieving respect and dignity as an artist, a woman, and a human. For Davids, Whitney Houston was a symbol of hope. Their similar backgrounds with R&B and gospel – both taught to sing in church – drew Davids to Houston's musical style. In Davids' young adulthood, she carved out a spot as a RiSA chart-topping soloist but the similarities between Davids' voice and appearance to Houston hindered her solo career.

Everything changed in 2013 when Davids beat out nearly 15,000 other hopefuls to become the principal vocalist and star of Showtime Australia's stage production *The Greatest Love of All*, a concert in tribute to Whitney Houston. After six years touring with *The Greatest Love of All*, Davids counts appearances on BBC TV's *Even Better Than the Real Thing* and Fox TV's *Showtime at the Apollo* as highlights of her career.

A five-piece band, backing vocalists, a troupe of choreographed dancers, and acrobats accompany Davids in this full-scale production, featuring state-of-the-art sound, custom-designed lighting, and delicately hand-crafted gowns and costumes.

Houston's most memorable tunes will receive Davids' vocal treatment during the two-hour long production, including pop highlights "I Wanna Dance With Somebody", "How Will I Know", and "I'm Every Woman" as well as iconic ballads "I Have Nothing", "Didn't We Almost Have it All", "Run to You", "One Moment in Time", and "I Will Always Love You".

Davids says, “U.S. audiences are amazing, they truly appreciate Whitney’s legacy and her music is very personal to them and you can feel that from the stage. To look out and see people feeling every note and nuance and emotion that you sing is so intimate. That’s what it’s all about.”

This night out is perfect for an early Valentine’s Day surprise. You can treat your date to the **Share Your Love Valentine’s Reception** from 6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. for \$50 per person. The reception includes sumptuous and savory food complemented by four wine flights (2 oz samples) plus a full glass of your favorite.

The Greatest Love of All is generously sponsored by First Midwest Bank.

Tickets for *The Greatest Love of All* are \$45-\$60 and can be purchased at CenterTickets.net, at the Box Office, or by phone at 708.235.2222. Discounts are available for students, children, seniors 65+, groups of 10+, and patrons purchasing three or more shows.

Box Office: 1 University Parkway, University Park, IL Hours: Monday - Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and two hours prior to all performances.

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Parking is free. For best GPS directions, use the location search term “Governors State University.”

About GSU Center for Performing Arts

The Center for Performing Arts (CPA) serves over 50,000 patrons annually, offering diverse, high-quality, and affordable cultural and arts education experiences. CPA presents concerts, dance, theatre, opera, and family programs from national touring acts, Chicago-based artists, and community and academic theatre as part of the Governors State University Theatre and Performance Studies program.

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GSU is located 35 miles south of Chicago in University Park, IL and is celebrating its 50th anniversary. GSU serves over 5,000 undergraduate and graduate students per school year with degree programs that prepare them for success in business, industry, healthcare, the arts, and education. As a state university, GSU is committed to providing high-quality, accessible, and responsible higher education opportunities and committed to embracing diversity and academic excellence while transforming student passion into lifelong purpose.