



EMBARGO – 6pm, Monday, September 29, 2014

Queensland Theatre Company unveils Season 2015

Four world premieres, a super star mainstage and a five-show DIVA program lead a front row Season 2015 for the state's theatre company

Queensland Theatre Company has unveiled a stunning Season 2015, the most diverse and ambitious program the Company has ever staged, starring an extraordinary lineup of acclaimed actors, writers, directors, musicians and designers.

Four world premieres, a mainstage program of eight major works, a DIVA program celebrating women on stage and more, the season features a roll call of music and theatre greats and emerging stars - **Tim Finn, Amanda Muggleton, Noeline Brown and Darren Gilshenen, Carol Burns, Christen O'Leary, Libby Munro, Margi Brown Ash, Tama Matheson, Jason Klarwein, Rob Carlton, Nicki Wendt, Rachael Beck, Robyn Arthur, Dash Kruck, Michael Tuahine, Chenoa Deemal, Naomi Price, Daniel Evans, Hugh Parker, Brian Lucas, Lucas Stibbard, Amy Ingram, Conrad Colby, Lucy Goleby, Melanie Zanetti, Emily Burton, Helen Cassidy, Nicholas Gell, Barbara Lowing** and the list goes on.

Directors taking the lead this year include the internationally acclaimed **Simon Phillips**, the prolific **Roger Hodgman, Iain Sinclair**, as well as QTC's own Artistic Director **Wesley Enoch, Todd MacDonald, Daniel Evans** and current Resident Directors **Andrea Moor** and **Jason Klarwein** and more.

The year starts with David Mamet's witty comedy *Boston Marriage* and ends with the world premiere of an outstanding new musical called *Ladies in Black*. This stunning adaptation of Madeleine St John's 1993 novel, is brought to life by multi-award winner **Simon Phillips** (*Priscilla Queen of the Desert, Love Never Dies*) with original music from superstar singer and musician, **Tim Finn** (Split Enz, Crowded House).

Ladies in Black has been supported by the Newman Government's Super Star Fund, a Queensland Government program that delivers super star performances exclusive to the state.

Arts Minister Ian Walker said *Ladies in Black* was the latest project to receive Super Star Fund investment. "This is another coup for Queensland which sees the Super Star Fund once more giving Queensland audiences world-class arts productions, as well as unique opportunities for our Queensland artists to learn from the best in their field," Minister Walker said.

"*Ladies in Black* will be nothing short of extraordinary. With Tim Finn creating the music and our own Christen O'Leary as the star, this marks the triumphant return of true musical theatre to Queensland Theatre Company's stage.

"This world premiere will be a uniquely Queensland experience, and we look forward to welcoming audiences from Brisbane, regional areas and interstate for what will be a blockbuster stage event in 2015."

QTC Artistic Director Wesley Enoch said that from the Opening Night of *Boston Marriage* on January 24 through to the closing show of *Ladies in Black* on December 6, the year is a front row offering for all ages.

"2015 stands as our most ambitious and wide-ranging in terms of content, actors and delivery. There's the very funny stage adaptation of the hit TV show *Mother & Son*; two more world premieres - *Brisbane*, about the infamous Battle of Brisbane during WWII told through the eyes of a young boy, and *Country Song*, focusing on Indigenous country and western legend Jimmy Little, with lots of great songs and also three iconic plays: Neil Simon's *The Odd Couple*, Chekhov's *The Seagull* and Samuel Beckett's *Happy Days*," he said.



“In addition to the mainstage, there is a special celebration of amazingly talented Queensland women in a suite of works called DIVA. For all the family we present the whimsical *Argus* created by Dead Puppet Society and for older ones *Oedipus Doesn't Live Here Anymore*, a contemporary retelling of the Oedipus story and winner of the Queensland Premier's Drama Award.”

“QTC has been the leader in Queensland theatre for 45 years and in 2015 we are bringing you a huge range of professional productions that show off the best talent from around the country.

“Our season draws from our nationally recognised Indigenous Program, our showcasing of local independent theatre companies, partnerships with commercial presenters, plays commissioned from our New Works Program, the return of the musical and of course our very special DIVA program.”

“Season 2015 is another tremendous on-stage adventure, we hope you love it.”

