

# QUEENSLAND THEATRE

## Queensland Theatre launches Season 2024 with a twist

Queensland Theatre is set to embark on a remarkable journey of thought-provoking storytelling with the launch of their 2024 Season, promising an array of raw feelings and emotions that culminate at Season's end with a single question - have you ever, ever felt like this?

Recognising the power of Queensland voices, Artistic Director Lee Lewis today acknowledged the role that everyday Australians play in bringing these stories to life on stage, before diving into a taste of what is to come.

"Queensland is a state of spectacular stories, generously dreamt into existence by our artists, championed by our partners and Visionaries and brought to life for our local audiences. Queensland Theatre belongs to us all, and through this Season's program we hope to fill your 2024 with the best theatrical experiences imaginable," said Lewis.

"This Season takes us on an emotional journey of longing, betrayal, courage, rage, trust and love, before sending us 'round the twist!'"

To open the Season in February, **Lee Lewis** will step forward as Director of the classic 1938 thriller **Patrick Hamilton's *Gaslight*** as adapted by **Johnna Wright** and **Patty Jamieson**, presented by Queensland Theatre and Rodney Rigby. Having first introduced the world to the powerful term that is now used to describe an insidious form of deception, will this modern reimaging see our heroine succumb to the betrayal that is *gaslighting*?

"***Gaslight*** is a monumentally important story shaping the history of theatre and leaving a lasting addition to the English language. **Johnna Wright** and **Patty Jamieson's** modern contextualisation of that influence will be a must see," said Lewis.

The brilliant duo behind ***At What Cost?***, Noongar Director **Isaac Drandic** and Trawlwoolway pakana Playwright **Nathan Maynard**, return to Queensland Theatre's **Bille Brown Theatre** in April to kick another goal with the **world premiere** of ***37***, a co-production with Melbourne Theatre Company. Set within the era of the Adam Goodes war-cry and named after the number he immortalised - this highly physical production features an ensemble of 10 performers including local talent **Tibian Wyles** and breakout star **Ngali Shaw**.

"There are few duos with a more cohesive voice than **Nathan Maynard** and **Isaac Drandic**. They left us in awe this year, and I can't wait to see them strap on their boots for ***37***," said Lewis.

In May, audiences will be taken back to a 2400 year-old tale of passion and revenge with ***Medea***, the Greek tragedy with a modern twist, by **Kate Mulvany** and **Anne-Louise Sarkis**. Directed by Queensland Theatre Associate Artist **Daniel Evans**, this internationally celebrated adaptation is told from the perspective of Medea's sons and sees two young actors on stage for the duration.

**Pulitzer Prize** winning drama ***Cost of Living*** by **Martyna Majok** will receive its Australian premiere in co-production with Sydney Theatre Company at Queensland Theatre's **Bille Brown Theatre** in June, exploring the challenges of living with a disability. Directed by **Priscilla Jackman** and **Dan Daw**, ***Cost of Living*** is a beautifully rendered story portraying the lived experiences of many, with deft humour and enormous heart.

"***Cost of Living*** is an intensely powerful story straight off Broadway about our need to care (and to be cared for), no matter the distance age, race and disability might place between us. To bring it to life, we've called upon **Laurence Olivier Award-winning talent Philip Quast** alongside the incredible **Kate Hood**, who I know will do these life-like experiences justice," said Lewis.

Queensland Theatre will bring another premiere to Australian shores in July with **Selina Fillinger's** scandalous ***POTUS, Or Behind Every Great Dumbass Are Seven Women Trying To Keep Him Alive***. Directed by **Lee Lewis** and featuring **Amy Ingram**, this femme-fuelled political farce that earned three Tony nominations is centred around the crack team of highly competent women behind a very recognisable, highly incompetent President of the United States.

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**Isaac Drandic** will take to the Queensland Theatre stage for the second time in September with *Dear Brother* by **Lenny Donahue** and **Tibian Wyles**. Presented with BlakDance as part of Brisbane Festival, this high energy work is all about giving young Murri men a voice, one that challenges the narrative and public perceptions of Aboriginal masculinity.

The 2024 Season hits a crescendo in November, with yet another **world premiere**. Queensland Theatre and Queensland Performing Arts Centre will bring the home-grown television show that raised a generation to the stage in a brand-new Australian musical by **Paul Hodge**, based on the seminal stories of much-loved children's book author **Paul Jennings**.

*Round The Twist The Musical* with book, music and lyrics by **Paul Hodge**, will be captained by Director **Simon Phillips** delivering a joyous and quintessentially Australian celebration of oddballs and misfits - where if you stand out then you'll fit right in!

"*Round The Twist The Musical* is an iconically Australian and it is our absolute pleasure to bring these characters, these stories and these songs to the stage for the first time ever. This has been a giddy labour of love for all of us here at Queensland Theatre for years now, and we're beyond excited to finally see this production come to life," said Lewis.

Further to this incredible array, *Drizzle Boy* - the smash-hit from the 2023 Season - will head out on tour taking this wildly audacious and wonderfully affirmative rocket ride to communities throughout Queensland.

Minister for the Arts Leeanne Enoch said Queensland Theatre's 2024 Season was a diverse selection of stories that reflect the dynamic culture of our state.

"Next year, Queensland Theatre will present a season of diverse productions, featuring exceptional local stories, beloved classics, and exciting contemporary and international works," said Minister Enoch.

"Our government is proud to support Queensland Theatre to grow the creation, development and presentation of productions featuring local artists and arts workers and delivering high-quality arts experiences for audiences from across the state."

**The Scene Project** will also return in 2024, igniting a passion for the creative process of performance in Queensland youth continuing its legacy as part of the largest education offering of any state theatre company in Australia, having engaged over 1600 young people across more than 120 schools in 2023.

Looking to the future with Queensland Theatre, Lee Lewis plans to channel the success of 2023 into the 2024 Season, creating a joyous ride of emotion, laughter and connection for lovers of theatre in Queensland and beyond.

"From language defining classics and ancient tragedies made new, to salacious presidents, rural football teams and First Nations masculinity – wonderful things are bound to happen at Queensland Theatre next year, and we can't wait to see you at every twist and turn," said Lewis.

**ENDS**

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## ***Gaslight***

Adapted by Johnna Wright and Patty  
Jamieson  
Directed by Lee Lewis  
20 Feb – 3 Mar  
Playhouse, QPAC

## **37**

By Nathan Maynard  
Directed by Isaac Drandic  
11 Apr – 4 May  
Bille Brown Theatre

## ***Medea***

By Kate Mulvany and Anne-Louise Sarks  
Original concept by Anne-Louise Sarks after Euripides  
Directed by Daniel Evans  
11 May – 8 Jun  
Bille Brown Theatre

## ***Cost of Living***

By Martyna Majok  
Directed by Priscilla Jackman and Dan Daw  
15 Jun – 13 Jul  
Bille Brown Theatre

## ***POTUS, Or Behind Every Great Dumbass Are Seven Women Trying To Keep Him Alive***

By Selina Fillinger  
Directed by Lee Lewis  
27 Jul – 24 Aug  
Bille Brown Theatre

## ***Dear Brother***

By Lenny Donahue and Tibian Wyles  
Directed by Isaac Drandic  
7 – 28 Sep  
Bille Brown Theatre

## ***Round The Twist The Musical***

Book, Music and Lyrics by Paul Hodge  
Directed by Simon Phillips  
12 Nov – 1 Dec  
Playhouse, QPAC

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**Queensland  
Government**

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.