



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SPORT FOR JOVE THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS

-- 2017 Theatre Season -

Now in its seventh successful year of offering the Sydney independent sector an exciting, accessible and powerful voice, Sport for Jove Theatre's 2017 season is our biggest, most international and most inclusive yet.

Featuring the premiere of a brilliant and passionate new Australian work, an untouched American classic, a modern British work of pure provocation, a return of our acclaimed production of a great French masterpiece, and two of Shakespeare's Roman tragedies played outdoors over summer, our 2017 season brings together 64 actors with 33 roles for women and 31 for men, and four directors including artistic director, Damien Ryan, joined by Kim Hardwick, Michael Pigott and Penny Harpham.

OUTDOOR SPORT - SUMMER!

JULIUS CAESAR AND ANTONY AND CLEOPATRA by William Shakespeare

SFJ's big 2017 begins with a study of power and provocation from the perspective of women in leadership. The traditionally male roles of Julius Caesar, Octavius Caesar, Cassius, Casca and many more played by a group of superb Australian female artists in a unique outdoor season.

Sport for Jove's acclaimed Summer Shakespeare Season, now in its 8th successful year, has become a must-see on the NSW theatrical calendar. This year we go on a Roman Holiday – the epic tale of Julius Caesar and Antony and Cleopatra, told together in the frenzy and accessibility of the Festival atmosphere, outdoors and full of feasting and invention.

More information available at www.sportforjove.com.au



Shakespeare looked to the Roman past not out of historical curiosity but to awaken us to the struggles, fears and possibilities of our present – our relationships to power, to loyalty, to freedom, to violence, to idealism and to civic duty. But above to imagine new futures –

“How many ages hence shall this, our lofty scene, be acted over in states unborn and accents yet unknown” Julius Caesar

Julius Caesar and Antony and Cleopatra are two of his greatest plays – famed for their clarity, political modernity, poetry and their extraordinary pantheon of characters, real men and women who defined the very pulse of their age and who are rekindled in the possibilities of every political leader and every political machination of the 21st Century. Their rise and thunderous fall threw down to us a set of challenges we may never master. How do we lead a nation? How do we follow a leader? What sparks revolution? What suppresses it? What price freedom...?

And as the merry-go-round of the Australian Prime Ministership has shown in recent years, politics is as personal as life itself. Love, hate, betrayal, sacrifice, lust, confusion, tyranny – power is a fragile house of cards and every nation stands in its trembling shadow.

Featuring : Camilla Ah Kin, Oliver Burton, Megan Drury, Giles Gartrell-Mills, Teresa Jakovich, Amy Kersey, Felicity McKay, Suzanne Pereira, Rupert Reid, Damien Ryan, Berynn Schwerdt, Georgia Scott, Christopher Stollery, Tony Taylor and Bryce Youngman.

Directors : Michael Pigott and Damien Ryan

Designer : Georgia Hopkins

Design Assistant : Angelika Nieweglowski

Lighting Designer : Martin Kinanne

Sound Designer : Bryce Halliday

Stage Manager : Paisley Williams

Fight and Movement : Scott Witt

Technical Manager : Jem Page

Where: Bella Vista Farm Park, Baulkham Hills and Everglades Garden, Leura

Dates: December 17th – January 29th

INDOOR SPORT - AUTUMN!

FALLEN

By Seanna van Helten



In April, SFJ is excited to be co-producing with the incredible Melbourne based She Said Theatre, on a new Australian work inspired by the history of Urania Cottage, a home for “fallen” women founded by Charles Dickens.

Set in London 1848, six women have been given a second chance. Their pasts behind them, they have been promised a clean slate on the other side of the world, in the new colonies of Australia.

“All locked away, you said, no one can hold it against you once it’s all locked away.”

Sealed off from the outside world, they cook, they clean, they sing, they sew – they practice the art of being female while they wait for their new lives to begin. But as the date of departure draws near, the women begin to wonder what reinvention will cost them. What will such promises make them do? And what about the fall yet to come, the tumble down the edge of the world to a far-away continent... What is waiting for them? Are they prepared for it? Are they ready? Are they ready?

Developed with the support of Playwriting Australia at the National Script Workshop 2016, and following on from its successful first public reading at the WITS Festival Fatale, Sport For Jove and She Said are excited to bring this imaginative new Australian work to the stage at the Reginald Theatre, Seymour.

FALLEN

Director : Penny Harpham

Playwright : Seanna van Helten

Where: Reginald Theatre, Seymour Centre

Dates: April 6th – April 22nd

INDOOR SPORT - WINTER!

