



JMS PUBLIC RELATIONS

2009 ROSTER OF SHOWS AND EVENTS From 22 May 2009

Date	Event	Description	Genre
2009	NEW AD ANNOUNCED Buzz Dance Theatre	<i>Changing of the guard at premier dance company</i>	Young people / dance
May 26 to June 13	THE SPOOK Logos Productions	<i>Wacky spy comedy set in 1960s rural Australia</i>	Theatre
June 16 to July 4	DEATH OF A MURDER Plink Plonk Productions	<i>How would you feel guarding the body of a child-killer?</i>	Theatre
June 23 to July 12	THE SHIPS PASS QUIETLY Prickly Pear Ensemble	<i>Tribute to Russian poet revived with original cast</i>	Theatre
July 4 opening July 14 to 18	THE MAN FROM SNOWY RIVER Spare Parts Puppet Theatre	<i>The classic poem comes to life in a supermarket</i>	Children's / puppetry
July 8 to 11 July 14 to 18	GENIE(US) Buzz Dance Theatre	<i>Be careful what you wish for with this hip-hop genie!</i>	Children's / dance
August 3 to 28	BLUEBACK Spare Parts Puppet Theatre	<i>Tim Winton's mesmerising Blueback on WA tour</i>	Children's / puppetry
Sept 19, Sept 26 to Oct 10	THE NIGHT ZOO Spare Parts Puppet Theatre	<i>Dreams come true – toys come to life</i>	Children's / puppetry
Sept 29, Oct 3 Oct 6 to 10	WALK THE FENCE Buzz Dance Theatre	<i>Walk The Fence</i>	Children's / dance
Oct 14 to 18	BITTER SWEET & TWISTED Mirage Makers	<i>John Michael returns to Melbourne with new show</i>	Music / cabaret
Oct 26 to Nov 15 (TBC)	GREY HAIR Prickly Pear Ensemble	<i>Growing old dis-gracefully!</i>	Theatre
Nov / Dec / Jan	THE VELVETEEN RABBIT Spare Parts Puppet Theatre	<i>Legendary show about rabbit who wants to be real</i>	Children's / theatre

Media Contact: JMS Public Relations
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New Artistic Director to take company into 25th year



Buzz Dance Theatre has appointed a new artistic director, **Cadi McCarthy** to succeed outgoing AD, **Felicity Bott**, in the lead up to its 25th anniversary celebrations in 2010. Ms McCarthy, currently based in Canberra, was a Company dancer with Buzz Dance Theatre from 1998 to 2001.

Ms McCarthy has been involved professionally in the Australian dance industry as choreographer, dancer, director and educator, since graduating from the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts in 1996. She holds a Masters in Education, received the Canberra Critics Circle Awards for dance in 2004 and 2006, and is a recipient of a 2008 Churchill Fellowship. Since 2002, her ACT project based dance theatre company, *Cadi McCarthy & Company* has created full-length works: *Awkward*, *Restless*, *Lick Sip Suck*, *Shambles*, *Grappling for the Edge* and *Restless*.

Chair of Buzz Dance Theatre, Mr Iain McDougall, said that Ms McCarthy would bring a wealth of outside knowledge to her appointment, to support her unique insider experience of the company as it approaches its milestone year.

"We are confident that she will quickly establish herself in the role and enhance bdt's reputation as the leading dance theatre company for children and young people in Australia," he said.

Ms McCarthy is the fifth Artistic Director of the Western Australian powerhouse dance company and said that her time with Buzz Dance Theatre as a dancer held some of her fondest memories.

"It is with excitement that I take the opportunity to guide the company artistically in its next stage of development," she said. "I look forward to building on the momentum of the Company's long history."

Founded in 1985, bdt is nationally awarded as a leader in its field, with innovative performances and workshops designed to foster creativity in all shapes and forms. Over 20,000 children, young people, teachers, families and communities are involved with the company's annual program. Its groundbreaking educational dance programs are adopted and commissioned by a number of dance entities throughout Australia.

