

# *Maria Venuti* BOOK RELEASE DRAWS ELITE POLITICIANS & ENTERTAINERS TOGETHER

Sydney's elite politicians and entertainers and media personalities bunkered down at the famous Italian restaurant, Machiavelli's, last night (Monday March 7) to celebrate the extraordinary life of **Maria Venuti**. Draped in leopard skin ruffles and with her best assets to the fore, Maria's book *A WHOLE LOAD OF FRONT* took centre stage next to a massive cake. 'It's a bushfire darling' said Maria as she blew out the 70 candles.

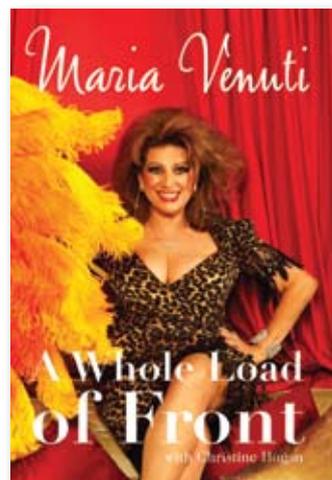
The honorary **Alan Jones** began the proceedings, to an audience including the contender for NSW Premier **Barry O'Farrell**, Shadow Treasurer **Joe Hockey**, 'dream maker' agent **Max Markson**, **Henri Szeps**, **Glenn A Baker**, actress **Lorrae Desmond**, **Melissa Hoyer** and **Mary Lopez**.

Alan Jones talked up Maria's humble beginnings as an Italian living in Australia before revealing the moment that changed Maria's life forever. Stood up by her date and standing on a Kings Cross sidewalk, Maria was invited by the legendary Ron Roman to one of his smoky jazz lounges. One coffee later and Maria had landed the singing role she was destined for.

Maria laughed, cried and shrieked with delight as Alan broke into song, "I just met a girl called Maria!"

But there was a serious tone to the evening, as Alan goes onto say,

"For years, Maria has entertained the world, bringing happiness to everyone. Tonight those same people, from the highest level of politics like Barry O'Farrell and Joe Hockey and entertainment, made it their business to salute Maria. It is rewarding for Maria but gratifying for everyone as they had a chance to pay a long overdue tribute to an Australian icon."



PRESS RELEASE



*Glenn A Baker, Joe Hockey MP, Maria Venuti*



*Cutting the fabulous cake!*



*Barry O'Farrell MP, Maria Venuti, Alan Jones*



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