

Media Release: October 2010

Janus Entertainment presents

her holiness

Mary MacKillop's courageous road to sainthood

by Justin Fleming & Melvyn Morrow

Regal Theatre November 30 to December 4

Preview: 7.30pm Tuesday 30 November

Opening Night: 7.30pm Wednesday 1 December

Media Contact: John Michael 0414 743 418

WORLD PREMIERE REVEALS TURBULENT STORY OF ST. MARY MACKILLOP



A new play celebrating the remarkable true story of Australia's first saint, Mary MacKillop will be given its world premiere on a main stage in Perth at the Regal Theatre from November 30 to December 4.

Set in Australia and Rome and spanning over 160 years, *her holiness* written by Justin Fleming & Melvyn Morrow brings to life MacKillop's early struggles that led to her excommunication from the very church she loved, and the contemporary efforts that led to her recent Canonisation by Pope Benedict XVI.

Currently in Rome for the Canonisation and celebrations, WA Provincial Sr. Pauline Morgan of the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart said that she was delighted to support a local theatrical production to add to the local Diocese celebrations.

John Senczuk, one of Perth's busiest theatre directors and designers, said he was very excited by the opportunity to reveal the dramatic events surrounding the life and struggle of St Mary MacKillop, directly after the momentous occasion.

"It is not everyday that a saint is made and Fleming and Morrow's script reveals MacKillop's incredible journey as great drama and a fascinating piece of Australian history that will move and inspire everyone who sees it, whatever your personal beliefs are," he said. "This play offers a fascinating insight into the personal drives of MacKillop herself as well as the power play within the church and its most powerful players from colonial cardinals to the Pope himself."

The role of MacKillop will be portrayed by rising young actor, Caitlin Beresford-Ord, opposite Brendan Ewing (Fr. Julian Tenison Woods) and Jay Walsh (Bishop Sheil) with a special guest appearance by veteran Western Australian playwright and actor, John Aitken as Pope Benedict XVI. A dynamic Western Australian cast including Alinta Carroll, Corinne Davies, Alysha McGreevy, Richard Mellick, and Charlotte Westrip portray a variety of nuns, priests and cardinals, supporters and detractors in a riveting theatrical experience that blends political intrigue, inspirational faith, heartbreak and humour in a fascinating tribute to Australia's first saint.

Senczuk said that he was also delighted to be directing the main stage premiere of a work by longstanding friends and colleagues, Justin Fleming and Melvyn Morrow. "This is a great Australian story by great Australian writers that has an international resonance," he said. "I am very excited to be directing a terrific WA cast in a premiere of a work of national significance."

The season of *her holiness* is strictly limited with only eight performances from November 30 to December 4. Bookings through Ticketek on 132849 or www.ticketek.com

**Excellent photo and interview opportunities are available.
Please contact John Michael Swinbank 0414 743 418 jm@johnmichael.com.au**

LISTINGS: *her holiness* – The remarkable true story of Australia's first saint and her epic journey to change the world that shook the foundations of the Catholic Church. Regal Theatre, November 30 to December 4. Ticketek on 132849 or www.ticketek.com

herholiness

Mary MacKillop's courageous road to sainthood
by **Justin Fleming** and **Melvyn Morrow**

Justin Fleming has written for theatre, music theatre, television and cinema and his works have been produced and published in Australia, the USA, Canada, the UK, Belgium, Poland and France. Fleming has been a barrister and vice-president of the Australian Writers' Guild. Recent plays include *The Cobra*, *Harold In Italy*, *Burnt Piano*, *The Department Store* and the adaptation of DH Lawrence's *Kangaroo*.

Melvyn Morrow co-wrote *Shout! The Legend of the Wild One* and *Dusty - The Original Pop Diva* with John-Michael Howson and David Mitchell. Earlier in his life he wrote material for The Mavis Bramston Show, a famous Australia satirical comedy, the first of its kind in Australia. Other recent works include *A Song to Sing*, *Oh!, Vroom! Vroom!* and *Dickens Down Under*. He is the father of *The Chaser's* Julian Morrow.

John Senczuk is one of Perth's busiest theatre directors and designers with recent highlights including, *The Sound of Music* and *Les Miserable* for the MS Society at The Regal; *R & J: As Performed by William Shakespeare & the Earl of Southampton* and *The African Queen* at the Blue Room; *Oklahoma* and *Irene* (with Hollywood legend Debbie Reynolds) at His Majesty's; and *Two Old Queens* on national tour. Following *her holiness*, he will direct and design his own script of *Puss in Boots* for MS WA at The Playhouse.

Creatives

Director/Designer John Senczuk
Lighting Trent Suidgeest
Sound Dave Keys
Costumes Penny Mazzucchelli

Cast

Starring

Caitlin Beresford-Ord as Mary MacKillop

With **John Aitken, Alinta Carroll, Corinne Davies, Brendan Ewing, Alysha McGreevy, Richard Mellick Jay Walsh, Charlotte Westrip**

Performance Season

Regal Theatre, Subiaco

Preview 7.30pm Tuesday 30 November

Performance 1 (matinee) 11.00am Wednesday 1 December

Performance 2 (opening) 7.30pm Wednesday 1 December

Performance 3 (matinee) 11.00am Thursday 2 December

Performance 4 7.30pm Thursday 2 December

Performance 5 7.30 Friday 3 December

Performance 6 (matinee) 2.00pm Saturday 4 December

Performance 7 7.30pm Saturday 4 December

Ticket Prices

	A Reserve	B Reserve
Adult/Full Price	54.50	44.50
Pensioner/Junior [4-12]	44.50	38.00
Student - Full time [12+ & Tertiary]	24.50	18.00
Groups 10+ Adult [inc. 1 free ticket]	49.00	39.00
Groups 10+ Conc [incl. 1 free ticket]	39.00	29.00
Family (2 Adults+2 Juniors)	138.00	110.00