

# JMS PUBLIC RELATIONS

John Michael Swinbank

[pr@johnmichael.com.au](mailto:pr@johnmichael.com.au)

0414 743 418

**2011**

## **ROSTER & RELEASES**



at a glance...

## JMS PR ROSTER 2011

Date / Venue	Event	Description	Genre
22 March to 9 April The Blue Room Theatre	<b>APPALLING BEHAVIOUR</b> Professional Collective Theatre Company <i>WA Premiere</i>	<i>An unforgettable journey into the darkest corners of the Parisian underworld.</i>	Theatre
13 April to 8 May Mandurah PAC Metcalf Playhouse Kalamunda PAC New Norcia	<b>HER HOLINESS</b> Janus Entertainment <i>WA Premiere</i>	Mary MacKillop's courageous road to sainthood that shook the foundations of the Catholic Church	Theatre
20 April to 14 May Spare Parts Puppet Theatre	<b>THE MARY SUREFOOT SHOE COLLECTION</b> Spare Parts Puppet Theatre <i>World Premiere</i>	<i>A magical adventure about shoes and the power of imagination.</i>	Puppetry Children's Theatre
31 May to 4 June Heath Ledger Theatre	<b>THE ENCHANTERS</b> Prickly Pear Ensemble <i>World Premiere</i>	<i>The dramatic struggle behind the building of Shakespeare's famous theatre.</i>	Theatre
7 to 11 June Heath Ledger Theatre	<b>BRANDWOOD: HELIX</b> The Helix Project <i>World Premiere</i>	<i>One of the Australia's finest male dancers in a life changing spectacular.</i>	Dance
7 to 25 June Blue Room Theatre	<b>A GERM OF AN IDEA</b> Main Event Productions <i>WA Premiere</i>	<i>Direct from Sydney Fringe Festival – Monica Main is the Germinator!</i>	Comedy/Theatre
7 to 25 June Blue Room Theatre	<b>DRAG</b> Drag Queens Are Us <i>World Premiere</i>	<i>The world of drag from behind the scenes to curtain up!</i>	Drama Musical Theatre
9 to 23 July Spare Parts Puppet Theatre	<b>HARE BRAIN</b> Spare Parts Puppet Theatre <i>Revival of a modern classic</i>	<i>High energy takes on Aesop's classic fable of the Hare and the Tortoise.</i>	Puppetry Children's Theatre
3 to 15 October Spare Parts Puppet Theatre	<b>BLUEBACK</b> Spare Parts Puppet Theatre <i>Revival of a Winton classic</i>	<i>Tim Winton's moving story about a boy fighting for the environment he loves.</i>	Puppetry Children's Theatre
16 to 23 December 2011 (TBA) January 2012 Spare Parts Puppet Theatre	<b>THE ARRIVAL</b> Spare Parts Puppet Theatre <i>Return of the Shaun Tan's classic</i>	<i>Award winning theatrical experience of one man's journey to an unknown world.</i>	Puppetry Children's Theatre

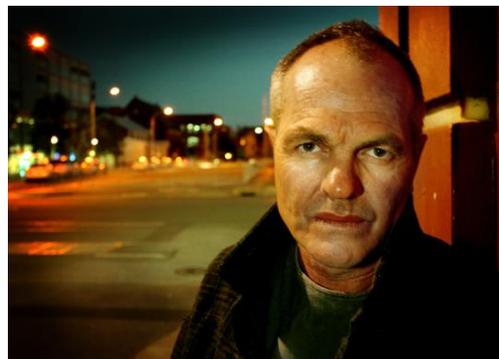
**Media Release:** For immediate release, February 2011  
**THE BLUE ROOM THEATRE &  
PROFESSIONAL COLLECTIVE THEATRE COMPANY SA**

## ***Appalling Behaviour***

The Blue Room Theatre  
Mon March 14 to Sat April 9, 2011

**Media Contact:**

John Michael Swinbank 0414 743 418



## **APPALLING BEHAVIOUR**

***There is something disturbingly honest about living on the streets and wondering why...***

Join AWGIE award winning playwright and actor Stephen House on an unforgettable journey into the darkest corners of the seedy Parisian underworld. Written while living on the streets of Paris, this acclaimed work will have its WA premiere **22 March – 9 April 2011** as part of The Blue Room Theatre's *Up Close* season.

