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Logos Productions

The Spook

From May 26 to June 13

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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.

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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