

the Arts Centre presents

SHORT & SWEET 2006

The biggest 10-minute play festival in the world



TOP 30: WEEK ONE

23 – 26 November

A BLACK CAT KIND OF DAY

Finding a dead girl on his doorstep was not the best start to Elliot's day. Is it a random event or catalytic door-knock which wakes him to the storm in his life?

WRITER: Meg Courtney

DIRECTOR: Naomi Edwards

CAST: Kylie Trounson (Dead Girl), Tim Stitz (Elliot) and Kristy Barnes-Cullen (Till)

BASS PLAYER: Ben Hillyard

THANKS TO: Nicholas Albanis (sound designer). Double bass supplied by Cellissimo! Stringed Instruments of Kew, telephone 9816 9910.

THE GREAT CURRAN

In the Arbitration Commission Mr Curran appears for the Meat Workers Union on behalf of a member who has been sacked for telling the boss to "fuck off".

WRITER: Neil Cole

DIRECTOR: Alice Bishop

CAST: Simon McSweeney (Wally Curran) and Greg Parker (The Commissioner)

THANKS TO: Wally Curran

TOO DARK A PINK

Comedy with a critical edge. In an open minded middle class family nothing ruffles the feathers. Homosexuality – no problem! But if your child ever crossed the line, became a... Unthinkable!

WRITER: Julian Hobba

DIRECTOR: James Adler

CAST: Ian Rooney (father), Peter Reid (Dean) and Sharon Kershaw (mother)

CROSS PURPOSES

Jane can't help but remember. Martin doesn't want to forget. Two lives set turning apart in the mundane, fused together in the sensational. An unchangeable event.

An unshakeable memory...

WRITER: Danielle Elisha

DIRECTOR: Xan Colman

CAST: David Spencer (Martin) and Tamara Searle (Jane)

MUSIC: Charles Long

THANKS TO: Bronwyn Pringle (lighting design) and Hope Hayward-Rowling (costume design)

THE NATASHAS

A Carrie Bradshaw styled heroine waits for her boyfriend in a leafy city park hoping he might pop 'the question'. Her life irrevocably changes when she meets the real sex in the city.

WRITER: Tee O'Neill

DIRECTOR: Chris Bendall

CAST: Jesse Spence (Minna), Odette Joannides (Louise), Katherine Anderson (Ruth) and Toby Newton (orgasm man, flasher, shadow man & voice man)

THANKS TO: Kelly Ryall (sound designer/composer) and Isla Shaw (designer)

XYLOPHONE

Clare and Kate do everything together, until they both get a thing for Chick. It's the Forty-Hour Famine. Love-starved and tragic Clare loses her first crush and dreams of Karen Carpenter.

WRITER: Simmone Howell

DIRECTOR: Julie Waddington

CAST: Amy Humphreys (Clare)

THANKS TO: Bradley Mcleod

MISTER SUBORDINATE

What a day! Why did his wife fire him? Was it professional rivalry? An illicit affair? Or is there a revelation more cruel and shocking to be exposed?

WRITER: Samantha Hill

DIRECTOR: Deborah Leiser-Moore

CAST: Gülşen Özer (woman) and Jacob Lehrer (man)

THANKS TO: Linden Gallery

THE WINTER SOLSTICE

Melbourne's winter weather and adversity are great levellers, a common cause serves to underline similarities. Winter Solstice – a moment in the lives of four women of diverse background.

WRITER: Susie Allison

DIRECTOR: Valerie Lehman

CAST: Amy Felman (Yallina), Silvana Vaxelaire (Zorina), Tamara Donellan (Phuong) and Belle Armstrong (Kye)

BOXED

Our belongings define the mode and shape of our actions. Going thru the motions we forget that it is the feelings between us that unite us in our belonging to this life.

WRITER: Emilie Collyer

DIRECTOR: Simon Gorman

CAST: Colin Donald (Tom), Mia Hollingworth (Vera) and Felicity Steel (Vera voice)

THANKS TO: David Wolf (video)

OUR LAST TIME TOGETHER

I'm glad you could all make it for *Our Last Time Together*. Breathe in. You are a fish. You are a tree. You are a cow. A big fat cow.