"McCarthy creates works that are beautifully paced, well crafted in terms of choreographic design and full of moments that raise a smile, and sometimes even a good chuckle." Michelle Potter, Canberra Times

**Interview and photo opportunities are available.
Please contact John Michael Swinbank 0414 743 418 pr@johnmichael.com.au**

Media Release: May, 2009

Logos Productions

The Spook

From May 26 to June 13

Media Contacts: JMS Public Relations

John Michael Swinbank 0414 743 418 pr@johnmichael.com.au

Comic spy thriller reveals underbelly of small town paranoia

A new comic and sinister spy thriller set between 1965 and 1969 in rural Australia will receive its Western Australian premiere at the Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts this month.

The Spook by award-winning Australian playwright, Melissa Reeves is set at the height of the Sixties social revolution: The Rolling Stones tour Australia - The Seekers go Number 1 in the UK - *Hair* opens on Broadway ... the times, as the song goes, "are a changin'." But in backwater Bendigo all is not what it seems and the nation's secret service, ASIO has just recruited budding local footballer and spymaster, Martin to check out the local communist party.

Based on a true story, *The Spook* explores the underbelly of small town paranoia as Martin eavesdrops, infiltrates and bumbles his way through Spying 101 and Bendigo's eccentric characters with distinctly disturbing results.

Director and Designer, Vivienne Garrett has assembled a formidable cast including Michelle Fornasier, Brendan Hanson, Elise Jansen, Monica Main, Nicholas Papademetriou, Ian Toyne and TJ Power as Martin.

Vivienne Garrett said that *The Spook* captures the era's duality between social revolution and political conservatism. "Harold Holt had just disappeared; Menzies was about to send the first combat troops to Vietnam and ASIO believed that Bendigo was the hotbed of a communist plot to undermine national security!!!" she said. "It was an astonishing time of paradoxes: social liberation and political conservatism, excitement and fear - REDS UNDER THE THE BEDS!"

Set to a Swinging Sixties soundtrack, *The Spook* is a wacky look at the dreams and ambitions of young and old Australia as it copes with change and difference sparked by the social revolution and the explosion of diversity through post-war migration.

At the same time, it is also - as observed by Stuart Macintyre (Ernest Scott Professor of History at the University of Melbourne) - "a political drama of tense precision" that could be played out in other eras: "It is a tragedy of innocence and temptation but it is also a reminder of the distorting prism of surveillance. How might a similar dramatisation of security operations illuminate today's War on Terror?"

The Spook is produced by LOGOS Productions, a collaboration between Vivienne Garrett and Monica Main. The Western Australian premiere season previews on May 26 and runs until June 13 at the PICA Performance Space, not far from the Perth Central Train Station. Tickets for this strictly limited season are available from PICA on 9228 6300 or online at www.pica.org.au

Photo and interview opportunities are available.

Please contact John Michael Swinbank 0414 743 418 pr@johnmichael.com.au

LISTINGS:

***The Spook* by Melissa Reeves**

Spy thriller gone crazy as a young ASIO recruit checks out a local communist party cell in 1960s backwater Bendigo. But James Bond he isn't - more Maxwell Smart, just less smart. Set to a Swinging Sixties soundtrack, this AWARD WINNING wacky incisive comedy is subversive, suspenseful and savagely funny and is playing for a limited season.

