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## Nordacious lights up Old Parliament House for Enlighten Festival 2024



His drawings have adorned massive billboards in New York's Times Square, he designed the cover artwork for a duet by Elton John and Britney Spears, and now illustrations by Brisbane-based artist Nordacious, aka James Hillier, will be lighting up Old Parliament House.

The Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House (MoAD) and Hillier will partner for Enlighten Festival 2024 to celebrate the people who worked behind the scenes and helped bring democracy to life in the iconic building during the 1980s.

During Enlighten, Old Parliament House will be illuminated with Hillier's drawings representing the workers that were indispensable to the functioning of democracy, including the Serjeant-at-Arms, COMCAR drivers and librarians, as well as iconic 1980s memorabilia such as video games and Rubik's cubes.

Hillier said he was excited to help make democracy more accessible by sharing his art with different audiences.

“I’ve always had a passion for social justice and how it intersects with politics and democracy,” he said.

“I want to make political ideas more engaging and accessible for people who’ve been overwhelmed by the noise or find it boring. Comedy can be very disarming and leaning into exciting aesthetics, retro and pop art, can be engaging too.”

The building will become an 1980s-time warp and be open for visitors to explore the Museum after dark for a free, fun-for-all-ages experience that unveils little-known facts, secret spaces and other quirky surprises from the time.

Audiences can get physical with freestyle aerobics sessions from 8pm each night, join the karaoke room or groove to the tunes of Olivia, Kylie and Madonna. MoAD Director Stephanie Bull encouraged everyone to dress up and get into the spirit of the ‘80s when visiting ‘The People’s House’ during Enlighten.

“We’re thrilled to share with everyone the nostalgia, playfulness and excitement of the 1980s. Who can forget the fashions, the music, the technology,” she said.

“It was also a dynamic period of Australian history and helped shaped the country we are today. We tend to remember the colourful personalities, like Hawke and Peacock, and the big events, such as the America’s Cup and World Expo 88, but it was also the decade that ushered in universal health care and the Sex Discrimination Act.”

“We want to celebrate the everyday workers that helped serve the community and deliver change. The beauty of our democracy is everyone plays a part.”

Over four nights, visitors can take part in an array of challenges guided by MoAD staff decked out in their glitziest and gaudiest 80s gear – they’ll be able to test their knowledge, play dress-ups and show their prowess with nostalgic 80s items.

Amy Wolgamot, MoAD’s Manager, Museum Engagement, said: “We want everyone to join us for a fun evening of 80s music, dance aerobics and exploring Old Parliament House after dark.”

“Walk in the shoes of the workers who contributed to our democracy. There are six adventures to choose from. Hit us with your best shot and you might even get a special badge for your efforts. Complete all six and take home the ultimate badge!” she said.

We're excited to have our popular MoAD badges back this year with special illustrations by Nordacious – you won't find them anywhere else.

Music buffs can get into the groove listening to our [Spotify playlist of curated tracks – Back to the '80s: Enlighten 2024](#).

This Enlighten Festival, come join us at 'The People's House'; it's your house because democracy is nothing without you.

**KEY DATES:**

[Enlighten Illuminations](#): 1-11 March (inclusive), Free from 8pm

[The People's House: Back to the '80s](#) 1-2 March and 8-9 March, Free from 7pm

['80s Cocktail Masterclass](#): 9 March, Tickets required from 8-10pm

**Media enquiries:** [media@moadoph.gov.au](mailto:media@moadoph.gov.au) or call (02) 6270 8120