

QUEENSLAND THEATRE

22 February 2021

Triple X

The first trans love story of the Australian mainstage opens 6 March, after a 12-month COVID pause

“Even more than the identity politics, Triple X is a love story between two very conflicted, passionate souls. And who doesn’t love a sexy, thwarted romance?!” Glace Chase

It’s not often a piece of work comes along that threatens to completely challenge society’s perception of love, but that’s exactly what Queensland Theatre’s upcoming production, *Triple X*, is set to do.

Billed as the first trans love story on the Australian mainstage, *Triple X* is written by (and stars) acclaimed New York-based Australian performer/playwright/screenwriter/comedienne, Glace Chase and runs from 6 March to 1 April in Queensland Theatre’s Bille Brown Theatre.

Finally making its long-awaited world premiere after being shutdown by the pandemic in 2020, *Triple X* examines the relationship between straight ‘Wall Street banker bro’, Scotty (Josh McConville, *Top End Wedding*, STC’s *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*), and Dexie (Chase), a trans performer with whom he starts an affair, just a few months out from his wedding to his ‘perfect’ fiancée.

Says Chase, “Whilst the concept of ‘trans’ has finally hit the mainstream over the last few years, the next big story to be told is ‘trans in love’. I think very few people have any concept of what a romantic relationship looks like between a trans person and those interested in them.

“It’s a unique story and it’s mainly from the point of view of the straight guy who is romantically interested in a trans woman. We’ve never seen something (empathetically) explore what he and they go through. I think the general public still struggles to fully understand the trans experience, but I think they want to. Hopefully this will help.”

Triple X also stars Queensland Theatre multi-award winners Christen O’Leary (*Antigone*, *Mouthpiece*), as Scotty’s mum, Deb, and Elijah Williams (in his Queensland Theatre debut) as his best mate, Jase. Also making her debut with the Company is Contessa Treffone (STC’s *Lord of the Flies* and *The Harp in the South*) in the role of Scotty’s sister, Claire.

It’s not surprising that a show called *Triple X* includes some eye-popping sex scenes and real talk, but ultimately is born from a place of truth.

“In my world, people speak and act like this. I understand that it might be shocking for some, but you can’t unlink explicit sexuality from the romantic reality of many trans people’s lives. We so often exist in the shadows. I wanted to be brutally honest and make people experience what it’s like from the inside,” explains the two-time Griffin Award winner.

Whilst the story is Chase’s own and has earned her international recognition as a 2021 finalist in the prestigious Susan Smith Blackburn Prize for women playwrights, she freely admits *Triple X* would not have made it to the stage without the unwavering dramaturgical and personal support of Director, Paige Rattray.

Says Rattray, “Glace is one of the most entertaining but also profound writers I’ve worked with. It can be an unusual combination; often comedy can overtake tragedy or vice versa. Glace rides this wave expertly in *Triple X*.

“I think only someone with Glace’s lived experience would be able to navigate that trickiness within this particular narrative. The toxic masculinity, examination of societal ‘norms’, gender politics and love; it’s all woven together expertly. Working with Glace on this play has definitely changed the way I think about the world and I feel very lucky.”

For Lee Lewis, Artistic Director of Queensland Theatre, being able to see Chase take that curtain call on Opening Night will be the happy ending to a 12-month rollercoaster no one imagined when she joined the Company in 2020.

“We had two enormously successful preview performances. Then horribly, I had to gather the cast, creatives and crew and share the awful news that the production was shutting down. It was one of the most difficult, dreadful moments of my career,” she reflects.

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“To have *this* story, such an important and vital play for our times, not proceed was devastating. The silver lining, while I was so new to the Queensland Theatre community, was witnessing the extraordinary generosity from our audience. They were the shining light in dark times.”

“COVID-19 continues to be so unpredictable, so to finally see *Triple X* back on the Bille Brown Theatre stage will be a joyous moment for audiences as much as the artists — I simply can’t wait,” Lewis said.

TRIPLE X by Glace Chase

Directed by Paige Rattray

A Sydney Theatre Company co-production

6 March to 1 April 2021

Bille Brown Theatre, South Brisbane

Bookings queenslandtheatre.com.au | 1800 355 528 | sales@queenslandtheatre.com.au

ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

True love in the 21st century.

Scotty has it all: a multimillion-dollar loft in downtown Manhattan, a high-flying Wall Street job and he’s about to marry the perfect fiancée, who also happens to be loaded. But when he meets trans performance artist Dexie, he discovers he wants something more. A friend? A confidante? A lover?

When the secret of their affair gets out, it’s sure to shock not only his dude-bro Jase, his highly-strung mother Deb and his lesbian activist sister Claire, but also a theatre audience strapped in for the ride of their lives.

From the wickedly funny pen of Australian-born, New York-based playwright, comedienne and performer Glace Chase, this play is hilarious, honest and an emotionally affecting look at entitlement, hypocrisy and the realities of love. And it features one of the most eye-popping sex scenes in recent theatre history. It’s all a bit *Triple X*.

CAST AND CREATIVES

Scotty	Josh McConville	Playwright	Glace Chase
Jase	Elijah Williams	Director	Paige Rattray
Claire	Contessa Treffone	Designer	Renée Mulder
Deborah	Christen O’Leary	Lighting Designer	Ben Hughes
Dexie	Glace Chase	Composer and Sound Designer	Kelly Ryall
		Intimacy and Fight Director	Nigel Poulton

A Sydney Theatre Company Co-production

Production Partner



For further information, imagery or interviews, please contact Queensland Theatre via publicity@queenslandtheatre.com.au or phone 07 3010 7600.

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