



## Texans' Acting Method Leads to Madness

Brisbane Powerhouse and The Rude Mechs present

### *The Method Gun*

One question – truth or beauty?

*"I was left breathless... Who knew experimental theatre could be both daring and sentimental all at once?"*

Jerry Portwood, New York Press 2011

From New York to LA to Brisbane – The Rude Mechs bring us a loaded gun and the world's most dangerous acting technique when they perform in *The Method Gun* for **World Theatre Festival 2012**. The show celebrates The Approach, Stella Burden's gift to acting before her mysterious departure in the late 70's and is on from 22-26 February.

*The Method Gun* is a salute to Stella Burden – the 1970s acting coach who created The Approach which fused Western techniques with risk-based rituals. Her suspicious disappearance in South America stunned her followers who still continued rehearsals in order to bring her radical version of *A Streetcar Named Desire* to the stage.

According to director Shawn Sides, The Rude Mechs have used Stella's journals and correspondence, to tell the story of Burden's followers in those final rehearsals and give us glimpses into the realities of her technique – from the loaded gun exercise, to how to kiss on stage correctly.

"It's worth noting that The Approach is no longer taught in acting schools as it's not safe – we've only used it for *The Method Gun* in order to accurately recreate the aftermath of her disappearance.

"Stella used to ask each candidate for her classes one question – truth or beauty? And we've found audiences divided almost equally on the issue of what makes great theatre. While there is some audience participation in *The Method Gun*, it's completely safe and has been tested thoroughly on our audiences in the US."

The Rude Mechs are an ensemble-based theatre company that operates with a full company of 28 members. Since their beginnings in 1995, the company has received over 180 local and national awards and nominations for their work. They create original plays that are produced in Austin, TX, and tour nationally and internationally. Productions include *The Method Gun*, *Get Your War On*, *How Late It Was, How Late*, *Cherrywood* and *Lipstick Traces*.

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>	Wed 22 – Sun 26 February 2012
<b>Time</b>	Wed & Thu 7.00pm/Fri & Sat 7.15pm/Sun 6.00pm
<b>Venue</b>	Visy Theatre, Brisbane Powerhouse
<b>Tickets</b>	\$30 (Festival Passes 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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