

QUEENSLAND THEATRE

Queensland Theatre questions the concept of home with Australian premiere of *Vietgone* at QPAC for 2023 season finale

Queensland Theatre will present a spellbinding story of two Vietnam War refugees facing an uphill battle adapting to American culture, in the Australian premiere of *Vietgone* at Queensland Performing Arts Centre (QPAC) from Saturday, November 4.

Directed by award-winning writer and director, Daniel Evans and renowned actor and playwright, Ngọc Phan, the production will bring audiences on an irreverent journey of romance and struggle through the heartland of America.

After its roaring success at the Manhattan Theatre Club, Writer Qui Nguyen is bringing the long anticipated, *Vietgone*, to life in Australia to walk the line between humour and sentiment.

Vietgone is inspired by the lives of Qui Nguyen's parents and their immigration journey, written as a letter from Qui to his younger self to share the love story of his parents, helicopter pilot Quang and strong-willed Tong after narrowly escaping the end of the war.

"*Vietgone* is ultimately an adventure for the audience while taking them through the experiences so many families battle in their fight for freedom, and it's a perspective I'm so proud to deliver. It really is an honour to share this complex, beautiful story," Phan said.

"The performance is a really unique, fun way to bring a powerful story to our audience. The main characters will often break into hip-hop when their emotions get overwhelming which really brings a light-heartedness and excitement to an otherwise serious play." Evans added.

The cast features impressive talent Will Tran (*Hawaa, The Heights*) portraying Quang and Kristie Nguy (*MIDNIGHT: The Cinderella Musical, Hello Again*) portraying Tong, with supporting actors including co-director, Ngọc Phan (*Boy Swallows Universe, Laurinda*), Patrick Jhanur (*Taming of the Shrew, Riot*), Hieu Luong (*Jasper Jones*) and Aljin Abella (*Aladdin, Frozen*).

Cultural Safety Advisor Katrina Irawati Graham, Cultural Consultant Việt Trần and Hip-Hop Consultant Minh Nguyen are exciting additions to the team to assist the cast in delivering and maintaining the integrity, relevance, and the cultural conversations on and off the stage.

Queensland Theatre Artistic Director, Lee Lewis, is proud to present this universal story to Queensland.

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“The opportunity to bring a play of this calibre to Queensland is one of my great pleasures as an Artistic Director. This story speaks to loss, connection and love. These are feelings that can be felt fully by people throughout this state,” Lewis said.

“I’m very excited to share this story with Queensland audiences, and for everyone to see the incredible work of the team behind *Vietgone*.”

Tickets are available now for performances at the Playhouse, QPAC from Saturday, November 4 to Saturday, November 18 at <https://queenslandtheatre.com.au/plays/vietgone>.

ENDS

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Vietgone

By Qui Nguyen

Original music by Shane Rettig

Directed by Daniel Evans and Ngọc Phan

4 November - 18 November, 2023

Playhouse, QPAC

Creatives

Co-Director Daniel Evans

Co-Director Ngọc Phan

Designer Christina Smith

Associate Costume Designer Nathalie Ryner

Lighting Designer Bernie Tan-Hayes

Composer/Sound Designer Mike Willmet

Sound System Designer Michael Waters

Video Designer Nevin Howell

Choreography and Movement Kate Harman and Gavin Webber

Hip-Hop Consultant Minh Nguyen

Stage Manager Yanni Dubler

Assistant Stage Manager Bridget O'Brien

SM Secondment Leila Marsden

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Cast

Nhan/Khue Aljin Abella

Giai/ Bobby/Captain Chambers/Redneck Biker/ Hippie Dude/Asian Guy/American Guy Patrick Jhanur

Playwright Hieu Luong

Tong Kristie Nguy

Asian Girl/American Girl/Thu/ Huong/Translator/ Flower Girl Ngọc Phan

Quang Will Tran

Contributing Artists

Cultural Safety Advisor Katrina Irawati Graham

Cultural Consultant Việt Trần

Fight and Intimacy Director NJ Price

Voice and Dialect Coach Gabrielle Rogers

Vocal Coach Luke Kennedy



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.