CYRANO DE BERGERAC

By Edmond Rostand – in a brand new adaptation by Damien Ryan

SFJ’s winter season brings an exciting venture for the many thousands who heard or read about, but haven’t yet seen our acclaimed production of Cyrano de Bergerac, winner of the 2013 Sydney Theatre Award for Best Independent Production. One of the world’s most original and finely crafted romantic comedies; the tale of the beautiful Roxane and the man who would love her, but for his outrageous nose – the play that brought the word ‘panache’ into the English language! Cyrano is a complete theatrical masterpiece.

More information available at www.sportforjove.com.au



We are thrilled to announce that off the back of the huge success of *Antigone* and *Of Mice of Men*, Canberra Theatre Centre and Illawarra Performing Arts Centre have bought *Cyrano* for their 2017 seasons and we will bring this exceptional show back for a 2 week run on the big York Theatre stage at the Seymour Centre in June before going on the road. Damien Ryan's new adaptation of the play won enormous acclaim in 2013 and we are thrilled to bring it to new Australian audiences.

CYRANO:

You see it, but you'll never have this plume,
It soars above the battle's mud and ash,
It stays with me, one thing...

ROXANE: (kissing him)

...this!

CYRANO:

MY PANACHE!

Cyrano's ideas and concerns are simply and profoundly human – what does individualism mean and how do we remain faithful to what we believe in? What is love and how do we get past its clichés and false ideals? How does self-esteem define us all our lives? What is beauty? What drives male aggression? What is courage? And for Rostand, it was a passionate condemnation and plea for a France that he felt was losing its soul, its romance and its creativity to return to a more enlightened, brave and individual sense of its identity – its panache.

Adaptation & Direction : Damien Ryan

Designers : Anna Gardiner and Barry French

Sound Designer : David Stalley

Where: York Theatre, Seymour Centre. Playhouse Theatre, Canberra Theatre Centre. IMB Theatre, Illawarra Performing Arts Centre.

Dates: June 15th – September 16th

THEY SHOOT HORSES, DON'T THEY

By Horace McCoy – adapted by Kim Hardwick

SFJ's winter season continues with another original and extraordinary story, rarely seen on the stage. The great American 1930s novel *They Shoot Horses, Don't They*, turned into an Academy Award winning film in the 1960s, comes to the stage in a new adaptation, created and directed by the brilliant Kim Hardwick.

Horace McCoy's astonishing and groundbreaking novel of 1935, *They Shoot Horses, Don't They?*, depicts a depression-era dance marathon with an unrelenting human toll on its participants, and

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the echoes of those dancing feet can still be heard in our voyeuristic obsession with reality television, morbid competition and spectacle a century later.

One of the greatest novels of the 20th Century, the story plunges us with hypnotic energy into a dark and violent world where people are readily exploited for the pennies that they might bring in from a viewing audience. Marathon dances lasted for days, even weeks, draining their participants of self-respect and gradually turning them into the walking dead.

McCoy dealt with the collapse of humanity in the 20th Century with brutal intensity and originality, pulling no punches and providing a story so rich in its theatricality that it wildly leaps from the page to the stage. Sport for Jove is thrilled to present its new stage adaptation of the seminal novel at the Seymour Centre in 2017, directed by the brilliant Kim Hardwick.

Adaptation : Kim Hardwick

Director : Kim Hardwick

Designer : Isabel Hudson

Lighting Designer : Martin Kinanne

Where: Reginald Theatre, Seymour Centre

Dates: August 3rd – August 19th

INDOOR SPORT - SPRING!

NO END OF BLAME

By Howard Barker

Lovers of history, art, politics and the study of culture will be enthralled by this neglected 20th Century masterpiece, now so profoundly topical, about censorship of the world's most innocent satirical device – the political cartoon.

Directed by Damien Ryan, Howard Barker's No End of Blame is a sublimely playful, dangerous and pertinent political story. Set over 6 decades of the 20th Century across Europe, the play pits a passionate, provocative pair of artists, one a painter, the other a cartoonist, against the forces of censorship and insidious state control that corrupt and stifle the human right to freedom of thought and freedom of speech. This brutal and savagely funny play could not be more relevant to our modern world and its new brand of war, journalism and self-expression. A visual and aural feast for the senses.

More information available at www.sportforjove.com.au



Featuring : Yalin Ozucelik, James Lugton, Danielle King, Lizzie Schebesta, Bryce Youngman, Amy Usherwood

Director : Damien Ryan

Where: Reginald Theatre, Seymour Centre

Dates: October 12th – October 28th

-ENDS-

For more information, please contact

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

Sport for Jove Theatre established in 2009, a resident theatre company at the [Seymour Centre](#), is an award winning NSW-based repertory theatre company producing a major touring summer festival of outdoor theatre in Australia, along with theatrical and education-based seasons of classical and new works. The company also provides an interactive Education program to NSW schools.