



## Political Persecution no Barrier to Belarus Free Theatre

Brisbane Powerhouse and Belarus Free Theatre presents

### *Discover Love*

You won't be arrested when you see Belarus Free Theatre's *Discover Love* in Australia. Despite facing political persecution and police raids in their own country, Belarus Free Theatre will hold the Australian premiere of their latest work *Discover Love* during **World Theatre Festival 2012** from 16 – 19 February.

Having toured to critical acclaim in New York and London, *Discover Love* delves into the universal experience of love and the political disappearances that happen daily across the globe. The show is based on the story of Irina Krasovskaya, whose husband Anatoly was kidnapped and murdered for rendering assistance to the democratic body of Belarus. According to producer Natalia Kaliada *Discover Love* is both heart-warming and joyful, as well as an honest exploration of the realities of political disappearances.

"The show follows the life of Irina Krasovskaya and took over nine years to research," said Kaliada. "It's been an important project for the company as Irina's experience is so frighteningly universal – it happened to her in Belarus, but political disappearances are still happening to people across the world in Asia, Latin America and South America."

"Given that our company's political activism has resulted in raids and arrests at our performances and our artists have been targeted by police for arrests and interrogations, we're incredibly aware that political disappearances are a reality when you're committed to being heard and opposing political injustice. We want to bring a value to one human life. Today our friends are in jail. They are tortured by KGB. We do not know about their destinies. And it is still happening in Europe today."

"We hope that Australian audiences come to *Discover Love* not just to glean an understanding of this issue but also to celebrate the power of human relationships. *Discover Love* is an incredible love story and audiences will find themselves reflecting on their own relationships and what they would do to protect them."

*Discover Love* is the 11<sup>th</sup> show produced by OBIE-winning Belarus Free Theatre and it was named the most Outstanding Show of Off-off-Broadway by Independent Association of Theatre Bloggers, NY. Belarus Free Theatre was last in Brisbane in 2009 with their show *Being Harold Pinter*, which received international acclaim, won a Drama Desk Award for Unique Theatre Experience and had sold out performances.

Belarus Free Theatre is an independent theatre group founded in Minsk in 2005. In Belarus the troupe has no financial support or permanent rehearsal and performance space. Belarus Free Theatre is a member of European Theatre Convention and has received the 2007 French Republic Defence of Human Rights prize and a special mention prize from Europe Theatre Prize board.

Brisbane Powerhouse is Brisbane City Council's leading arts performance venue helping to deliver a vibrant and creative city. World Theatre Festival is supported by Queensland Government, through Arts Queensland and Events Queensland.

**-ENDS-**

<b>Date</b>	Thu 16 February – Sun 19 February 2012
<b>Time</b>	Thur - Sat 7.30pm, Sun 1.00pm & 6.00pm
<b>Venue</b>	Visy Theatre, Brisbane Powerhouse
<b>Tickets</b>	\$30 (Festival Passes Available)
<b>Bookings</b>	07 3358 8600 or <a href="http://brisbanepowerhouse.org">brisbanepowerhouse.org</a>

**For more information, images and interviews please contact  
Brisbane Powerhouse Publicist, Amanda Doellinger  
p 07 3358 8670 m 0423 148 213  
e [amandad@brisbanepowerhouse.org](mailto:amandad@brisbanepowerhouse.org)**