

WE ARE AUSTRALIA



The Minh Duong Story

We Are Australia - The Minh Duong Story

A professional cast of performers coming together to tell the story of Minh Duong relay his devastating heart-breaking, inspiring and courageous journey. Minh's story is told through a powerful mix of song, dance and audio visual art all specifically chosen to represent each important part of the story. The finale of the show has Minh appearing from the curtains, taking his place centre stage and performing 2 original pieces of music on piano.

The Minh Duong Story

Minh Duong, a Vietnamese student studying in Australia was walking home after work in 2012 when he was brutally attacked. Three members of a neo-Nazi group bashed Minh with a brick using such force that the brick broke in half, leaving him to die in the gutter. Minh was taken to hospital in a critical condition and miraculously survived the unprovoked attack.

Adrian De Luca watched Minh's story on the news. Adrian was touched by what Minh had been through and felt compelled to help in whatever way he could. As a musician, Adrian understood the healing power of music. He contacted Minh and offered him free music lessons, telling him that "music will make you feel better". Minh had accepted his gift, reflecting later that the kindness changed his life forever. After the attack Minh had lost all confidence. "I felt sad and depressed with no hope", he said... until Adrian came along. Adrian says that the reason he teaches music is to change lives and bring hope. Music is leading Minh to find peace and trust in humanity again. "It is learning to "keep hope, keep trust and say no racism".

Adrian encouraged Minh to continue his studies when he wanted to give up and return to Vietnam. However, Minh's studies came to an abrupt halt when the Department of Immigration unexpectedly cancelled his student visa and banned him from re-entering Australia for three years. Adrian recalls walking through the airport with Minh quietly sobbing and saying "I can't finish my studies". Adrian made Minh a promise that he would get him back into the country.

Julian Burnside, known for his staunch opposition to the mandatory detention of asylum seekers supported Minh's case on national television. Gun Lawyer David Bongiorno offered pro-bono representation working tirelessly and pairing with Scott Morrison's office as well as several critical in the Chai Minh. While Adrian began a petition for the reinstatement of Minh's visa collecting 89,740 signatures. The Australian Minister for Immigration and Border Protection, Scott Morrison, then responded personally to Minh's case. Minh was granted a new visa and on March 1 2014 returned to Australia to begin the final year of his Bachelor of Accounting.

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Original pieces and musical renditions performed by Lorenzo Iannotti, Nikki Delaynii & Minh Duong

1. The Prayer performed by Lorenzo Iannotti & Nikki Delaynii
Written by David Foster, Carole Bayer Sager, Alberto Testa & Tony Renis
2. Ave Maria performed by Lorenzo Iannotti
Written by Franz Schubert
3. I Dreamed a Dream performed by Nikki Delaynii
Written by Claude-Michel Schönberg, Orchestrations by John Cameron & Lyrics by Herbert Kretzmer
4. Bring Him Home performed by Lorenzo Iannotti
Written by Claude-Michel Schönberg, Alain Boublil & Herbert Kretzmer
5. This is the Moment performed by Lorenzo Iannotti
Written by Frank Wilhom & Leslie Bricusse
6. Minh's Smile performed by Minh Duong
Written by Adrian De Luca & Lee Iannotti
7. Minh's Tear performed by Minh Duong
Written by Adrian De Luca



We Are Australia was established to assist international students that come across adverse, unfair situations whilst studying in Australia. The foundation was established to promote, celebrate and assist international students throughout their time in Australia. We Are Australia believes that individuals have the right to feel safe and comfortable whilst studying in Australia, without the fear of racism, discrimination and inequality.

www.wereaustralia.org



Bloom Entertainment by Design is a boutique entertainment service representing Melbourne based entertainers.

Bloom has a passion for working and supporting community programs with a history of involvement in charity events.

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