PICA Performance Space

Previews: Tuesday 26 & Wednesday 27 May, 8pm **Opens:** Thursday 28 May, 8pm

Season: 29 May - 13 June, 2009 Tuesday - Saturday, 8pm plus Sunday 6pm June 7

Tickets: \$28 / \$22 Previews and Tuesdays only \$15 **Bookings:** 9228 6300 www.pica.org.au

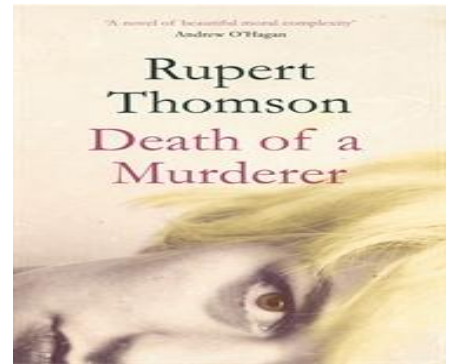


Media Release: May, 2009

The Blue Room and Plink Plonk Productions present
Death of a Murderer
From June 16 to July 4

Media Contacts: JMS Public Relations

John Michael Swinbank 0414 743 418 pr@johnmichael.com.au



Ghost of Myra Hindley haunts new play

A stage adaptation of a cult novel that imagines a chilling encounter between a policeman and the spirit of notorious child killer, Myra Hindley has already drawn interest from overseas ahead of its world premiere at the Blue Room on June 16.

Based on acclaimed British writer, Rupert Thompson's novel, the stage adaptation by local writer, composer and director, Matt Penny is the first time Thomson's work will be seen on the stage. An earlier work, *The Book of Revelation* was made into an Australian film by Anna Kokkinos in 2006.

Set in a general hospital on the night of Hindley's death in 2002, *Death of a Murderer* is a searing look at the dark side of human nature and our capacity for revenge and retribution and ... for murder.

Constable, Billy Tyler is assigned to protect the corpse due to media interest and public hostility to Hindley, who with her lover, Ian Brady carried out The Moors Murders, a series of brutal and sadistic killings of five children in the 1960s.

During his 12 hour night shift, Tyler, unnerved by his assignment and deprived of sleep, is increasingly troubled by his own disturbing memories and moral dilemmas. As the night wears on in the eerie silence of the morgue, the presence of Hindley exerts itself and Tyler confronts the darkness of his own soul and the ghost of Myra herself.

Local actors Michael Rae (*Kvetch, Art's Desire*) and Helen Angell (*Discharge, East*), will play Billy and Myra and are joined by Kingsley Judd (*A Christmas Carol, Withnail and I*), and Chris McCafferty (*Withnail and I, Bouncers*).

Matt Penny's first stage adaptation was of the cult film, *Withnail and I* (nominated for "best production" in the 2001 WA Fringe Festival). He has subsequently directed *The Magic Matt Show* (2003), *Slight Leakage* (2005), and *Discharge* (2007), all at The Blue Room. *Death of a Murderer* will be the first play produced under his new company banner Plink Plonk Productions.

Penny said that he was very excited by the opportunity to stage *Death of a Murderer*. "*Death of a Murderer* is an extraordinarily rich work with great dramatic, visual, and musical potential," he said. "We are combining visual effects from award-winning filmmaker, Christopher Kenworthy with original music to juxtapose Billy's states of reality and dreaming. The starkness of the morgue where we see Billy's anxieties take shape will seem almost comforting compared to the lurid tapestry of the half-waking dream sequences."

Photo and interview opportunities are available.

Please contact John Michael Swinbank 0414 743 418 pr@johnmichael.com.au

LISTINGS:

Death of a Murderer by Matt Penny based on the novel by Rupert Thomson. A chilling encounter between a policeman and the spirit of notorious child killer, Myra Hindley, dead at last 40 years after her crimes ... but, it's only the beginning for PC Tyler guarding her corpse as he first confronts his own dark past, the soul's darkest desires and ultimately the spirit of Myra herself.

