

It's trashy, tacky and a political minefield but it's become a global addiction. We're talking Eurovision and it's coming to Williamstown this week, as **Stella Tzobanakis** explains



Brooklyn's Tony Cassar, Altona's Marcus Cassidy-Anderson and Seddon's Patt Ryan have Melbourne's West and Europe covered.

Picture: ADAMELWOOD

# Eurovision by the Bay

LISA Pilkington and Blake Testro are both residents of the West. But when *Eurobeat* – *Almost Eurovision* opens on Friday, Lisa, from Derrimut, and Blake, from Altona, will transform into the glamorous Boyka and the tall, dark and handsome but dumb Sergei.

They will be the all-important hosts of the Williamstown Musical Theatre Company's version of the worldwide phenomenon that is Eurovision.

The company will present an Australian spin on the comedic, but much-loved, European song contest. Set in Sarajevo, the pro-

duction will present a smorgasbord of acts including Swedish supergroup Avla, Russian boy band KGB0iz and Hungarian triplets The Molnar Sisters.

A cast of 19 performers – many from Melbourne's western suburbs, including Brooklyn, Hoppers Crossing, Werribee, Seddon, Altona and Derrimut – will represent 12 countries including Italy, Germany, Greece, Russia, Ireland and France.

In true Eurovision style, at the end of the performances, the audience has the chance to vote for their favourite act. The votes are tabulated and then counted down

as each country's votes are given "live via satellite".

The show's production manager, Marcus Cassidy-Anderson, said the singing and dancing was guaranteed to "whip audiences up into a frenzied state".

"It's spectacularly silly and enjoyable," Cassidy-Anderson said.

It's also been very successful. The Australian stage show version of the song contest took audiences by storm when it was first performed during the 2005 Melbourne International Comedy Festival.

Cassidy-Anderson, who is also the Williamstown Musical Theatre Company's president, said the

show was now playing to audiences in the West End and Broadway.

"It's a complete send-up and just a hysterical show," Cassidy-Anderson said of the community theatre version.

"We all know how tacky Eurovision can be but people love it because it's so bad, it's good."

□ *Eurobeat – Almost Eurovision*, is at the Williamstown Mechanics Institute, on the corner of Melbourne Rd and Electra St, from Friday, May 15 until Saturday, May 30.

Tickets 1300 881 545. For more information including session times go to [wmtc.org.au](http://wmtc.org.au)

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