

**MEDIA RELEASE**

*Embargoed until 7pm Wednesday 25 September 2024*

**QUEENSLAND THEATRE COMPOSES A THEATRICAL LOVE LETTER  
IN BLOCKBUSTER 2025 SEASON PROGRAM**

From courtrooms to saloons, outback towns to the corridors of power, Queensland Theatre stokes a reignited love of theatre with its captivating 2025 Season program.

The state's premier theatre company stages eight mainstage productions in 2025 – including three at QPAC's Playhouse – and infuses its program with world premieres, award-winning works, big-name artists, Queensland stars and unmissable storytelling.

The 2025 Season begins with a sumptuous retelling of **Jane Austen's *Pride & Prejudice***, followed by a rollicking musical revival of ***Calamity Jane***, **David Williamson's** spiky and sassy ***Rhinestone Rex and Miss Monica***, the heartfelt ensemble piece ***Dear Son***, the critically acclaimed ***Julia***, a ripped-from-the-headlines retelling in ***Back to Bilo***, fearless new work ***Malacañang Made Us*** and **Aaron Sorkin's** razor-sharp smash, ***A Few Good Men***.

Cementing the "Queensland" in Queensland Theatre, the company launches its ambitious ***Creative in Cairns*** initiative, delivers programs in 73 regional Queensland districts, and stages its first mainstage performance of 2025 in Toowoomba.

Queensland Theatre CEO **Criena Gehrke** said the 2025 Season was a theatrical love letter to audiences, old and new, with each programmed work a new page carefully crafted to enchant and entertain.

"Queensland sits at the epicentre of our 2025 Season, from the stories we tell, to the artists on the stage, to the creative forces working behind the scenes and critically, to the people in our audiences who trust us to inspire, excite and delight them," Gehrke said.

"We are so proud to present a season that includes two world premieres – ***Dear Son*** and ***Malacañang Made Us*** – alongside bold new work, reimagined classics, blockbusters and globally resonant events adapted for the stage.



“Whether you are a Queensland Theatre veteran or inspired to join us for the first time, we know you’ll fall in love with the 2025 Season.”

Minister for the Arts **Leeanne Enoch** welcomed the launch of Queensland Theatre’s 2025 Season.

“With a wealth of stories, programs and productions for audiences and communities across the State, Queensland Theatre is offering an expansive and inclusive season of work in 2025,” Minister Enoch said.

“Queensland Government investment in Queensland Theatre’s First Nations Development Program over the next two years will also work to create new First Nations-led theatre work and exciting career pathways for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists and arts workers.

“Our investment in Queensland Theatre is delivering on the priorities of our *Creative Together 2020-2030* roadmap and celebrate our stories as we prepare to share them on the global stage of the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.”

Austen’s timeless wit sets the tone for the 2025 Season in a *Bridgerton*-esque retelling of *Pride & Prejudice*, premiering at Toowoomba’s Empire Theatre (**13 February**) before playing QPAC’s Playhouse (**20 February to 9 March**).

Patrick White Award-winners **Wendy Mocke** and **Lewis Treston** breathe fresh life into literature’s original romantic comedy with **Bridget Boyle** and Queensland Theatre’s Associate Artistic Director **Daniel Evans** co-directing an all-Queensland cast including **Maddison Burrridge** and **Andrew Hearle**.

The Bille Brown Theatre transforms into an immersive old-time Western piano bar – complete with on-stage saloon seating – for a raucous revival of the musical hit *Calamity Jane* (22 March to 17 April).

Starring Queensland’s first lady of song and stage, **Naomi Price** (*Drizzle Boy*, *Ladies in Black*), and directed by **Richard Carroll**, *Calamity Jane* promises a whip-cracking evening of grit and giggles.

Double Gold Logie-winner **Georgie Parker** (*Home and Away*) and **Glenn Hazeldine** (*Colin From Accounts*) reunite to trade barbs and banter in David Williamson's *Rhinestone Rex and Miss Monica* – 15 years after they starred in its world premiere and 30 years since Parker last trod the Queensland Theatre boards.

The dynamite duo reprises their roles as two single, middle-aged people – wholly incompatible in every way – in a gleeful two-hander about accidental attraction at Bille Brown Theatre **(28 May to 21 June)**.

The versatile Bille Brown Theatre then sets the stage for the world premiere of the poignant and powerful *Dear Son* **(28 June to 19 July)**, directed by Queensland Theatre's Head of First Nations Theatre, **Isaac Drandic**, who crafted the work with **John Harvey**.