16 June – 4 July, 8pm Tuesday – Saturday. *Meet the Artists* Tuesday 23 June.

The Blue Room, 53 James Street Northbridge

Tickets: \$22 / \$15 concession. Blue Room members \$18 / \$12

Bookings: 9227 7005 / www.blueroom.org.au

PRICKLY PEAR ENSEMBLE

The Ships Pass Quietly

Subiaco Arts Centre Studio, June 23 to July 11

MEDIA RELEASE

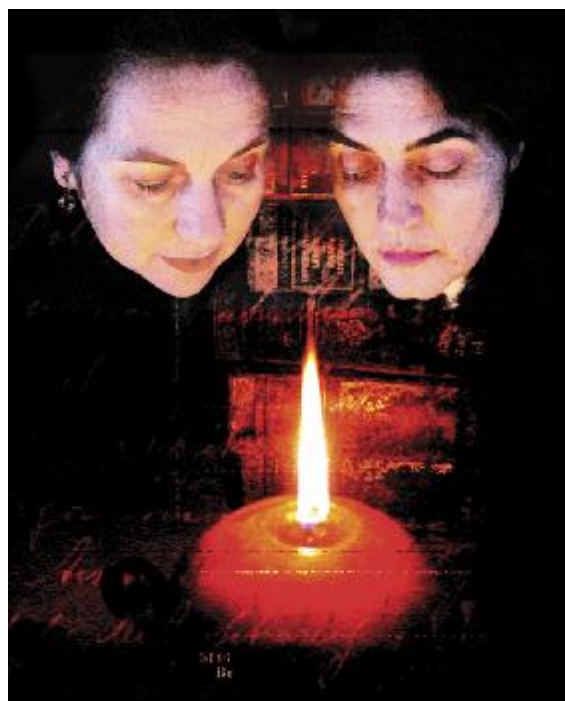
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Freedom of speech is the eternal flame

Western Australian playwright John Aitken's remarkable tribute to Russian poet Anna Akhmatova, *The Ships Pass Quietly*, will be revived at the Subiaco Arts Centre Studio from June 23 to July 11.



Based on the turbulent life of the celebrated Russian poet, *The Ships Pass Quietly* was originally produced at The Blue Room to acclaim with Vivienne Glance as Akhmatova.

The Ships Pass Quietly presents the life of Akhmatova as well as her work against the backdrop of revolutionary Leningrad. A literary celebrity in pre-revolutionary St Petersburg, she fell foul of the party line and her reputation and family were attacked. Despite her husband being shot and later her son imprisoned in Stalinist gulags to buy her silence, Akhmatova continued to write. Her poetry was seen as so subversive that friends memorised the words and then burnt the physical evidence.

Playwright, John Aitken said that he was thrilled that audiences were able to have another opportunity to savour the remarkable life of Akhmatova and her inspirational friends.

"It may be hard for us today to comprehend the cost of freedom of speech. Akhmatova was made to pay a terrible price. Yet her unwavering belief in the emotional power and truth of poetry sustained her. It was like a burning flame, unable to be put out," he said. "I am so thrilled that audiences will have another opportunity to celebrate the remarkable courage of a woman and her friends and their utter belief in the right to self-expression."

Featuring actors, Alinta Carroll, Brian Liau and Ethan Tomas, *The Ships Pass Quietly* runs from June 23 to July 11 at the Subiaco Arts Centre Studio. Bookings can be made through BOCS on 9484 1133 or www.bocsticketing.com.au.

The Prickly Pear Ensemble is a leading independent theatre company based in Perth, specialising in the development and presentation of contemporary Australian drama.

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

LISTINGS:

***The Ships Pass Quietly* -**

The power of the word - the turbulent life and work of celebrated Russian poet Anna Akhmatova is brought to the stage.

Subiaco Arts Centre Studio, June 23 to July 11

Tickets: Preview \$10 / Adults \$32.80 / Concession \$27.50 /

Students \$18.00 / Children \$15.35

Bookings: www.bocsticketing.com.au or 9484 1133

Media Release: May, 2009

Spare Parts Puppet Theatre
The Man from Snowy River
July 4 to 18 (school holiday season) + July 25

Media Contacts: JMS Public Relations

John Michael Swinbank 0414 743 418
pr@johnmichael.com.au

*“There was movement at ...
the checkout ...”*



Classic poem to get puppet treatment

A new production inspired by iconic Australian poem, *The Man from Snowy River*, will receive a world premiere in the Term 2 holidays, opening on July 4.

