## Audio Description Pre-Show Notes for ‘COST OF LIVING prepared by Vantagepoint Audio Description.

# Event Details:

‘COST OF LIVING’ by Martyna Majok

Presented by: Queensland Theatre

Venue: Bille Brown Theatre, South Brisbane, (Brisbane/Meanjin)

Audio described performance: 2pm Saturday 13 July, 2024.

Audio Described by: Shari Irwin for Vantagepoint Audio Description.

These notes, current at time of distribution, are subject to change and are intended as a guide to prepare you for the live Audio Description.

# Running Time.

1 hour and 30 minutes, no interval.

# Show Warnings.

This production contains full frontal male nudity, underwater submersion, occasional strong language, herbal and e-cigarettes and the use of haze. Recommended for ages 15+.

Special Notes.

Not applicable.

# Context/Overview.

Former-carer turned Playwright Martyna Majok won the Pulitzer Prize for Drama for this play in 2018 and it’s easy to see why. This is a beautifully rendered story about our need to care (or be cared for) no matter the distance that age, race and disability might place between us.

Drawing on her lived experience, Majok introduces us to four seemingly disconnected characters whose lives are at a crossroads. There’s John — a wealthy successful PhD student with cerebral palsy ­— who hires the secretive Jess to be his new carer. And then there’s Eddie, an unemployed truck driver, desperately trying to reconcile with his ex-wife Ani, who has become a wheelchair user after an accident.

Told with deft humour and enormous heart, the Australian premiere of this highly-lauded work is directed by Priscilla Jackman (The Appleton Ladies’ Potato Race) and Dan Daw.

# The Stage.

The Bille Brown Theatre is corner stage, meaning that the part of the stage furthest away from the audience is a corner (at the 12 o’clock position), with the back walls of the stage extending diagonally to the left and right of this corner towards the audience.

The performers enter from the left and right sides of the stage, and from the behind the walls of the set. The auditorium seats 350 people, with three seating banks: a centre bank, left bank and right bank.

# The Set.

The predominant feature of the set are 8 panels resembling grey-and-white speckled brick walls, each 1m wide and 4m high. These panels move position during the show – sliding sideways, left and right across the stage - to suggest different locations and to hide or reveal characters or other elements of the set. These sliding walls will be referred to as “brick panels” during the live audio description. The furthest most back wall is wall-papered in vertical grey and charcoal stripes, and is often obscured by the sliding brick panels. Overall, the set has a worn-down, distressed, ‘hardness’ to it. The straight lines and corners of the brick panels and flooring are a dominant feature along with the cold palette of whites and greys.

The entire stage floor is covered in large white tiles. At the centre of the stage floor is a 2-metre square area of dark-grey mesh flooring, set with the corner of the square closest to the audience.

Lighting and other effects will be described live.

# Characters and Costumes.

In order of appearance:

**Eddie, a retired truck driver, ex-husband to Ani,** performed by Philip Quast.

In his sixties, fair skinned man of average height, heavy, with ear-length grey hair slicked back, and white beard. He wears blue jeans, blue-and-grey flannel shirt, navy blue windcheater.

**John,** an academic, performed by Dan Daw.

In his late twenties, fair skinned man with tall, lean and muscular build, with dark hair cut short. He wears tight black jeans and crisp white long-sleeve, collared shirt.

**Jess, bartender and support worker for John, performed by** Zoe de Plevitz.

In her late twenties, fair-skinned woman, with petite build and long dark hair, in a ponytail. She wears tight grey jeans and pale grey hoodie.

**Ani, Eddie’s ex-wife,** performed byKate Hood.

In her fifties, fair skinned woman, using an electric wheelchair. She has an average build, with auburn hair cut short. She wears black tights and a brown long-sleeve tunic.

Any pertinent costume changes will be described live.

END OF PRE-SHOW NOTES.

# Upcoming Audio Described Events.

“Necklace” presented by Anywhere Festival.

Saturday 4 August 1pm at Marhaba Café, City Hall, Adelade Street, Brisbane.

“POTUS” presented by Queensland Theatre.

Saturday 13 August, 2pm at the Bille Brown Theatre, South Brisbane.

Numerous events at Brisbane Festival in September.

For more event information visit [Vantagepoint Audio Description](https://www.vantagepointad.com/audio-description) and [Vision Australia’s events listing.](https://www.visionaustralia.org/services/staying-connected/events?sort_by=field_event_start_value&sort_order=ASC&field_event_start_value_1=All&field_event_state_value%5b5%5d=5)

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