

QUEENSLAND THEATRE

David Williamson and Lee Lewis deliver contemporary train-smash drama in *Family Values* opening The 2023 Season at Queensland Theatre

DAY DATE MONTH 2022

Queensland Theatre heads into 2023 with a bang as Artistic Director Lee Lewis and acclaimed playwright David Williamson (*Don's Party, Emerald City, Rupert*) reunite to deliver a laugh-out-loud train-smash drama in *Family Values* on Saturday, January 28.

Following successful runs in Sydney and Canberra, Lewis and Williamson's latest rendition of this critically acclaimed play will run until Saturday, February 18.

As Roger, a retired judge, played by Peter Kowitz (*The Floating World, Death of a Salesman*) and his wife Sue, played by Andrea Moor (*Let The Sunshine, Switzerland*) gather their family for his birthday celebration, they want nothing more than a pleasant evening with loved ones. But when their three grown children show up with unexpected guests and emotional baggage in tow, the night becomes anything but peaceful.

"This is a play that brings people who would otherwise avoid each other together, purely because they're related. What ensues is dramatic, but also funny – without that the situation would be unbearable," Williamson said.

Set over the course of an evening, *Family Values* shows the hilarious – but very real – conflict that arises from differing beliefs and opinions coming together under one roof. In doing so, Williamson drives the audience to question their own opinions and beliefs and calls the nation to task, deftly confronting uncomfortable, politically charged subjects with humour and grace.

"*Family Values* is a clear vision of Williamson's radical hope for a better and more inclusive future, but heavy subjects are handled in good humour to ensure we achieve what we always set out to do - leave huge smiles on our audience's faces," Lee Lewis said.

Having collaborated professionally many times over the past decade – their last joint project being *Family Values* run at Canberra's Playhouse in March 2020, days before the unfolding pandemic heralded nationwide restrictions – Williamson and Lewis come together once more to bring the play to life in Brisbane.

"What I love about David's writing is how he finds the humanity that sits inside the politics. There are politics in every family and every family has a choice to hold themselves together or fall apart. It asks, can we actually forgive? And this play believes in forgiveness," said Lewis.

"It's a very real guidebook for surviving Christmas with our families!"

The views presented by Williamson in *Family Values* are pertinent, urging the audience to choose social compassion over flawed systems inflicting unnecessary trauma and dividing the country.

"*Family Values* sits on the fault lines of where Australia is today, based on real events which I've attempted to depict truthfully. But alongside this it simply depicts a family falling apart at the seams and coming together when it matters," said Williamson.

Let the drama unfold...

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Family Values

28 January – 18 February 2023

Bille Brown Theatre

By David Williamson

Directed by Lee Lewis

Cast

Roger Peter Kowitz

Sue Andrea Moor

Lisa Helen Cassidy

Saba Sepi Burgiani

Michael Leon Cain

Noeline Jodie Le Vesconte

Creative

Set & Costume Designer Renee Mulder

Lighting Designer Ben Brockman

Composer / Sound Designer Tony Brumpton



Queensland Theatre acknowledges the Jagera and Turrbal people who are the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we work, and their unique relationship with the lands, seas and waterways. We pay our respects to their Elders both past and present, and to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.