

# Dame Edna: The cultural ambassador who made them blush

*By Bill McAuley*

*15 June 2025*



*including 'Portraits of the Soul: A lifetime of images with Bill McAuley'. To see more from Bill, click [here](#).*

**Colourful cultural icon [Dame Edna Everage](#) with omnipresent gladioli: Melbourne [Live and Intimate](#). (Photo, 2008.)**

The "mega-star housewife" was created by late Australian comedian, actor and satirist [John Barry Humphries](#) AC CBE during the 1960s.

The great Dame performed on stages all over the world for more than 60 years.

**\*\*This photograph is part of an IA series that looks at Australia through the lens of award-winning photojournalist [Bill McAuley](#).\*\***

**[Bill McAuley](#)'s 40-plus-year news career began in 1969 as a cadet photographer at 'The Age' in Melbourne.**

**He has several published [collections](#),**