

July 2014

Queensland Theatre Company presents the world premiere of

GLORIA

Starring Christen O'Leary, Naomi Price, Kevin Spink, Steven Rooke*
& introducing Elijah Wellsmore

Queensland Theatre Company (QTC) presents the world premiere of *Gloria* by Brisbane's award winning playwright **Elaine Acworth** at the Bille Brown Studio from July 24 to August 16.

Gloria, commissioned by QTC, is a new Australian work that brings together an all-Brisbane superstar cast led by Matilda Gold Award winner **Christen O'Leary** who takes on this powerfully emotive role after star turns in *End of the Rainbow* and *Bombshells*. Joining O'Leary is fellow Matilda award winner and Brisbane's girl-of-the-moment **Naomi Price** who thrilled audiences just last month on stage as Miley Cyrus in *Wrecking Ball* and prior to that as Adele in *Rumour Has It: Sixty Minutes Inside Adele*.

Kevin Spink who was recently part of the record-breaking and critically acclaimed *Macbeth* together with his fellow *Macbeth* star and Matilda Award-winning ***Steven Rooke** (QTC's *Kelly*, *Julius Caesar*, *No Man's Land*, *The Removalists* and on screen in *Blurred*, *The Chronicles of Narnia*) complete the cast of Queensland acting royalty in the play, while stage newcomer **Elijah Wellsmore** from the Gold Coast makes his debut with the company.

This Brisbane production is directed by multi-award winning **David Bell** (*End of the Rainbow*, *The Threepenny Opera*, *The Shoot Horses*, *Don't They?*, *Don Giovanni*).

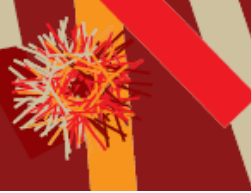
Gloria is a play in which music weaves a touching tapestry of faltering memory, of grace and grandchildren, of loves lost and love gained. It revolves around Gloria Clare, a woman who has led an extraordinary life. With a searing intellect and boundless talent, she deserted small-town Australia for Europe in her reckless youth to become an internationally renowned chanteuse and composer. She's a rebel and a romantic who found success and love. But that was then – today she can barely remember breakfast.

In her fifties and having recently suffered a stroke, Gloria's memories are slipping away.

Before Gloria's mind deserts her, she has one mission: to remember and heal her painful past. She uses music to navigate her transient memory— singing helps her recall the painful episode in her past when, as a young unmarried mother in '70s Australia, she was shamed, cowed and harassed into giving up her child for adoption. Her reconnection with Ned, the boy she lost so long ago, and his family, is her way of making some kind of amends. But as you'd expect from such a strong-willed, independent woman, she's going to do it her way, by her rules.

Gloria is a play for anyone who's ever stumbled over putting a face to a name, or called an object a 'thingamy'. It's a play where music takes centre stage, weaving together Gloria's rapidly fraying memories.

For more info contact: Kath Rose - Kath Rose & Associates Mobile: 0416 291 493 Email:kath@kathrose.com



Gloria is a new Australian work, commissioned by Queensland Theatre Company, and written by Brisbane playwright **Elaine Acworth**. It brings together an all-Brisbane cast led by the dynamic and captivating **Christen O'Leary** (*End of the Rainbow*) as Gloria.

SHORTLISTED FOR THE RODNEY SEABORN PLAYWRIGHTING AWARD (2012)

Queensland Theatre Company presents *Gloria* by Elaine Acworth

at Bille Brown Studio, The GreenHouse, 78 Montague Road, South Brisbane

19 July – 16 August

Writer: Elaine Acworth
Director: David Bell
Set & Costume Designer: Bill Haycock
Sound Designer/Composer: Andrew McNaughton
Lighting Designer: David Walters
Cast Includes: Christen O'Leary, Naomi Price, Kevin Spink, Steven Rooke*, Elijah Wellsmore.
Tickets: \$33-\$60 - Concession, Group and Under-30 prices available
queenslandtheatre.com.au or by calling 1800 355 528

*Anthony Standish was originally cast as Ned, however, has had to withdraw for family reasons. The character of Ned will now be performed by Steve Rooke.

QTC SEASON 2014:

19 July – 16 August | GLORIA, World Premiere

Bille Brown Studio QTC

24 September – 12 October | BLACK DIGGERS

Playhouse QPAC

17 November – 7 December | GASP! By Ben Elton, Australian Premiere

Playhouse QPAC

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