



## India takes on Ibsen's Iconic Love Triangle

Brisbane Powerhouse, Abhinaya Theatre Company and Topology present

### *Henrik Ibsen's The Lady from The Sea*

Cinematic projections, live music and tonnes of sand will help bring an epic version of Ibsen's classic love triangle *The Lady from the Sea* to life at World Theatre Festival 2012. The show is a premiere collaboration with India's award-winning Abhinaya Theatre Company and Brisbane's own Topology, due to hit the stage from **Friday 24 to Sunday 26 February**.

Described as "a poem come to life" by Brisbane Powerhouse Director Andrew Ross, *The Lady from The Sea* is one of master playwright Henrik Ibsen's iconic works, featuring a married woman who must decide between her husband and her first fiancé - a rebellious sailor who returns decades after his escape from the law to claim her hand.

Abhinaya's Artistic Director MG Jyothish explained that *The Lady from The Sea* had many links to contemporary Indian culture.

"Marriage and love are popular topics in India and *The Lady from The Sea* explores the links between love and a sense of duty in relationships, with insights that are still relevant all these years after Ibsen wrote the piece," Jyothish said.

"When creating the show we decided to strip it back to the three main characters, and use the cinematic projections and live music to create an epic theatre experience," said Jyothish. "Our approach to theatre is to combine current trends in contemporary drama with traditional Indian performance techniques to create a unique approach to storytelling."

*The Lady from The Sea* is the first Australian performance for the company and Jyothish said that they were excited to work with Brisbane's Topology to create the live soundtrack for the show.

"After performing internationally in France and Portugal, we're delighted to have the Australian premiere for *The Lady from The Sea* at **World Theatre Festival**. We're also relishing the opportunity to work with Topology, whose work is already well known in Brisbane. As the band work across multiple genres they're the perfect collaborators for this project."

Abhinaya Theatre Company, from Kerala, has been lauded at many theatre festivals including *Villeneuve en Scene-Avignon Festival*, France; *Festival de Alameda*, Portugal; *Bharat Rang Mahotsav*, New Delhi; *Rang-Swam*, New Delhi; and *Prithvi Theatre festival*, Mumbai. Jyothish was awarded the Sanskriti Pratishtan Award in the field of theatre in 2009 and was invited by the British Council to attend the 2009 Edinburgh International Festival.

Topology is the ensemble-in-residence at Brisbane Powerhouse and has worked collaboratively with such artists as the Brodsky Quartet, Katie Noonan, The Kransky Sisters, Kate Miller-Heidke and Misinterprotato.

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>	Fri 24 – Sun 26 February 2012
<b>Time</b>	Fri 8.30pm, Sat 3pm & 7.30pm, Sun 2.30pm
<b>Venue</b>	Powerhouse Theatre, Brisbane Powerhouse
<b>Tickets</b>	\$30 (Festival Passes are also available)
<b>Bookings</b>	07 3358 8600 or <a href="http://brisbanepowerhouse.org">brisbanepowerhouse.org</a>

**For more information, images and interviews please contact  
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