

# MERLE AND SIGRID THORNTON TO GET 'FRANK AND FEARLESS' IN BRAND NEW SHOW CELEBRATING WOMEN'S RIGHTS

More than 50 years since **chaining herself to a bar** in Brisbane's west to draw attention to women's rights in Australia, activist **Merle Thornton** makes her stage debut with daughter and legendary actor **Sigrid Thornton**, for a special new show entitled '**Frank and Fearless**'.

Commissioned by **Queensland Music Festival** for its 2019 program, '**Frank and Fearless**' will see **Merle Thornton** team up with her daughter for an open, no-holds-bar discussion about **women's rights, women in the media** and to recount the stories of one of Australia's greatest social activists through the musical soundtrack that inspired her life.

**Merle Thornton**, who helped The Equal Opportunities union in QLD, and made international headlines in 1963 for **chaining herself to the bar** at **The Regatta Hotel** in Brisbane, as a protest against Queensland laws that excluded women from public bars, played a vital role in initiating the second wave of feminism in Australia.

Her hard work and passion for gender equality has led to the removal of the 'marriage bar' law, helped establish the first Women's Studies course at the University of Queensland and has been pivotal in garnering national attention for women's rights in Australia.

**Frank and Fearless** will play for **two shows only** 26 & 27 July, Powerhouse Theatre, Brisbane Powerhouse and will include live music from Brisbane neo-soul four piece **Pink Matter**, and Sunshine Coast artist **Tiana Khasi**.

Don't miss the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to learn, laugh, cry and be inspired by two Australian icons.

**For ticketing information, please visit [qmf.org.au](http://qmf.org.au)**



The Queensland Music Festival  
*Presents*

# FRANK AND FEARLESS

*An In-conversation between*

## Merle Thornton & Sigrid Thornton

**Powerhouse Theatre, Brisbane Powerhouse**

Friday 26 July & Saturday 27 July, 7.30pm

**With Pink Matter and Tiana Khasi**

Frank and Fearless is presented by Queensland Music Festival and supported by Brisbane City Council and Regatta Hotel.

Queensland Music Festival is an initiative of the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland.

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