From the banks of The Seine River to the tucked away all-night sleazy clubs, this poetic solo performance about a man living on the very edge will keep you thinking long after you leave the theatre...

Creator Stephen House has had 18 plays, 4 short films and 4 solo exhibitions produced and toured both nationally and internationally. *Appalling Behaviour* debuted in Adelaide in August 2010. In 2011 it will tour to Perth, Melbourne, Queensland and India.

House's work is commissioned often and has been awarded by the Adelaide Fringe, The Australian Writer's Guild (twice AWGIE recipient), and has been shortlisted for The Patrick White and Queensland Premier's Drama awards.

Currently working on three new commissions, House is excited to be bringing *Appalling Behaviour* to Western Australia for the very first time.

**"Weird and wonderful, Appalling behaviour knocks your socks off" – Advertiser**

**"A work of intense beauty and insight" – DB Magazine**

**"A compelling in your face drama... Brutally honest, devastatingly real" – Sunday Mail**

**"An extraordinary piece of art" – Independent Weekly**

**"House cleverly and brilliantly poses disturbing honest questions" – Australian Stage Online**

Images, interviews and competition prizes available.

All media enquiries to JMS Public Relations 0414 743 418 [pr@johnmichael.com.au](mailto:pr@johnmichael.com.au)

Written & Performed by Stephen House  
Directed by Justin Mc Guinness  
Original Sound by Peter Neilson

### **APPALLING BEHAVIOUR**

**22 March – 9 April**

8:30pm Tue – Sat @ The Blue Room Theatre

53 James Street, Perth Cultural Centre, Northbridge

**Bookings / info: [www.blueroom.org.au](http://www.blueroom.org.au) / 08 9227 7005**

**LISTINGS: *Appalling Behaviour*** – An unforgettable journey into the darkest corners of the Parisian underworld. Written and performed by Stephen House. From March 22 to April 9, 8.30pm Tuesday to Saturday. Bookings online [www.blueroom.org.au](http://www.blueroom.org.au) or 9227 7005. **ON SALE NOW**

## **Media Release: March 2011**

Janus Entertainment presents

### ***her holiness***

#### **Mary MacKillop's courageous road to sainthood**

A new play by Justin Fleming & Melvyn Morrow

**Mandurah PAC 13-14 April**

**Metcalfe Theatre, Northbridge 16-18 April**

**Kalamunda PAC 19 April**

**St Ildephonsus Hall, New Norcia 7-8 May**

**Media Contact: John Michael 0414 743 418**

### **NEW PLAY REVEALS TURBULENT STORY OF ST. MARY MACKILLOP**



A new play celebrating the remarkable true story of Australia's first saint, Mary MacKillop will preview at the Mandurah Performing Arts Centre on April 13, ahead of being the premiere production at the new Metcalfe Playhouse Theatre in Northbridge from April 16 to 18. Further performances of the production especially timed for the Easter celebration will occur at the Kalamunda Performing Arts Centre on April 19 and in New Norcia on May 7 and 8.

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.

Sr. Pauline Morgan, WA Provincial 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 and that *her holiness* would be the first production at the 280 seat Metcalfe Playhouse, named in honour of veteran Perth actor, Edgar Metcalfe.

"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, 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 at various venues from April 13 to May 8. Booking information [www.janusentertainment.com.au](http://www.janusentertainment.com.au) or 0400 260114.

**Excellent photo and interview opportunities are available.  
Please contact John Michael Swinbank 0414 743 418 [jm@johnmichael.com.au](mailto: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. Mandurah, Northbridge, Kalamunda and New Norcia from April 13 to May 8. Booking information [www.janusentertainment.com.au](http://www.janusentertainment.com.au) or 0400 260114.

Mary MacKillop’s courageous road to sainthood

# herholiness

A new play 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 *Puss in Boots* at The Playhouse, *The Sound of Music* and *Les Miserable* at The Regal; *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 the world premiere of *The Enchanters* at The Heath Ledger Theatre at The State Theatre Centre of WA.

