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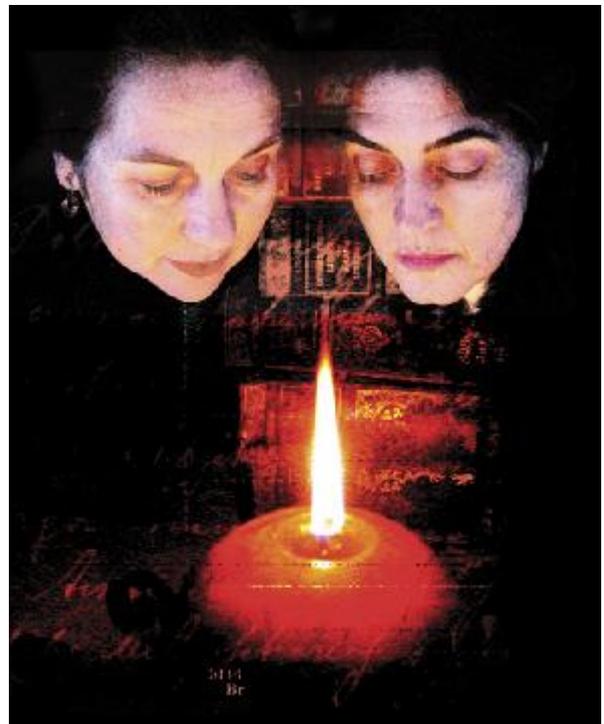
Prickly Pear Ensemble
The Ships Pass Quietly
Subiaco Arts Centre Studio
June 23 to July 11

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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