This latest Spare Parts production written by Mark Storen and directed by Philip Mitchell, re-imagines Banjo Patterson’s famous poem through the eyes of a city boy who dreams of heroic adventures. One day in the supermarket, his dreams come true and he goes on the larrikin-ride of his life.

Designed by the company’s Chief Puppet Maker, Jiri Zmitko *The Man from Snowy River* showcases Spare Parts’ trademark puppetry techniques as well as shadow play and object theatre in a rollicking adventure story of a boy finding his place in the world.

The production features acclaimed performers, Shane Adamczak, Michelle Robin Anderson and Michael Barlow and marks the 20th original score that local composer, Lee Buddle has created for the company.

Artistic Director of Spare Parts, Philip Mitchell said that he was thrilled to bring one of Australia’s iconic works to new life for the young and young at heart. “We have gone to the heart of the Aussie larrikin spirit in our madcap presentation of this great poem,” he said. “I am sure if Patterson could see it he would join in a hearty meat-pie size of a laugh at the antics of our modern, urban, and unlikely bushman.”

The Man from Snowy River opens on July 4 for the Term 2 school holidays with two shows a day at the new times of 10am and 1pm at the company’s newly air-conditioned theatre in Fremantle opposite the train station. Early bookings to secure tickets are always advised as Spare Parts’ shows frequently sell out. 24/7 booking facilities are available online at www.sppt.asn.au or by phone on 9335 5044.

Spare Parts Puppet Theatre is Australia’s leading puppetry company creating entertaining and inspirational theatre for young people and their families. In 2011, the company will celebrate 30 years of creating quality new Australian puppetry works that excite the way we view our world through image, illusion and entertainment.

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

LISTINGS:

The Man from Snowy River – Spare Parts Puppet Theatre re-imagines the classic Banjo Patterson poem in a rollicking adventure story through the eyes of young boy who fantasises in a supermarket that he is an urban bushman. Suitable for all ages but perfect for 5 to 12 year olds.

Spare Parts Puppet Theatre, 1 Short Street Fremantle (opposite the Freo Train Station)
July 4 to 18 + July 25 at 10am and 1pm (no shows on Sunday)
Tickets: Adults at children’s prices \$17.50 / Groups 4+ \$15.40 / Groups 10+ \$13.50
Bookings essential: www.sppt.asn.au or 9335 5044

BUZZ DANCE THEATRE

Genie(us)

Subiaco Arts Centre, July 8 to 18

DESCRIPTION:

Hip-hop genie offers instant gratification

Genie(us) is the story of three friends who stumble across the ultimate prize: the opportunity to have whatever their heart desires without lifting a finger. What could possibly go wrong with three carefree friends, a hip-hop genie and instant gratification?

This contemporary adaptation of the age-old saying “be careful what you wish for” is choreographed by Alice Lee Holland with dancers Joshua Mu and Sharlene Campbell. Suitable for ages 4 to 12.

MEDIA RELEASE TO FOLLOW



LISTINGS:

Buzz Dance Theatre presents Genie(us) – a fabulous wish-fulfillment dance fantasy as a hip-hop genie offers three friends their hearts’ desire ... then everything goes wrong! Rising dance star, Alice Lee Holland creates new dance work perfect for ages 4 to 12 for the Term 2 School Holidays July 8 to 18.

Tickets: \$15 Bookings: www.bocsticketing.com.au or 9484 1133

SPARE PARTS PUPPET THEATRE

The Night Zoo

September 19 opening, September 26 to October 10

DESCRIPTION:

The Night Zoo

Jamie lives with her Dad in a tall building in the middle of the city. Jamie wishes for a pet of her own and one night her wishes come true in spectacular fashion.