## Creatives

Director/Designer John Senczuk / Lighting Trent Suidgeest / Costumes Penny Mazzucchelli

## Cast

Caitlin Beresford Ord Mary Mackillop, Anna Detweiller  
Brendan Ewing Julian Tenison Woods, Bishop Quinn, Vatican security  
Jay Walsh Bishop Sheil, Bishop Reynolds  
Richard Mellick Father Joseph Tappeiner, Monsignor Kinsella, Chaplain  
Corinne Davies Sister Monica, Rosie (Prostitute)  
Alysha McGreevy Sister Angela  
Charlotte Westrip Sister Francis Xavier  
Special guest appearance by John Aitken as Cardinal Moran, Pope Pius IX , Pope Benedict XVI, Dr Fraser, Beggar

## Performance Season:

**Mandurah PAC:** 9550 3900 or [www.manpac.com.au](http://www.manpac.com.au)

Wednesday 13 April - 11.00am & 7.30pm

Thursday 14 April - 11.00am & 7.30pm

**Metcalf Theatre:** 0400 260114

New Venue, Empyrean Centre, 2 Lake Street NORTHBRIDGE

Saturday 16 April - 2.00pm

Saturday 16 April - 7.30pm **Special Gala Performance**

In the presence of His Grace The Most Reverend **Dr Barry Hickey**, Archbishop of Perth & **Sr Pauline Morgan**, Provincial Leader WA, Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Sacred Heart.

Sunday 17 April - 3.00pm / Monday 18 April - 11.00am

**Kalamunda PAC:** 0400 260114

Tuesday 19 April - 11.00am & 7.30pm

**New Norcia\*:** 9654 8018

Saturday 7 May - 11.00am / Sunday 8 May - 2.00pm

\*Note: Costumed ‘concert’ performances as part of the New Norcia “Saints” Festival

Student/Teacher resource booklets available for these performances

TICKETS	
Adult	\$44.50
Concession/Junior	\$38.00
Family (2 adult/2	\$110.00
Groups (10+ get one	\$35.00
Student Matinees*	\$22.00

**Ticket prices include GST and Booking Fees**

**Show Details Below:** (Media Release to follow)

**SPARE PARTS PUPPET THEATRE**

~ celebrating 30 years ~

**The Mary Surefoot  
Shoe Collection**

Spare Parts Puppet Theatre  
Wed Apr 20 to Sat May 7, 2011  
(No performances in Easter Holidays)

**Media Contact:**

John Michael Swinbank 0414 743 418



**THE MARY SUREFOOT SHOE COLLECTION**

Welcome to the fantastical world that is The Mary Surefoot Shoe Collection. Mary Surefoot is just one of the many people in our world who is obsessed with collecting... shoes! At the insistence of Spare Parts Puppet Theatre, Mary has agreed to bring us just a crumb of a piece of toast of her magnificent shoe collection. Shoes can tell so much and Mary has so, so many shoes... join Mary as she brings her shoe collection to life.

Watch as stilettos morph into opera singers, boots turn into boats and runners are revealed as space ships! Put your foot in another's shoe as Mary takes you to the moon, to exotic Japan and aboard a tall ship sailing on a far sea...each step of the way she'll share a little of the personality who filled each pair.

A special blend of polished puppetry that leaves no sole unturned! Bring a friend whose idea of heaven is a new pair of shoes. You will never look at a pair of shoes the same way again... and you will never forget the lovable Mary Surefoot. Favourite Footwear must be worn!

**Excellent image, photo and interview opportunities are available.**

**Please contact John Michael at JMS PUBLIC RELATIONS 0414 743 418 [pr@johnmichael.com.au](mailto:pr@johnmichael.com.au)**

Running Time: 45 mins

**General Public Season opens:** Sat April 16 (10.00am and 1.00pm)

**School Holidays Season begins:** Wed and Thurs April 20 & 21 (10.00am and 1.00pm)

*\* No performances in Easter Holidays: April 22 to April 26*

**School Holidays Season resumes:**

Wed April 27 to Wed May 4 (10.00am and 1.00pm)

Thurs May 5 to Fri May 6 (6.30pm)

Sat May 7 (10.00am and 6.30pm)

Wed May 11 to Fri May 13 (6.30pm)

Sat May 14 (1.00pm and 6.30pm)

**Extra 6.30pm shows on:** Fri April 29 & Sat April 30

*\* No shows on Sunday.*

**Credits**

- Director: Philip Mitchell
- Designer: Bryan Woltjen - Puppet Construction: Bryan Woltjen and over 200 shoe manufacturers
- Composer: Lee Buddle
- Performer: Monica Main
- Original work devised in 2007 by Michael Barlow, Michelle Robin Anderson, Philip Mitchell and Bryan Woltjen. New work devised in 2010 by Michelle Robin Anderson and Philip Mitchell

