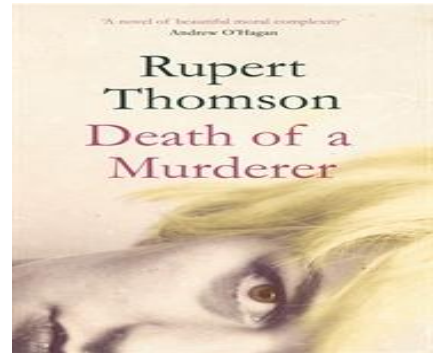


Media Release: May, 2009

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

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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