

# QUEENSLAND THEATRE

## Queensland Theatre 2022 Season - Single Tickets on Sale and First Cast Announced

UNDER EMBARGO UNTIL TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7

Single tickets to Queensland Theatre's 2022 Season go on sale today, giving the public the opportunity to secure seats to the first four shows; *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, *First Casualty*, *don't ask what the bird look like* and *Bernhardt/Hamlet*.

Artistic Director Lee Lewis says she is looking forward to connecting with a wider audience next year through the diverse array of storytelling on stage.

"2022 is full of big, brave, bold shows that will prove the power of live storytelling. The classics are seen with modern eyes, and our new plays speak to issues that matter to us right now. Boundaries will be pushed, complacency will be challenged and we will laugh a lot. We want to invite people who have never been to the theatre to take a chance on a story told live in front of them. And we want to welcome back audiences who love theatre into vivid worlds with rich characters, wrestling with ideas that are exciting. Life is better with theatre!" Lewis said.

Opening the season on February 12, Margaret Harvey is directing Edward Albee's electrifying masterpiece *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*. Harvey will enthral audiences with her fresh vision of the classic, offering a dangerously funny portrait of a marriage in crisis.

After much anticipation, *First Casualty*, a world premiere that delves into the experiences of Australian soldiers at war - written by serving Australian Army Lieutenant Colonel, Christopher Johnston, will play from March 12.

From May, Hannah Belanzky will take audiences on a journey as she reflects on her experience as a fair skinned First Nations woman through *don't ask what the bird look like*. Directed by Queensland Theatre's Associate Artist, Isaac Drandic (*City of Gold*), this story explores our relationships to culture with a light touch of humour and a philosophical undercurrent.

Breaking boundaries in June, Lee Lewis takes on Theresa Rebeck's *Bernhardt/Hamlet*. Following the real-life backstage story of Sarah Bernhardt as she upends the status quo, feminises the sacred role of the Prince of Denmark and attempts to save her debt-ridden theatre.

Queensland Theatre has also today announced the cast of season opener, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*.

Taking on the role of a middle-aged married couple in crisis is Jimi Bani (*Our Town, My Name Is Jimi*) as George and AACTA Award winning actress Susan Prior (*Suddenly Last Summer, Rifle Mind*) as Martha. Bani will also grace Queensland stages in late 2022 as the lead for the Company's uniquely Australian adaptation of *Othello*.

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“What I’ve found really interesting in the casting for *Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* was this incredible opportunity to bring this nearly 60-year-old play into a modern context,” said Harvey.

“Albee never intended to write about race but by casting this play cross-racially, we explore deeper layers of the text, revealing a race-power dynamic which is incredibly relevant to conversations about the state of Australia today.”

Playing the young couple who become embroiled in drama will be Rashidi Edward as Nick and Juanita Navas-Nguyen as Honey. Set and costume designs will be carried out by Ailsa Paterson, Lighting Design by Nigel Levings and Composition and Sound Design by Andrew Howard.

As the 2021 Season wraps up following the final curtain call of *Return to the Dirt*, Queensland Theatre reflects on the incredible, box-office record-breaking triumphs of the year that’s been and looks forward to 2022 as an opportunity to share powerful, personal stories with the local community.

To secure your tickets to one of the first four shows of the Queensland Theatre 2022 Season, visit [queenslandtheatre.com.au](https://queenslandtheatre.com.au). Gift vouchers are also available for the perfect present this holiday season.

## ENDS

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### **Full Creatives and Cast for *Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?***

#### **Creatives**

Writer: Edward Albee

Director: Margaret Harvey

Designer: Ailsa Paterson

Lighting Designer: Nigel Levings

Composer and Sound Designer: Andrew Howard

#### **Cast**

George: Jimi Bani

Martha: Susan Prior

Nick: Rashidi Edward

Honey: Juanita Navas-Nguyen

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## Queensland Theatre – 2022 Season

### [Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?](#)

By Edward Albee

Directed by Margaret Harvey

12 — 26 Feb at the Playhouse, QPAC  
A State Theatre South Australia Production

Nothing good ever happens after 3am.

### [First Casualty](#)

By Christopher Johnston

Directed by Lee Lewis

12 Mar — 9 Apr at the Bille Brown Theatre  
World Premiere

This is not an anti-war story. This is not a pro-war story. This is a story of soldiers.

### [don't ask what the bird look like](#)

By Hannah Belanszky

Directed by Isaac Drandic

30 Apr — 14 May at the Bille Brown Theatre  
World Premiere

A gently funny, almost gothic tale of land, family and reconnection.

### [Bernhardt/Hamlet](#)

By Theresa Rebeck

Directed by Lee Lewis

28 May — 18 Jun at the Bille Brown Theatre

*To be or not to be...* theatre star Sarah Bernhardt *absolutely* will be.



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.