**LISTINGS: *Mary Surefoot Shoe Collection*** – A magical adventure about shoes and the power of imagination, starring Monica Main. Suitable for all ages, from April 16 to May 7 (no shows during Easter break) with shows at 10am and 1pm plus special 6.30 sunset soiree shows for adults. (Check performance dates and times as now no shows during Easter break) Bookings 24/7 online [www.sppt.asn.au](http://www.sppt.asn.au) or 9335 5044. **ON SALE NOW**

**Media Release:** For immediate release, December, 2010  
mber 20, 2010

**PRICKLY PEAR ENSEMBLE**

World Premiere

## ***The Enchanters***

Heath Ledger Theatre  
State Theatre Centre of Western Australia  
May 31 to June 4, 2011



CITY of PERTH



**Media Contact:** John Michael 0414 743 418

## ***Shakespeare's epic theatre drama echoes new theatrical era in WA***

**A** new play about the epic building of the most famous theatre in history will celebrate the completion of the State Theatre Centre of Western Australia in a world premiere season at the Heath Ledger Theatre from May 31, 2011.

Written by WA playwright, John Aitken to celebrate the building of the new venue in Northbridge, *The Enchanters* tells the dramatic story behind the building of William Shakespeare's signature Globe Theatre in 1599.

The play reveals the private and professional battles of Shakespeare's company of actors, their supporters and enemies, as they gamble everything on completing the theatre in time for the upcoming theatrical season. However, an offstage drama to rival any of the playwright's own is about to destroy all their dreams as Tudor London is rocked by scandal, treachery and revolution, which threatens to bring down the revered Queen Elizabeth herself.

The playwright, John Aitken, a veteran of over thirty stage plays, including *Imperial Façade*, *Daisy Bates and the Dancer*, *Music from the Whirlwind*, and *The Ships Pass Quietly* said he was tremendously excited by the opening of the new theatre and wanted to mark the occasion with a play which had that excitement and vision at its core.

"This is a major moment in the cultural history of WA and the situation in Elizabethan London mirrors what is happening today in Perth," he said. "Just like Shakespeare and Co as they dismantled their old theatre in North London and transported the building materials across the Thames to create the resplendent Globe Theatre, we are saying goodbye to one theatre, our beloved Playhouse, while embracing the excitement of a new theatrical age with the opening of the State Theatre Centre."

Produced by The Prickly Pear Ensemble, the world premiere of *The Enchanters* will be directed and designed by John Senczuk, who has recently created some of Perth's most popular and memorable shows, such as *Puss in Boots*, *The Sound of Music*, *Les Miserables*, *Irene* and *Two Old Queens* and more, since moving from Sydney in 2006.

An all male cast in keeping with Elizabethan theatre tradition will feature some of Perth's leading actors, including Brendan Ewing as Shakespeare, Andrew Hale, Richard Mellick, and Ethan Tomas, and a special appearance by Edgar Metcalfe as Queen Elizabeth I. The production will run for seven performances from May 31 to June 4. Tickets will be on sale at BOCS 9484 1133 or [www.bocsticketing.com.au](http://www.bocsticketing.com.au) in February 2011.

**Excellent image, photo and interview opportunities are available.  
Please contact John Michael at JMS PUBLIC RELATIONS 0414 743 418 [pr@johnmichael.com.au](mailto:pr@johnmichael.com.au)**

**LISTINGS: *The Enchanters*** – The dramatic struggle behind the building of Shakespeare's famous theatre Globe Theatre in 1599. An all male cast in keeping with Elizabethan theatre tradition, starring Brendan Ewing as Shakespeare, Cody Fern, Andrew Hale, Richard Mellick, Ethan Tomas, Ian Toyne and a special appearance by Edgar Metcalfe as Queen Elizabeth I. From May 31 to June 4 at the Heath Ledger Theatre. Bookings online [www.bocsticketing.com.au](http://www.bocsticketing.com.au) or 9484 1133. **ON SALE NOW**

The Prickly Pear Ensemble is one of WA's leading independent professional theatre companies, formed to develop and produce new plays by local playwrights. Recent productions include *Tough Love* by Tom Jeffcote, *Keeper* by Steve Snell, *Imperial Façade* and *The Ships Pass Quietly* by John Aitken. The Ensemble brings emerging artists and experienced theatre practitioners together in a supportive and creative environment so that they can learn from and inspire each other. Prickly Pear Playscripts has published plays by most of WA's leading playwrights with more than 30 titles to its credit.

