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## David Vigo

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It is with great sadness LPA advises the passing of David Vigo on 10 July 2016 at the age of 72.

Born in Portsmouth UK, David's family migrated to Australia in 1958. His family first arrived in South Australia and he moved to Melbourne in 1960.

In 1965 he joined his business partner Clifford Hocking, and for the next 41 years, under the banner Hocking and Vigo, they pioneered the touring of ensembles across the most eclectic of musical styles and genres. Their earliest presentations featured some of the great Indian artists as well as the first of the Barry Humphries shows, including A Nice Nights Entertainment, Excuse I and Just A Show. By 1966 they were presenting concerts here in Australia as well as in New York and in London. In 1970 they presented flamenco guitarist Paco Pena for the first time. In 1971 they brought the first Gamelan orchestra to Australia. In 1972, they toured Cleo Lane and John Dankworth for the first of many tours. In 1974, Stephen Grappelli. In 1976, Leo Kottke. In 1977 Gladys Knight and the Pips. In 1980, Keith Jarrett. In 1982 the first of several presentations with John Williams and Sky. And so it went on. As producers they were prolific. As impresarios Clifford and David displayed the most exquisite taste in music and theatre. They were brave, visionary and discerning.

In 2001 Clifford and David teamed with Andrew Kay and under the banner HVK Productions, they presented attractions including the Harlem Gospel Choir, Grimethorpe Colliery Band, the Buena Vista Social Club and Tango Fire. On September 11th 2001 David was on Manhattan Island getting ready for the opening night of Salvador Tavora's Carmen at New York's City Centre when the first of the World Trade Centre's towers came down. Against all odds and on the direct request of Mayor Guiliani, David was integral to the re opening of Broadway when Carmen was the first and only show to be performed in New York on the night of September 12th. In 2003 David and Andrew formed the Soweto Gospel Choir which later went on to become one of the worlds most successful and acclaimed musical ensembles winning multiple Grammys, an Emmy and an Academy Award nomination for the musical collaboration with Peter Gabriel on the film Wall E.

Over his 50 years in the entertainment business, David formed life long friendships with many of the artists he presented and the co producers he worked with. A man of the highest integrity he had a ready smile and an impish humour. In an industry sometimes

known for the loud and the brash, David was gentle and kind. He was a partner and friend that could always be relied upon and trusted. His passing represents the end of an era.

David is survived by his wife Kitty, daughter Kate and her partner Dom, and the light of his recent life, his grand-daughter Beatrix.

Soweto Gospel Choir will present a **“Concert for David”** at the **Mt Beauty Community Hall** at **7.30pm** on **Friday July 29th** with all proceeds going to the charity of David’s choice: the Mt Beauty Neighbourhood Centre. **Tickets are available via [Margot@akaaustralia.com.au](mailto:Margot@akaaustralia.com.au)**. There will be a celebration of his life after the conclusion of the concert.



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