The page-to-stage adaptation embodies the handwritten and heartfelt letters of 12 Indigenous men to their sons, published in author **Thomas Mayo**'s titular book and including missives from **Stan Grant, Troy Cassar-Daley** and **Charlie King**.

**Justine Clarke** steps into the shoes of Australia's first female Prime Minister in *Julia*, a revelatory re-examination of an unforgettable moment in feminist history: **Julia Gillard**'s seminal 2012 speech to Parliament.

The box office hit that expertly blurs the lines between fact and fiction is written by **Joanna Murray-Smith**, directed by Helpmann Award-winner **Sarah Goodes** and makes its Queensland premiere at QPAC's Playhouse **(16 to 30 August)**.

*Back to Bilo*, a Queensland story that became another rallying chapter in Australia's history, makes its mainstage debut at Bille Brown Theatre **(3 to 13 September)**.

The remarkable true tale of a Sri Lankan Tamil refugee family ripped away from their adoptive Biloela home captured the nation's headlines and hearts and is told with compassion and care by Brisbane theatremakers, Belloo Creative.

Giving a platform to brave and bold new voices, **Jordan Shea**'s Queensland Premier's Drama Award-winning play, *Malacañang Made Us*, makes its world premiere at Bille Brown Theatre **(18 October to 1 November)**.



The epic play begins with the fall of Philippines dictator **Ferdinand Marcos** and unfurls over decades, countries, generations and ideologies, drawing on O'Shea's laser insight and lived experiences.

The 2025 Season ends with the rousing courtroom drama *A Few Good Men*, Sorkin's cinematic smash returning to the stage at QPAC's Playhouse (**22 November to 7 December**).

Emulating the play's blistering plotline, a cast of rising stars go head-to-head with a swathe of stage legends in this theatrical tour-de-force, directed by Daniel Evans.

Aside from its mainstage program, Queensland Theatre's 2025 Season champions new voices, new works and new audiences across the state.

The ambitious *Creative in Cairns* initiative celebrates stories from the state's stunning northern reaches that connect people to Country, told by a community whose knowledge and traditions span millennia.

Queensland Theatre is also championing new works that reflect richness and diversity through its First Nations Development Program and design-focused Professional Development Program for Key Creatives.

The company's commitment to developing the Australian canon continues with six works under creative and artistic development in its *New Stories, New Works* initiative.

*The First 20* offers a laidback and attention-grabbing taster of what's to come, where local playwrights share the first 20 minutes of their new works over one afternoon at Bille Brown Theatre (**9 November**).

Firm in its commitment to making theatre accessible for all audiences, Queensland Theatre has responded to ongoing cost of living pressures with lower ticket pricing across Season Ticket packages and individual performances.

Additionally, Season Ticket packages are more flexible with audiences given added freedom to pick and choose their productions and access benefits including priority seating, a personal concierge service and free date exchanges.



Season Ticket packages start at just three plays, with eight-play packages rewarding theatregoers with savings of up to 20 per cent.

Queensland Theatre Season Ticket packages are now on sale, with tickets to individual performances on sale **Friday, 11 October 2024**.

For more information, to view the full program and to purchase Season Ticket packages, visit [queenslandtheatre.com.au](https://queenslandtheatre.com.au)

## ENDS

Download Queensland Theatre's 2025 Season imagery [HERE](#).

### Season Overview

- ***Pride & Prejudice***: 20 February – 19 March, Playhouse Theatre QPAC
- ***Calamity Jane***: 22 March – 17 April, Bille Brown Theatre
- ***Rhinestone Rex and Miss Monica***: 28 May – 21 June, Bille Brown Theatre
- ***Dear Son***: 28 June – 19 July, Bille Brown Theatre
- ***Julia***: 16 – 30 August, Playhouse Theatre QPAC
- ***Back to Bilo***: 3 – 13 September, Bille Brown Theatre
- ***Malacañang Made Us***: 18 October – 1 November, Bille Brown Theatre
- ***A Few Good Men***: 22 November – 7 December, Playhouse Theatre QPAC

### Media Contacts

Georgie Rowlands | Aruga  
[georgie@aruga.com.au](mailto:georgie@aruga.com.au)  
0411 282 590

Lilly Caldwell | Aruga  
[lilly@aruga.com.au](mailto:lilly@aruga.com.au)  
0403 463 152

### About Queensland Theatre

For more than 50 years, Queensland Theatre has created collective experiences that change lives, presenting an annual season of the best classic, contemporary, international and Australian works. We are committed to championing new voices on Australian stages including supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to develop and share their stories, and encouraging a love of theatre through education and youth participation across Queensland.