**Show Details Below:** (Media Release to follow)

**BARRY MORELAND / DARYL BRANDWOOD**

World Premiere

## **Helix**

Heath Ledger Theatre  
State Theatre Centre of Western Australia  
Tues June 7 to Sat June 11, 2011



### **Media Contact:**

John Michael Swinbank 0414 743 418

*Helix* is a work devised especially for solo dancer, Daryl Brandwood by one of Australia's leading choreographers, Barry Moreland.

At the height of his dancing powers, Brandwood is a dancer of extraordinary range and depth of technique and is now is As a solo dance event, *Helix* is specifically constructed to showcase his unique combination of dance and interpretive skills, utilising the wide variety of dance techniques that have earned him the superlatives of dance critics across Australia.

It variously utilises the latest in medical imaging systems, filmed footage, video art, historical imagery, and the sheer glory of a dancer in live performance. It metaphorically strips away the emotional and physical layers of the human condition. From the basic building block of our DNA's 'double helix' (the beginning of all life) through to journey's end, *Helix* dances out of the dark and into the light.

Hauntingly beautiful and provocative in equal measure, *Helix* invites us to contemplate what it is to be human, and what our responsibilities are to ourselves, each other, and to the world in which we live. There are eight choreographic movements – "Helix2", "Corpus", "Bones", "Oxygen", "Androgyny", "Vena Cava", "Bloodlines" and "Hypnos" – provide tantalising hints as to the nature and scope of the *Helix* audience experience.

Danced to a beguiling soundscape of popular, contemporary and classical music, the choreographic canvas draws upon Daryl Brandwood's exceptional dance skills, extending to Fred Astaire-inspired tap and Japanese 'butoh'. It is a work that will have strong appeal, both intellectually and emotionally, for audiences of all ages and many backgrounds.

With its marriage of science, medicine, art and dance, and its utilisation of high-end medical technologies, *Helix* will be 60 dazzling minutes in which audiences are 'spiralled' into the anatomy of the human condition.

**All media enquiries to JMS Public Relations 0414 743 418 [pr@johnmichael.com.au](mailto:pr@johnmichael.com.au)**

**LISTINGS:** *Helix* – From ballet to tap, a stunning visual dance spectacular by one of the Australia's finest dancers Daryl Brandwood with a magnificent film backdrop. From June 7 to 11 at the Heath Ledger Theatre. Bookings online [www.bocsticketing.com.au](http://www.bocsticketing.com.au) or 9484 1133. **ON SALE MARCH 16**

**DARYL BRANDWOOD**, a leading Artist with the WA Ballet, is the most acclaimed dance graduate of the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts. He has danced with The Australian Ballet, BalletMet (USA), and the Australian Dance Theatre. He is the national winner of a coveted Helpmann Award as 'Best Male Dancer' (2006) and was a nominee for "Outstanding Performance by a Male Dancer" in the 2010 Australian Dance Awards. Other awards include a 'Young Achiever in the Arts' Award (1993), a Mollie Askin Scholarship (1995), a Helsinki International Ballet Competition Men's 'Silver Medal' Award and a Helsinki 'Gold Medal' Choreographic Award (both 1995). He also has a Greenroom Award (Melbourne) for 'Best Emerging Artist' (1998), and was the Columbus Choreographic Project (USA) winner in 2005.

**BARRY MORELAND** is one of Australia's most distinguished choreographers. Director of West Australian Ballet for fifteen years (1983 -1997), he is a Fellow of the Edith Cowan University of Western Australia, a recipient of the City of Perth's Cultural Achievement Award for his contribution to the cultural life of the city, and has served as a member of the Australia Council's dance funding panel. He has created over 20 works for The Australian Ballet, Sydney Dance Company, Australian Dance Theatre, English National Ballet and WA Ballet, as well as works for 'Makarova and Company' on Broadway, London Contemporary Dance Company and the London Festival Ballet, in particular, the award-winning *Kontakion*, *Summer Solstice* (subsequently performed by the Paris Opera Ballet and Houston Ballet) and the hugely popular *Prodigal Son – in Ragtime*, which premiered at the London Coliseum.