Launching Season 2015 in the finest of on-stage style is *Boston Marriage*, the quick-fire turn-of-the-century comedy riddled with the wicked wit of the Pulitzer Prize-winning writer behind *Glengarry Glen Ross* and *Speed-the-Plow*, **David Mamet**. Performed on Broadway in 2002, *Boston Marriage* stars double Helpmann Award-winning actor **Amanda Muggleton** under the directorship of **Andrea Moor**, who delighted audiences and critics alike and won a Matilda Award for 2013's *Venus in Fur*. This three-woman production will also tour to 10 Queensland regional centres in 2015.

Fresh from the world premiere season at Melbourne's Comedy Theatre comes ***Mother & Son***, the brand new stage comedy based on the treasured Australian television classic, with an all-star cast led by **Noeline Brown** and **Darren Gilshenan** together with **Rob Carlton**, **Nicki Wendt**, **Rachael Beck** and **Robyn Arthur**. Written by Geoffery Atherden and directed by Roger Hodgman ***Mother & Son*** will be a highlight stage experience.

In April QTC presents the world premiere of *Brisbane* by Queensland playwright **Matthew Ryan**. A large scale new work starring an all-Brisbane cast including **Conrad Colby**, **Lucy Goleby**, **Dash Kruck** and **Melanie Zanetti**, *Brisbane* tells a significant story of our Queensland capital, in a year when Australia commemorates a century of service in different theatres of war.

July 4 heralds the world premiere of the exciting new Indigenous work *Country Song*. An award winning script by **Reg Cribb**, it is based on an original concept by **Michael Tuahine**. *Country Song* is set in 1973 with the opening of the Sydney Opera House and revolves around legendary singer Jimmy Little and includes true life experiences of other Indigenous singers such as Wilma Reading, Auriel Andrew, Bobby McLeod, Vic Simms, Roger Knox and Lionel Rose - this is a true onstage, toe-tapping adventure.

In August QTC's Actors Studio presents *The Seagull*. QTC Artistic Associate **Todd MacDonald** and Queensland playwright **Daniel Evans** will adapt this classic which will be performed by an ensemble of ten acclaimed Brisbane actors: **Emily Burton**, **Helen Cassidy**, **Nicholas Gell**, **Amy Ingram**, **Jason Klarwein**, **Barbara Lowing**, **Brian Lucas**, **Christen O'Leary**, **Hugh Parker** and **Lucas Stibbard**. This will be a bold contemporary retelling of one of Chekhov's great plays.

The classic comedy from Pulitzer Prize and multiple Tony Award-winning American playwright and screenwriter Neil Simon, *The Odd Couple* reteams the odd couple from 2013's *Design For Living*, uber talented duo **Jason Klarwein** and **Tama Matheson** - as the housemates from hell for what will be another season highlight, under the direction of **Wesley Enoch**.

Accompanying the mainstage Season is the *DIVA* suite of works which brings together five theatrical goddesses, each taking centre stage in their own tour-de-force performances.



Chenoa Deemal tells touching, funny stories of tears and reconciliation in a celebration of Indigenous survival in *The 7 Stages of Grieving*, a powerful story by Wesley Enoch and **Deborah Mailman**. Doyenne of the stage **Carol Burns** is brave Winnie, buried to her waist in Samuel Beckett's absurd, surreal masterpiece *Happy Days*. **Libby Munro** is a deadly Air Force pilot brought back to earth with a bump when she falls pregnant in *Grounded*. **Margi Brown Ash** shares her life story in *Home*, bouncing across several continents as actor, therapist, schoolgirl, soapie starlet, wife and mother. And **Naomi Price** transforms into pop star Adele in *Rumour Has it* – a Grammy goddess ready to spill her guts about the man who wronged her.

Season 2015 Ticketing Details:

Subscriptions on sale from **Monday, 29 September at 6pm via queenslandtheatre.com.au.**

Phone sales available from 9am Tuesday, 30 September by calling Freecall **1800 355 528** or in person at QTC, 78 Montague Road, South Brisbane, 9am – 5pm Monday – Friday.

For more information, detail or comments, please contact Kath Rose & Associates for Queensland Theatre Company - Kath Rose Ph: 0416 291 493