

Season extended for Noni Hazlehurst's acclaimed one woman show *Mother* at Arts Centre Melbourne.



Photo by Brett Boardman

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, 8 AUGUST 2024 – Due to overwhelming demand, **Arts Centre Melbourne** is thrilled to announce that six extra shows have been added to the season of *Mother*, starring much loved Australian actor **Noni Hazlehurst AM**. This critically acclaimed one woman show will be playing from **4 – 21 September 2024** at **Fairfax Studio**, Arts Centre Melbourne.

Written by Australian playwright **Daniel Keene** especially for Hazlehurst, *Mother* tells the story of Christie, a homeless woman in a world detached, unforgiving and destructive. Christie is a great survivor, a storyteller, comical and dramatic. Hazlehurst adeptly portrays Christie - feisty and also defeated, angry yet loving, and ultimately characterised by honesty, wit and self-deprecation.

The play speaks of denial, ignorance and free-falling poverty. Utterly devastating, yet written with Keene's characteristic lyricism, the award-winning show is wrought with tenderness, violence, black humour and loneliness in equal measure.

Directed with great acclaim by **Matt Scholten**, the 70-minute drama has awakened many people to issues surrounding motherhood, poverty, homelessness in middle age and isolation.

Universally praised by critics and audiences, *Mother* has had sold out seasons in Sydney and Brisbane. In 2018, Noni Hazlehurst was the recipient of the Matilda Award for Best Performance by an Actress in a Leading Role. The production also won the 2015 Drama Victoria Award for Best Performance by a Theatre Company, was nominated for two

Helpmann Awards® including Best Performance by a Female Actor and Best Regional Touring Production and was a finalist in the 2016 Performing Arts Connections Australia Tour of the Year Awards.

Noni Hazlehurst is a celebrated film, theatre and television actor, beloved *Play School* presenter, host of *Better Homes and Gardens* and most recently *Every Family Has A Secret* (SBS). She has one of the most impressive and wide-ranging careers in the business with television credits including Foxtel's *A Place to Call Home*, ABC's *The Letdown*, *The Broken Shore* and *Redfern Now* along with recent feature films *Ladies in Black*, *Truth* and *The Mule*. In 2016, she was inducted into the Logies Hall of Fame.

"Noni Hazlehurst delivers the performance of a lifetime." **Sydney Morning Herald**

"Essential theatre. Keene wrote Mother as a vehicle for Hazlehurst and under Matt Scholten's direction it takes just seconds for her to disappear into her role. She measures every sentence, every word perfectly and delivers an hour-or-so of pitiless storytelling flawlessly." **Audrey Journal**

"If you want to see one of Australia's finest actors at the height of her powers, rush out to see this." **Courier Mail**

Images can be found [here](#).

Cast and Credits

Performer: Noni Hazlehurst

Director: Matt Scholten

Producer: Hey Dowling

Set, Props and Costume: Kat Chan

Lighting Designer: Tom Willis

Sound Designer: Darius Kedros

Duration: 70 minutes

Arts Centre Melbourne, Hey Dowling and The Saturday Paper present
Mother

Fairfax Studio | 5 - 21 September 2024

Preview 4 September 2024

For more information visit artscentremelbourne.com.au

*Mother contains content that may be distressing for some. If you require support, please contact one of these free services: Lifeline: 13 11 44. Crisis support available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Beyond Blue: 1300 22 4636. Counselling available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Arts Centre Melbourne acknowledges the traditional owners of the land on which we stand, the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people, and pays respect to their Elders, past and present.



Media Release

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For further information and interviews, please contact Media and Communications Advisor **Michaela Hall** on **0419 113 633** or michaela.hall@artscentremelbourne.com.au.



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