## ***A Germ of an Idea***

**A dirty comedy by Monica Main**

*Direct from 2010 Sydney Fringe Festival*

The Blue Room Theatre  
Tues June 7 to Sat June 25, 2011

**Media Contact:**

John Michael Swinbank 0414 743 418



**No pity. No fear. No way!  
Main is The Germinator.**

### ***“We are WAY too clean!” claims comic actor.***

Direct from the 2010 Sydney Fringe Festival, actor/comedian Monica Main roars back into town, putting germs under the comic microscope in the West Australian premiere of her scintillating new character-filled one-woman show ***A Germ of an Idea: a dirty comedy by Monica Main, 7 – 25 June*** as part of The Blue Room Theatre’s *Up Close* Season.

From an historical and hysterical perspective, ***A Germ of an Idea*** explores our obsessive relationship with germs through characters such as The Doctor, The Cleaner, and The Housewife - all played by Main, whose family background of scientists has informed her self-devised work exploring evolution, navigation and exploration.

Main, a Victorian College of the Arts graduate based in WA, said she’s excited to be exploring a serious subject that applies to everyone everyday.

“We have become an army of obsessive germinators but it’s a war of paranoia that is impossible to win and which props up a gazillion dollar cleaning product industry,” she said. “The reality is we need bugs as much as the little buggers need us. Our irrational and frankly schizoid behaviour towards bacteria is perfect for comic examination.”

Directed by Helen Doig, ***A Germ of an Idea*** uses comedy in a variety of theatrical ways as Main swiftly transforms between characters, adding in spoof 60s TV advertisements, crazy medical power-point lectures, the odd bit of drag, and an insane range of headscarves.

All tickets through the Blue Room on 9227 7005 and [www.blueroom.org.au](http://www.blueroom.org.au).

All media enquiries to JMS Public Relations 0414 743 418 [pr@johnmichael.com.au](mailto:pr@johnmichael.com.au)

*“The characters – appealingly domineering and nutty about eradicating germs – are polished with witty lines.” - Sydney Morning Herald*

*“Most impressive is Main’s transformation – unrecognisable and pitched perfectly ... her delivery was confident and amusing ... the show rewards a pun-loving audience so much...” - Drum Media*

**LISTINGS:** ***A Germ of an Idea: a dirty comedy by Monica Main*** – from the macro to the micro, comic actor Monica Main tackles bacteria to the max. From June 7 to 25, 7.00pm Tuesday to Saturday at the Blue Room Theatre. Bookings online [www.blueroom.org.au](http://www.blueroom.org.au) or 9227 7005. **ON SALE MARCH 10**

**MEDIA RELEASE For Immediate Release March 2011**  
The Blue Room Theatre and Drag Queens Are Us present

## **DRAG**

The Blue Room Theatre  
Tues July 5 to 23, 2011

**Media Contact:**

John Michael Swinbank 0414 743 418

*The weird, the wild, and the wonderful...*



If you love Priscilla: Queen of the Desert, or are a fan of Thailand's cabaret scene, then this debut show from a brand new Perth company will be right up your alley, taking you behind the curtain into the world of DRAG, July 5 – 23 as part of The Blue Room Theatre's *Up Close* Season.

Told predominantly through song, DRAG is an emotive story, full of energy, which unmask the artist behind the drag persona. The cast will be out to astound you with their female impersonations and tributes to some of the greatest divas of all time, while revealing more of the emotional spectrum than you would have thought possible in one short hour.

Producer/performer Ryan Schulz (aka Panache) explains: "The idea you have of a drag queen may be a bloke dressed in a frock who lip syncs to the campest music out. However, this show will take you behind that bloke, into his realm, and show you someone else, something else, something more. So expect more than Britney's latest track plonked on stage".

If you are yet to experience the artform of drag live, this show will provide an introduction as it allows you to glimpse the lives of the artists who inhabit the late night boozy cabaret and club scenes. If you're a visitor to such places yourself, you'll feel right at home being up close to DRAG's colourful characters.

"For people outside the GLBTQ community this is a chance to find out what drag is all about while having a great night out, or expand what you might think of a drag queen as," said Schulz. "DRAG has also been created for people who do go to gay clubs to admire drag shows, who'd rather not be jostled by sweaty, drunk people.