One by one, animals begin to arrive in Jamie's room. There's a monkey at the window, a giraffe in the cupboard and an elephant in the lift. It's a jungle in there! And now she has to find a way to get them all back where they came from...



With dance, puppetry and animation *The Night Zoo* is about the friendship animals give us. *The Night Zoo* is a new work written and directed by Michael Barlow, featuring Katya Shevtsov and Jacob Lehrer.

MEDIA RELEASE TO FOLLOW

LISTINGS:

The Night Zoo – A brand new work by the award winning Spare Parts Puppet Theatre exploring the friendship animals give us. Suitable for all ages but perfect for 4 to 10 year olds.

Spare Parts Puppet Theatre, 1 Short Street Fremantle (opposite the Freo Train Station)

September 19 opening, September 26 to October 10

Tickets: Adults at children's prices \$17.50 / Groups 4+ \$15.40 / Groups 10+ \$13.50

Bookings essential: www.sppt.asn.au or 9335 5044

BUZZ DANCE THEATRE in association with Jigsaw Theatre

Walk the Fence

King Street Arts Centre, September 29 to October 10

DESCRIPTION:

Walk the Fence

Buzz Dance Theatre in association with Jigsaw Theatre Company, Canberra presents *Walk the Fence*. Rachel is very, very angry! So angry her feet cannot touch the ground. She's angry with her teacher, her Dad, her friends, her Mum – she has to keep moving or she'll just explode! On the way home, the street magically comes to life provoking, beguiling, questioning and helping Rachel to understand how to cope when you feel overwhelmed. Come sit in Rachel's street.

This playful multi-disciplinary co-production created by the Artistic Director of Jigsaw Theatre Company and the Artistic Director of Buzz Dance Theatre features a captivating score by musician composer, Mel Robinson and two of Australia's boldest performers, Leanne Mason and Chris Palframan to stir your imagination.

MEDIA RELEASE TO FOLLOW

LISTINGS:

Walk The Fence – Modern day 'tap your troubles away' as a young girl learns to cope with the help of the environment around her.

King Street Arts Centre, Studio 3, Perth City

September 29 to October 10

Tickets: Adults' at kids' prices \$15; Group 10+ \$12 each

Bookings: online at www.buzzdance.com.au or 9226 2322



SPARE PARTS PUPPET THEATRE

The Velveteen Rabbit

Inaugural summer season: November / December / January 2010

DESCRIPTION:

The Velveteen Rabbit

Spare Parts Puppet Theatre presents the inaugural summer season in its newly air-conditioned theatre with a return season of its acclaimed production of *The Velveteen Rabbit*, which took Perth by storm first in 2005 going on to a sell out season at the Sydney Opera House and a national tour.

The Velveteen Rabbit is Margery Williams' enchanting story of the relationship between a child and his toy rabbit transformed by the power of love. To his family it is just a soft toy amongst many, but the boy and the rabbit know the toy is really real.



Artistic Director of Spare Parts and director of *The Velveteen Rabbit*, Philip Mitchell said that the story goes to the heart and art of puppetry.

“This classic work is a timeless and uplifting story of belief and make-believe that suggests that anything is possible if you invest it with enough belief and love,” he said. “This is the essence of puppetry - inanimate objects coming to life, becoming real, through the transforming power of belief, imagination and love.”

MEDIA RELEASE TO FOLLOW

NOVEMBER - satellite seasons

Midland & Joondalup November to Dec 5

Margaret River Cultural Centre November 20 to 21

DECEMBER – Spare Parts Puppet Theatre, Fremantle
December 14 to 23

JANUARY – Spare Parts Puppet Theatre, Fremantle
January 18 to 30, 2010

For more information, please contact:

Spare Parts Puppet Theatre, 1 Short Street Fremantle (opposite the Freo Train Station)

www.sppt.asn.au or 9335 5044