

# QUEENSLAND THEATRE

## Queensland Theatre brings Australia's love of footy to the stage with **37**

Queensland Theatre will stun audiences with a powerhouse new story full of all things footy, bringing community spirit, thrilling energy and intense physicality to the stage in **37**, playing at the Bille Brown Theatre from Thursday 11 April.

Penned by twice-named Tasmanian Aboriginal Artist of the Year, Nathan Maynard, and directed by renowned Australian director and proud Noongar man, Isaac Drandic, the co-production with Melbourne Theatre Company brings together an ensemble of 10 men to portray a local footy team's struggle from the bottom of the ladder.

Named after the immortalised number Adam Goodes wore on his AFL jersey and set within the era of his famous war-cry, **37** follows the fictional Cutting Cove Currawongs in their fight for premiership glory, which playwright Nathan Maynard described as a story many can relate to.

"I won't go into the themes I touch on in the work because that's why I wrote the play, for both the audience and I to explore them through a creative lens. But for me, the footy in this play is the vehicle that carries the story and conversation," Maynard said.

"It's a play about footy that's also nothing about footy."

Despite the deep themes Maynard covers within the play, the talented ensemble tackles the heaviness with humour, energy, and a whole lot of heart, through the vessels of sportsmanship, authenticity, and integrity, producing a quality performance for both arts and footy lovers.

The cast features breakout star and 2024 recipient of AACTA Brian Walsh Award, **Ngali Shaw** alongside **Tibian Wyles** (*Black Comedy, Stomping Ground*) who portray the two Marngrook cousins, Jayma and Sonny, with teammates played by Australian on-screen actor, **Ben O'Toole** (*Boy Swallows Universe*), **Syd Brisbane** (*Victory, Night on Bald Mountain*), **Mitchell Brotz** (*Batmania, True Story with Hamish and Andy*), **Samuel Buckley** (*Hyde and Seek, Seduction*), **Costa D'Angelo** (*Neighbours, Crazy Fun Park*), **Thomas Larkin** (*Death of a Salesman, Bernhardt/Hamlet*), **Eddie Orton** (*Framed, Touching the Void*) and **Anthony Standish** (*City of Gold, Our Town*).

"Our 10-strong cast stand against a backdrop of real, raw footy giving the audience a highly physical and visceral performance. Through carefully crafted choreographed sequences the game we love comes alive on stage. It's nuanced, it's athletic and it's beautiful. There's a strong camaraderie between the cast, off stage and on which adds to the richness of the world of **37**," Drandic added.

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“There’s a strong cultural layer throughout **37**. We draw inspiration for the movement and choreography from the origins of AFL football — an Aboriginal game called Marngrook. We share some of the more confronting aspects of Australian culture in our sports, and we invite the audience into the changerooms of the Cutting Cove Footy Club.”

The production will hit Brisbane audiences off the back of its world premiere at Melbourne’s Southbank Theatre, which has included an array of four- and five-star reviews. Tickets are available now for performances at Queensland Theatre’s Bille Brown Theatre from 11 April to 4 May at [queenslandtheatre.com.au/plays/37](https://queenslandtheatre.com.au/plays/37).

## ENDS

**For all media enquiries or requests please contact:**

Jessica Murray

[jmurray@ivypr.com.au](mailto:jmurray@ivypr.com.au) | 0491 051 542

**MELBOURNE  
THEATRE  
COMPANY**

**NEXTSTAGE**  
Made possible by MTC's Playwrights Giving Circle



Queensland Theatre acknowledges the Jagera and Turrbal people who are the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we work, and their unique relationship with the lands, seas and waterways. We pay our respects to their Elders both past and present, and to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

## **37**

By Nathan Maynard

Directed by Isaac Drandic

11 Apr — 4 May 2024

Bille Brown Theatre

Creatives

**Writer** Nathan Maynard

**Director & Co-Choreographer** Isaac Drandic

**Set and Costume Designer** Dale Ferguson

**Lighting Designer** Ben Hughes

**Composer and Sound Designer** James Henry

**Co-Choreographer** Waangenga Blanco

**Voice and Dialect Coach** Matt Furlani

**Assistant Director** Kamarra Bell-Wykes

**Fight Choreographer** Lyndall Grant

**Intimacy Coordinator** Isabella Vadiveloo

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Cast

**The General** Syd Brisbane

**Gorby** Mitchell Brotz

**Apples** Samuel Buckley

**Ant** Costa D'Angelo

**GJ** Thomas Larkin

**Woodsy** Eddie Orton

**Joe** Ben O'Toole

**Jayma** Ngali Shaw

**Dazza** Anthony Standish

**Sonny** Tibian Wyles