With John Aitken as narrator, DRAG will take shape as a series of performances by local artists alongside Melbourne's Swish Eveready and Ash Baroque from London, whose workshopping with the cast has guided the show from concept to world premiere production.

All tickets through the Blue Room on 9227 7005 and [www.blueroom.org.au](http://www.blueroom.org.au).

All media enquiries to JMS Public Relations 0414 743 418 [pr@johnmichael.com.au](mailto:pr@johnmichael.com.au)

## **DRAG**

5 – 23 July

7pm Tue – Sat @ The Blue Room Theatre

53 James St, Perth Cultural Centre, Northbridge

*Meet the Artists* Wednesday 13 July

Bookings / info: [www.blueroom.org.au](http://www.blueroom.org.au) / 08 9227 7005

**Show Details Below:** (Media Release to follow)

**SPARE PARTS PUPPET THEATRE**

~ celebrating 30 years ~

***Hare Brain***

Spare Parts Puppet Theatre, Fremantle  
Sat July 9 to Sat July 23, 2011

**Media Contact:**

John Michael Swinbank 0414 743 418

***Spare parts revives modern twist on  
ancient fable***



Following the sold-out revival of one its historically iconic works, *Cat Balloon*, Spare Parts Puppet Theatre revives another of its modern classics, *Hare Brain* for the school holidays from September 27, at their Fremantle home theatre.

Directed by Spare Parts Puppet Theatre's Artistic Director, Philip Mitchell, *Hare Brain* is a modern twist on Aesop's ancient fable of the *Hare and the Tortoise*.

The 2008 production stars newcomer Ben Russell - as Harry, a stressed-out marketing executive - and one of the company's most assured performers, Michael Barlow as Toulouse, a methodical and diligent, if quiet, worker.

With yet another deadline looming, Harry has to come up with the perfect story for the perfect toy or lose his contract. Will his renowned quicksilver brilliance scoop the prize or will it be the gentle innovation of Toulouse who saves the day?

Director, Philip Mitchell said that the show transforms everyday found objects into puppets. "This clever device delights and is certain to get a giggle," he said. "Through the use of familiar things like a plastic bag becoming a manic rabbit *Hare Brain* is a highly hilarious exploration of the ways in which the creative and analytical parts of our brain work and the different ways people think."

Mitchell said that found objects are one of the earliest forms of puppetry with archaeological and cultural evidence that ancient civilizations brought an array of objects to life. "Young kids at play do the same too," he said. "In *Hare Brain* we bring to life some very unusual puppets - you will never contemplate vacuum cleaners, mops, puppetry or story telling in the same way ever again."

*Hare Brain* is perfect for everyone, particularly for ages 4 – 12 and their families. Bookings are essential as Spare Parts shows sell-out and can be made on line at [www.sppt.asn.au](http://www.sppt.asn.au) or by phone on 9335 5044 (\$2.00 phone booking fee applies but no charge on the internet).

Excellent image, photo and interview opportunities are available.  
Please contact John Michael at JMS PUBLIC RELATIONS 0414 743 418 [pr@johnmichael.com.au](mailto:pr@johnmichael.com.au)

**LISTINGS:** *Hare Brain* – High energy takes on Aesop's classic fable of the Hare and the Tortoise. *Hare Brain* is perfect for everyone, particularly for ages 4–12 and their families. From July 9 to 23 at Spare Parts Puppet Theatre (opposite the Freo Train Station). Bookings 24/7 online [www.sppt.asn.au](http://www.sppt.asn.au) or 9335 5044.

**Show Details Below:** (Media Release to follow)  
**SPARE PARTS PUPPET THEATRE**  
~ celebrating 30 years ~

## **Blueback**

Spare Parts Puppet Theatre, Fremantle  
Mon Oct 3 to Sat Oct 15, 2011

**Media Contact:**

John Michael Swinbank 0414 743 418



## **A fable for all ages**

Abel Jackson was ten and he could never remember a time when he could not dive. His mother said he was a diver before he was born; he floated and swam in the warm ocean inside her for nine months, so maybe it came naturally. He had lived by the sea at Long Boat Bay his whole life. Every day was special.

