

QUEENSLAND THEATRE

A Queensland Theatre and Griffin Theatre Company co-production

Supported by Playwriting Australia as part of its Muru Salon and National Script Workshop programs.

CITY OF GOLD By Meyne Wyatt

Wryly funny and sometimes brutal world premiere set to challenge ***City of Gold* an urgent play for our time**

Bille Brown Theatre | Saturday 29 June – Saturday 20 July 2019

In a powerful and confronting theatre event that is sure to linger in the minds of audiences long after the (figurative) curtain closes, Queensland Theatre presents the world premiere of *City of Gold*, written by, and starring, the immensely charismatic **Meyne Wyatt** (*The Sapphires*, *Strangerland*, *Redfern Now*, *Neighbours*, *Black Comedy*).

With first previews opening from June 29 and the season continuing until July 20, *City of Gold* is a raw and honest look at the challenges facing some young Indigenous Australians working to carve out a future in modern society whilst striving to maintain their connection to community and Country. It's a stage story everyone needs to experience.

Partially inspired by his own experiences Wyatt has written a wryly funny and sometimes brutal play that will leave audiences questioning their own preconceptions, however well-meaning, about modern Indigenous culture. It's raw, open, honest story-telling that will resonate with audiences, alternating between shock, inspiration and deeply moving moments. This is a play for people who are interested in being at the cutting edge of the conversation about Indigenous experience in Australia today.

Meyne Wyatt said the story had to be told. "Over the past few years things have happened, there has been something in the air, which all came together to make me actually write this," he said.

"My dad passed away in 2015 and 18 months later I found myself really disillusioned with the world, the industry and myself. The roles I was auditioning for and getting, reflected the fact I had lost my passion. At the same time in my hometown of Kalgoorlie, a young 14-year-old Aboriginal boy was killed by a hit-and-run driver, who ended up serving just 15 months. And down south, the Adam Goodes story was playing out on and off the footy field. This series of events prompted me to sit down and write *City of Gold*."

Meyne said the story has the potential to be divisive.

"There's absolutely controversial lines, acts and characters in *City of Gold*. There's also lots of humour. The story dives into dark and deep territory, with the humour a great release valve. I want audiences to find their own spark from this story; and what they find important, is what's important."

The talented Wyatt (he's been nominated for a Sydney Theatre Award in 2011, Logie award 2014 and AACTA Award 2014) will be joined by a highly acclaimed and experienced cast including Matilda Award-winning actor (for Queensland Theatre's *An Octoroon*) **Anthony Standish**, Matilda Award-nominated **Jeremy Ambrum** (Queensland Theatre's *The Longest Minute*, also in *Mabo*, *Cleverman*, *Secret Daughter*) and Logie award-winning **Shari Sebbens** (Queensland Theatre's *An Octoroon*, also in *Black is the New White*, TV *Redfern Now*, *Black Comedy* Film *Top End Wedding*, *Thor: Ragnarok*, *The Sapphires*).

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A number of the cast will be making their Queensland Theatre debut including Performing Arts WA (WAAPA) Award-winning actor, **Maitland Schnaars** (Black Swan State Theatre's *Let The Right One In*, Yirri Yaakin Aboriginal Theatre's *Conversations With The Dead*, Film *I Met a Girl*) and **Mathew Cooper** (Performing Lines *The Season*, MTC/Neon *Lucky Film*, *The Marshes*, Television *Janet King*, *Redfern Now*).

Seasoned stage, television and film actor, **Christopher Stollery** (film *Last Cab to Darwin*, TV *Top of the Lake: China Girl*, *House of Hancock*, *Neighbours*) will also perform for Queensland Theatre for the first time, fresh from his Sydney Theatre Award nomination for Best Male Actor in a Supporting Role for *Ear to the Edge of Time*.

The creatives behind *City of Gold* are some of the country's most - acclaimed and award-winning. Australian actor and dramaturg **Isaac Drandic** will direct (based in Cairns, he has been Queensland Theatre's Resident Dramaturg since 2017), with Dramaturgy by **Paige Rattray**. Famed design team **Simone Tesorieri** and **Simona Cosentini** will bring the set to life, with **Nathalie Ryner** Costume Designer, **Jason Glenwright** Lighting Designer and **Tony Brumpton** Composer and Sound Designer.

City of Gold: The Story

Breythe is a young actor making his way in Sydney when news of his father's death calls him home to Kalgoorlie. Being back on Country and stretched between the politics of his feisty sister Carina and his dispirited brother Mateo, Breythe struggles to understand how he fits into his family or his community. His father haunts his dreams and an omen of death follows him. This is an electrifying glimpse into the entanglement of present-day and 'traditional' Indigenous culture through the eyes of a young man. The world premiere season of *City of Gold* will continue after Brisbane at Griffin Theatre Company in Sydney from July 26.

CAST

MEYNE WYATT	Breythe
JEREMY AMBRUM	Cliffhanger
MAITLAND SCHNAARS	Dad (Byron Black)
SHARI SEBBENS	Carina
MATHEW COOPER	Mateo
ANTHONY STANDISH	Andrews/Whitman/Reporter/Redneck/Bar Patron
CHRISTOPHER STOLLERY	Simmonds/Director/Acting Commander/George/Bar Patron

CREATIVES

ISAAC DRANDIC	Director
SIMONE TESORIERI AND SIMONA COSENTINI	Set Designers
NATHALIE RYNER	Costume Designer
JASON GLENWRIGHT	Lighting Designer
TONY BRUMPTON	Composer/Sound Designer
SHARI INDRIANI	Assistant Director
PAIGE RATTRAY	Dramaturg
PIP LOTH	Stage Manager
ANALIESE LONG	Assistant Stage Manager

TICKETS AT:

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For further information, imagery, interviews or more, please contact Kath Rose 0416 291 493 or email kath@kathrose.com