



Harris Center

Three Stages at Folsom Lake College

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REMEMBERING WHITNEY HOUSTON IN *THE GREATEST LOVE OF ALL*

*Star Belinda Davids' ability to perform Whitney Houston's music
has been wowing audiences worldwide since 2013.*

(July 30, 2018, Folsom, CA) The story goes that Belinda Davids, who performs the role of Whitney Houston in the tribute concert *The Greatest Love of All*, was performing "I Will Always Love You" in a hotel in Hong Kong. Her performance was so spot-on accurate that she was asked to sing a cappella by the audience, who evidently suspected her of lip-syncing to a recording of Whitney Houston. Ms. Davids, who has no need to lip-sync (yes, she's *that* good), received a standing ovation that night in Hong Kong.

The Harris Center is proud to present ***The Greatest Love of All – A Tribute to Whitney Houston Starring Belinda Davids***, a no-holds barred tribute to one of the world's most revered singers. The song list includes "I Will Always Love You," "I Wanna Dance With Somebody," "How Will I Know," "One Moment in Time," "I Have Nothing," "Run to You," "Didn't We Almost Have It All," "Greatest Love of All," "I'm Every Woman," "Queen of the Night," "Exhale (Shoop Shoop)," "Million Dollar Bill" and other chart-topping hits.

Ms. Davids will be accompanied by a live band, backing vocalists and choreographed dancers, plus state-of-the-art sound, lighting, vision and theatrical effects for a beautifully crafted show, an evening of "vocal power, precision and an exceptional range that are a perfect match for Whitney's power ballads" (*Herald Sun*, 2018).

The Greatest Love of All – A Tribute to Whitney Houston Starring Belinda Davids comes to the Harris Center's Stage One for two performances: Tuesday, September 4, 2018 at 7:30 pm and Wednesday, September 5 at 7:30 pm. Tickets are \$38-\$58; Premium \$68. A \$28 student discount price is available. Tickets are available online at www.harriscenter.net or from the Harris Center

Ticket Office at 916-608-6888 from 12 noon to 6 pm, Monday through Saturday, and two hours before show time. Parking is included in the price of the ticket. The Harris Center is located on the west side of Folsom Lake College campus in Folsom, CA, facing East Bidwell Street.

The show's 2018 tour of America comes on the heels of Belinda Davids' lauded performance on Fox TV's *Showtime at the Apollo* Christmas Special in December 2017, where her spine-tingling rendition of "I Will Always Love You" – performed on the very stage where Whitney Houston filmed her famous *Greatest Love of All* film clip, no less – earned her not only the awe of host Steve Harvey and an enthusiastic ovation from the live audience, but over 10 million views of the performance video on Facebook in the days following.

Audiences across Europe, the UK, Middle East, Asia, Australia, New Zealand and Davids' home country of South Africa have already been wowed by the production, which has been touring since 2013. Earlier this year, the *Sussex Newspaper* described the tour as "effortlessly slick, superbly performed and truly professional... five stars." But the production's 2018 tour will be the first in America. "This is the birthplace of Whitney – her home and her essence and the place and experiences that made her the incredible person and artist that she was," said Ms. Davids. "I know Americans hold her memory dear, and I'm first and foremost a Whitney fan myself, so I cannot wait to be surrounded by others who treasure her just as much as I do. Every audience, every fan that I perform to is special, but I know that this tour will be particularly special."

Belinda Davids was born in Port Elizabeth, South Africa, and began performing professionally at the age of 14. She has never had vocal training and is blessed with a 4 octave vocal range.

As a young girl one of the very first LP's Davids ever owned was a song called "Hold Me" by Teddy Pendergrass and Whitney Houston. The quality and style Whitney portrayed in this song struck a cord and Davids' fascination with the icon grew. She sang Whitney's music at every chance: at family gatherings, talent competitions and to friends whilst playing on the street. Like many young girls at that time her bedroom walls were plastered with posters and magazine cut-outs of the icon. Whitney's influence was so strong it inspired everything from her dress sense to her hairstyles.

She released three albums for Tusk Records in South Africa during the 90's (*We Go Together* was number one there for six weeks), and she opened shows for many international acts when they visited South Africa including Michael Jackson's *History* Tour, The Mannhattans, The Temptations and Peaches & Herb. Relocating to the States, she performed and toured with Keyshia Cole, Monica, Johnny Gill, Kelly Price and Keri Hilson. She appeared on *The Jay Leno Show* and *The George Lopez Show* as a back-up vocalist for Monica; she returned to her homeland to be with family and raise her two sons.

In 2013, fate knocked – John Van Grinsven, producer of *The Greatest Love of All*, was on his final round of global auditions to find a principal for his new production and Belinda managed to nab a last-minute audition and take out the role ahead of the thousands of other singers who had submitted for the part. She has “the type of vocal ability that puts Mariah Carey to shame... her voice will have you in tears” (*Independent Online*, 2017).

Rehearsing and touring began swiftly thereafter that year, and Belinda’s star has risen ever since.

“To perform comes naturally for me, but to do Whitney does not come naturally,” noted Ms. Davids for *The Huffington Post*. “You have to mentally prepare and prepare my body to get into that mode – I’ve had to study her nuances, all of her hand and arm movements, the technique in her voice and the way she carried a note. I have to embody everything that was Whitney. And it’s embodying Whitney, not becoming Whitney. I’m just Belinda Davids paying tribute to Whitney and that is something I stress to everyone.”

Great Shows. Up Close. In Folsom!

The Harris Center for the Arts at Folsom Lake College brings the community together to share in cultural experiences featuring the work of artists from throughout the region and around the world. Built and operated by the Los Rios Community College District, the \$50 million, state-of-the-art regional performing arts center boasts three intimate venues with outstanding acoustics, an art gallery, a recording studio, elegant teaching spaces, plenty of safe parking and all the other amenities of a world-class performing arts venue. Each year the Center hosts over 400 events attracting more than 150,000 annually.

Event Summary

What: ***The Greatest Love of All – A Tribute to Whitney Houston Starring Belinda Davids***
When: Tuesday, September 4, 2018 at 7:30 pm;
Wednesday, September 5 at 7:30 pm
Where: Harris Center for the Arts at Folsom Lake College
10 College Parkway
Folsom, CA 95630
Ticket Price: \$38-\$58; Premium \$68. A \$28 student discount price is available.
Tickets: www.HarrisCenter.net

Tickets are available online at www.HarrisCenter.net or from the Harris Center Ticket Office at 916-608-6888 from noon to 6 pm, Monday through Saturday, and two hours before show time.

For interview requests, contact Paul Dorn at paul.dorn@harriscenter.net.

High resolution images available at <http://bit.ly/2iacUNX> (This link to the Press Room at www.HarrisCenter.net has been updated).