

Quartet
January 11 – 2016

The devilishly funny *Quartet* to tour Queensland

Toowoomba – Kawana – Rockhampton – Mackay – Cairns - Townsville
Gladstone – Ipswich - Bundall

Australian stars to take the internationally acclaimed, sparkling tale about the journey into old age on the road throughout Queensland

Four of Australia's best known actors from stage and screen, including the much loved **Andrew McFarlane**, are set to tour Queensland in the devilishly funny comedy *Quartet*, presented by Queensland Theatre Company (QTC).

Quartet will tour to nine regional Queensland theatres after officially opening QTC's mainstage season in Brisbane at the Playhouse Theatre.

Under the direction of **Andrea Moor** (*Venus in Fur*, *Grounded* and 2015's season opener and touring production, *Boston Marriage*), *Quartet* stars acting powerhouse **Andrew McFarlane** (*Glitch*, *Truth*, *A Place To Call Home*, *Love Child*, *Water Rats*, *Blue Heelers* and *Underbelly: A Tale of Two Cities* among others), along with fellow award-winning actors **Christine Amor**, **Trevor Stuart** and **Kate Wilson**.

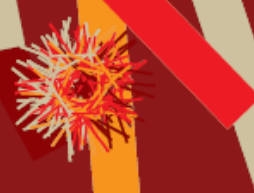
In *Quartet*, Writer **Ronald Harwood**, author of *Another Time*, *The Dresser* and *Interpreters*, takes on retirement with tenderness, grace, hope and lots of humour – but no self-pity – in what is a moving and all too truthful tale of the frustrations and fears of getting old.

The story of *Quartet* begins in a Country House in Kent, where retired opera singers Reggie, Cecily and Wilfred have been put out to pasture in a country retirement home after wowing the world. The annual concert marking composer Verdi's birthday is the next headline event for the trio, and all is well. Serenity however, is shattered by the arrival of their old fourth member and Reggie's ex-wife Jean. Can the quartet put aside old grudges for one more show-stopping finale?

Quartet debuted in 1999 at the Albery Theatre in London, with its touching themes of art illuminating life, the stresses of getting old and passions in the world of music striking a chord with audiences worldwide. The play was then adapted into a successful film in 2012 by Director **Dustin Hoffman** and starred **Maggie Smith**, **Pauline Collins**, **Billy Connolly** and **Tom Courtenay**.

The cast to tour Queensland is truly magnificent. The award-winning **Andrew McFarlane** has worked for every State theatre company in Australia, and numerous independent companies. Accolades include Most Outstanding Performance by Male Actor at the 2015 ASTRA Awards and a nomination for Best Supporting Actor at this year's AACTA awards. He starred in 2015 on the ABC's *Glitch*, and is currently in the film *Truth* alongside Cate Blanchett and Robert Redford, which opened at the 2015 Toronto International Film Festival. His body of work is remarkable and he will be warmly welcomed by Queenslanders in *Quartet*.

The stellar character Cecily is played by **Christine Amor**, whose appearances in over 30 plays for the Queensland Theatre Company, Sydney Theatre Company and Melbourne Theatre Company sit proudly alongside roles in 11 long-running television series including *Prisoner*, *Are You Being Served?*, *H2O-Just Add Water* and *Carson's Law*, winning her a best actress award for her portrayal of Felicity Carson. There's also 10 feature films and guest



appearances in over 25 television series rounding out her CV!

Creative powerhouse **Trevor Stuart** is a favourite of Queensland Theatre Company, appearing in roles in *Design For Living*, *You're a Good Man*, *Charlie Brown*, *Wrong Side of the Moon*, and *Antigone*. He has also worked for La Boite and Brisbane Festival and directed numerous productions including *Lumiere and Son*, *Cocoloco*, and *Hope St Ltd*, receiving a Helpmann Nomination for Best Supporting Actor in *As You Like It* (2012).

Ensuring *Quartet* stars a foursome to be reckoned with is **Kate Wilson**, an acclaimed actor and teacher with a long running string of lead roles in well over 30 plays. She has also written plays alongside Murray Foy and starred in the film *Cyber Wars*.

Queensland Theatre Company presents *Quartet* by Ronald Harwood on tour February 25 to March 23, 2016

Director: Andrea Moor

Designer: Bruce McKinven

Lighting Designer: David Walters

Starring: Christine Amor, Andrew McFarlane, Trevor Stuart, Kate Wilson

25 February | Toowoomba: Empire Theatre
1300 655 299 | empiretheatre.com.au

27 February | Kawana: Lake Kawana Community Centre
(07) 5413 1400 | scvenuesandevents.com.au

1 March | Rockhampton: Pilbeam Theatre
(07) 4927 4111 | seeitlive.com.au

4 March | Mackay: Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre
(07) 4961 9777 | mackaytix.com.au

8 – 9 March | Cairns: Centre of Contemporary Arts
1300 855 835 | ticketLiNK.com.au

12 March | Townsville: Townsville Civic Theatre
(07) 4727 9797 | ticketshop.com.au

16 March | Gladstone: Gladstone Entertainment Centre
(07) 4972 2822 | gladec.com.au

19 March | Ipswich: Ipswich Civic Centre
(07) 3810 6100 | www.ipswichciviccentre.com.au

22 – 23 March | Bundall: The Arts Centre Gold Coast
(07) 5588 4000 | theartscentregc.com.au