## Audio Description Pre-Show Notes for ‘MEDEA’ prepared by Vantagepoint Audio Description.

# Event Details:

MEDEA by Kate Mulvany and Anne-Louise Sarks. Original concept by Kate Mulvany and Anne-Louise Sarks, after Euripides.

Directed by: Daniel Evans.

Presented by: Queensland Theatre

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

Audio described performance: 2pm Saturday 25 May, 2024.

Audio Described by: Todd MacDonald 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 15 minutes, no interval.

# Show Warnings.

Recommended for ages 12+

This production contains adult themes and a depiction of filicide (a parent killing their child). There is the use of theatrical haze, some loud sounds and an extended period of low-light.

Special Notes.

Not applicable.

# Context/Overview.

10-year-old Jasper and 12-year-old Leon are like most brothers you know. They fight. They laugh. They play games. Their bedroom is their fortress: home to Cornelius (their goldfish), watched over by Hercules (their teddy bear) and an arena of cowboy showdowns and swashbuckling sword fights.

But today something feels different. Their door is locked shut. Their parents’ shouting is getting louder. And, unbeknownst to them, at some point in the next hour, their iconic fate will ensure they enter mythology as two of the most tragic siblings of all time.

Told entirely from the perspective of Medea’s young sons, this internationally celebrated version of the Ancient Greek tragedy by Kate Mulvany (*Jasper Jones*) and Anne-Louise Sarks is directed by the incomparable Daniel Evans (*Drizzle Boy, The Almighty Sometimes*).

Tender, surprising and bittersweet: this is a reimagining of history’s most misunderstood mother in an unforgettable pressure-cooker performance that is not to be missed.

# 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 auditorium seats 350 people, with three seating banks: a centre bank, left bank and right bank.

# The Set.

The set is a children’s bedroom shared by the two brothers. The room is raised 1.5 metres off the stage floor, and appears, as if hovering over the black space, like a fishtank with a lid.

The room is 4m x 4m square, set so that the front corner of the room is closest to the audience, with two floor-to-ceiling glass walls: one extending to the left, the other to right. Through these glass walls we see through to the back two walls of the room.

The back walls are painted a sky blue, with glow-in-the dark plastic stars stuck all them. Starting at the 12 o’clock position and moving right: Tucked to the right of the back corner, is the white bedroom door. Further along the right wall are two single beds. Closest to the door is Jasper’s bed with a green jungle-themed doona. On the far right is Leon’s bed with a blue-black space-themed doona. The beds have a bookshelf ledge at the bedhead. On Jasper’s bed this shelf is filled with stuffed toy animals, and on the wall above are posters of animals. Leon’s shelf has action figures and plastic toy dragons, and on the wall above are posters of the Brisbane Broncos football team, other sports people, and illustrations of rockets and planets in space. On the very far right, at the 3 o’clock position, is a large, brown beanbag, leaning against the glass wall. At the top of that wall above Leon’s bed is a small white air-conditioning unit.

On the very far left of the room at the 9 o’clock position is a fishtank, 60cm long, 30cm high, on a wooden stand, skirted with a coloured curtain. There are 2 large, real, gold fish swimming in the tank. In the middle of the left wall is a small wooden desk with a top drawer and cupboard beneath. A blackboard is mounted on the wall behind the desk, and a yellow and white swivel chair is in front of the desk. At the 11 o’clock position, to the right of the desk, is a double sliding-door wardrobe with white doors, and in the very back corner, left of the bedroom door are wall-mounted hooks on which hang the boys’ school backpacks. On the back of the bedroom door is a small toy basketball hoop and mini basketball. When the door is opened, we see a corridor wall, with family photos mounted on it.

The room’s floor is covered in a beige carpet, and a round slate-blue rug 1.5m in diameter is on the floor positioned towards the left and in front of the two beds. Strewn across the floor are various toys: Lego bricks, a circular mat that coverts to a sack with a drawstring to collect the Lego, a skateboard, various sized balls, playing cards and coloured pencils.

The ceiling of the room is white, with glow-in-the-dark stars stuck across it, and a white ceiling fan in the centre of the room.

Lighting and other effects will be described live.

# Characters and Costumes.

**Leon, eldest son of Medea and Jason,** older brother to Jasper. Performed by Jeremiah Rees.

A twelve-year-old boy, with fair-skin, 120cm tall, skinny build, and dusty-blonde straight hair cut short at the back, but hanging long over the forehead. He has a slim face with sensitive features. He wears denim shorts and t-shirt with wide, horizontal blue-and-aqua stipes, and black high-top sneakers with white laces.

**Jasper, youngest son of Medea and Jason. P**erformed by Edward Hill.

A ten-year-old boy, with fair skin, and average build. Shorter than his brother, his head comes up to his older brother’s nose. He has reddish-brown, straight hair, cut short. His face is freckled. He wears khaki shorts, and a navy t-shirt with contrasting sleeves, one red, one blue with a yellow breast-pocket on his left side, and white running shoes.

**Medea, mother of Leon and Jasper, performed by** Helen Cassidy.

In her forties, a fair-skinned woman, with short, average build. She has long autumn-red hair, braided and pinned to the back of her head - but messily, with strands of hair hanging down her face and neck. She wears a loose-fitting grey scoop-neck t-shirt and black stylish trackpants. She wears delicate gold jewellery – earrings, two small neck pendants and a gold chain bracelet.

Other pertinent costume changes will be described live.

END OF PRE-SHOW NOTES.

# Upcoming Audio Described Events.

“Cost of Living” presented by Queensland Theatre.

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

“POTUS” presented by Queensland Theatre.

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

“Fancy Long Legs” presented by La Boite Theatre, Brisbane Festival and The Little Red Company.

September 12, 14, 18 & 21, across various times at the Roundhouse Theatre, Kelvin Grove.

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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