WRITER: Fiona Clarke

DIRECTOR: Geoffrey Masters

CAST: Cheryl Threadgold (Ingrid), Lana Schwarcz (Tracey), Jane Shelton (Joy), Peter Flaherty (Kev) and Julie Stephens (yoga teacher)

THANKS TO: St Bartholomew's Anglican Parish Church, Burnley

WILD CARDS: WEEK ONE

26 November

WHODUNNIT

A drawing room comedy crowded with our favourite whodunnit characters. And the Inspector gives them all the rope they need to incriminate themselves. Is there no end to their unravelling guilt?

WRITER: Jen Breach

DIRECTOR: Karen Berger

CAST: Toby Newton (Inspector), Romain Hermelin (Symons), April Edwards (Lady McNeill), Peter Reid (Algernon), Felicity Steel (Great Aunt Hilda), Tee O'Neill (Janey), Phil Zachariah (Reverend) and Tamara Kuldin (Alice)

HINDSIGHT

Friends meet for lunch and the conversation hits a familiar groove. Can they hold onto a friendship that seems to be slipping away?

WRITER: Justin Haywood

DIRECTOR: Briony Kidd

CAST: Rebecca Gooley (friend) and Rebecca Bower (Gina)

ONE RIGHT MOMENT

A man. A desert. A bus stop. A familiar stranger. A life. A memory. A point of view. A choice. A moment. Again.

WRITER: Kai Tier

DIRECTOR: Petra Kalive

CAST: Kai Tier (Tom) and Timothy Major (Garth)

THE RIVER CAVES

Isolation exists within families. Don't look outside for solidarity! Sedition won't be tolerated; just get her home and out of the public eye. Trust me on my record.

WRITER: Margaret McKenzie

DIRECTOR: Michael Dahlstrom

CAST: Michael Carman (Harry), Larissa Gallagher (Catherine) and Babs MacMillan (Rose)

HIDDEN FEATURES

Two couples clash in a mysteriously seductive location. Adam and Magda are enjoying the novelty of moving into their new home when the previous residents turn up bearing bizarre news.

WRITER: John O'Carroll

DIRECTOR: Anna Jeffries

CAST: Gary Gartside (Stephen), Liz Kirk (Angela), Steve Simmons (Adam) and Tamara Ball (Magda)

ROOM TO MOVE

'Spacious two bedroom apartment, with views of the city'. Sounds perfect for Harry and Mary who are painstakingly looking for an apartment to buy, and Alvin who sees in them a potential satisfied customer.

WRITER: Nic Velissaris

DIRECTOR: Elizabeth Semmel

CAST: Colin Masters (Harry), Mark Collard (Alvin) and Alison Campbell-Raite (Mary)

LAST MINUTE

Pete is a thirty-something cartoonist for a newspaper who has just been diagnosed with lymphoma and is experiencing "drawers block" as he tries to draw his final cartoon. Then he meets Cherry, a fan who inspires him to complete what might be his "final work".

WRITER: Samuel Brookfield

DIRECTOR: Matt Scholten

CAST: Lawrence Price (Peter), Allison Coonan (Cheryl) and Gordon Boyd (Nigel & Dr Cloonan)

ERWIN & ALBERT IN SUPER SPACE

Journey into the super space of your imaginations as physics students Erwin and Albert wade through a bog of scientific mumbo jumbo, theorising about the existence of a parallel universe and God. Enjoy the trip to destination nowhere.

WRITER: Phillip Gallop

DIRECTOR: Rosa Campagnaro

CAST: Pier Carthew (Erwin) and Paul Bugeja (Albert)

TRUTH FM

You've just discovered Truth FM, the station where honesty is policy. Stay tuned, because after the break we'll have more of rock-steady Eddie dishing out the hard truth to the remnants of tonight's live callers.

WRITER: Mark Andrew

DIRECTOR: Vanessa Baylen

CAST: Hamish Pritchard (Eddie), Christopher Stevens (Phil), Marnie Gibson (Mandy) and Francis Marrington (Billie)

DON'T GIVE UP YOUR DAY JOB

Christine, an aspiring musical theatre performer, pays the bills by spruiking. She maintains her spirit by spruiking in song but is challenged by those around her – in thoughts and reality.

WRITER: Sharni Page

DIRECTOR: Christine Grant

DIRECTOR'S ASSISTANT: Geri Clayton–Techenne

CAST: Sharni Page (Christine), Victoria Osborne (mother), Helen Ellis (spruiker), David Macrae (agent), Yudha Pandji (friend), Simon Lyssiotis (guy 1), Gary Gartside (man), Nick Barry (guy 2) and Christina Costigan (shop manager)

The Arts Centre thanks Giles Gundermann at the Opera Australia Store for furniture and props.