Based on the book by Tim Winton and adapted by Peta Murray, Terrapin Puppet Theatre's production of Blueback is full of underwater imagery and exquisite puppetry. The story centres around a young boy and his mother's life, their relationship with the land and their desire to protect and preserve the natural habitat of the place they call home. An evocative story, capturing the mystery of the sea and majesty of the old fish which Abel calls Blueback. This is Abel's journey from inquisitive boy to that of a man prepared to stand up for what he loves and believes in.

Excellent image, photo and interview opportunities are available.  
Please contact John Michael at JMS PUBLIC RELATIONS 0414 743 418 [pr@johnmichael.com.au](mailto:pr@johnmichael.com.au)

Running Time: 50 mins

Age Range: Suitable for everyone, but perfect for ages 5 - 12.

**General public season:** Mon Oct 3 to Sat Oct 15 (10.00am and 1.00pm)

### **Credits**

- Director: Philip Mitchell
- Devisor: Adapted by Peta Murray from the book by Tim Winton
- Designer: Hanna Parssinen
- Composer: Don Hopkins
- Puppet Construction: Greg Methe
- Production Manager: Lisa McCready
- Performers: Sarah Nelson and Michael Barlow
- Original Cast: Kirsty Grierson and Philip Mitchell (Terrapin), Michael Barlow and Karen Hethey (SPPT), Sarah Nelson and Rebecca Bradley (SPPT)
- Original Director: Annette Downs

**LISTINGS:** **Blueback** – Tim Winton's moving story about a boy fighting for the environment, his love of the sea and the majesty of an old fish he calls Blueback. Blueback is perfect for everyone, particularly for ages 5–12 and their families. From October 3 to 15, 10.00am and 1.00pm at Spare Parts Puppet Theatre (opposite the Freo Train Station). Bookings 24/7 online [www.sppt.asn.au](http://www.sppt.asn.au) or 9335 5044.

**Show Details Below:** (Media Release to follow)  
**SPARE PARTS PUPPET THEATRE**  
~ celebrating 30 years ~

## ***The Arrival***

Spare Parts Puppet Theatre, Fremantle  
Fri Dec 16 to Fri Dec 23, 2011

### **Media Contact:**

John Michael Swinbank 0414 743 418

## **THE ARRIVAL**



This is theatre and digital animation at its most exquisite. This unique theatrical experience traverses themes of freedom, migration, survival, love and acceptance.

Enter a strange and fantastical metropolis of floating ships, mysterious lights, alien symbols and curious animals. Adapted from Shaun Tan's multi-award winning book, *The Arrival* will take you on one man's moving journey to an unknown world.

Follow our hero Aki as he starts life amidst the extraordinary inhabitants of this new land. Will he find a place to live? Will he find a job and make friends? Most of all, will Aki ever see his family again?

The absence of words not only makes this story perfect for puppetry but emphasizes the isolation experienced by many people arriving in a new place. *The Arrival* is a fusion of Tan's beautiful and surreal illustrations with exquisite puppetry, haunting music and fine acting. This ground breaking production blurs the boundaries of performance, digital animation and puppetry.

Named 'Best Production' for 2006 at the Perth Theatre Trust/Actors Equity Guild Awards, this is an emotionally moving piece which will touch anyone who has bid farewell to a loved one.

'...a soulful and richly imaginative show of refreshing excellence...This is exquisite story telling unfolding at a child's pace as if turning the pages of Shaun Tan's award winning book.'

Excellent image, photo and interview opportunities are available.  
Please contact John Michael at JMS PUBLIC RELATIONS 0414 743 418 [pr@johnmichael.com.au](mailto:pr@johnmichael.com.au)

Running Time: 50 mins

Age Range: Suitable for everyone

### **Credits**

- Director: Philip Mitchell
- Writer: Michael Barlow – adaptation
- Designer: Jiri Zmitko
- Composer: Lee Buddle
- Lighting Designer: Graham Walne
- Puppet Construction: Jiri Zmitko and Kipling Smith
- Animation Design: Michael Barlow
- Production Manager: Lisa McCready
- Stage Manager: Damon Lockwood
- Performers: Karen Hethey, Damon Lockwood, Giri Mazzella and Sanjiva Margio

**LISTINGS:** *The Arrival* – Award winning theatrical experience of one man's journey to an unknown world, traverses themes of freedom, migration, survival, love and acceptance. The Arrival is suitable for everyone. From December 16 to 23, 10.00am and 1.00pm at Spare Parts Puppet Theatre (opposite the Freo Train Station). (January 2012 dates TBC)