



SEE THE HUMAN FACES NOT THE FELONIES

Brisbane Powerhouse and Ron Levine Photography present

Prisoners of Age

A hard-hitting yet human photographic exhibition, *Prisoners of Age*, by acclaimed Canadian photographer, **Ron Levine**, will show for only the second time in Australia at Brisbane Powerhouse from **Wednesday 19 October to Monday 21 November**.

Prisoners of Age is a series of thoughtfully created photographs and interviews with elderly prison inmates and corrections personnel, in the United States and Canada, that aims to capture the complexity of a subject seldom contemplated – ageing offenders in the correctional system.

Photographer, Ron Levine, captured the images from 1996 through to 2004 and says he felt conflicting emotions during this time.

"I couldn't help but be conflicted by these men and their stories," he says, "moved to pity by their frailty and a life squandered in prison, and simultaneously repelled by the crimes that necessitated their severe punishment."

"It's hard to imagine these men as criminals running from the law; all you see is the feebleness, the forgetfulness, the universal problems of senior citizens apparent in your own aging family members, your own father or grandfather."

Research shows that geriatric inmates comprise the largest growing age group in the US so, with prison space in decline and medical costs soaring, *Prisoners of Age* also examines why elderly men, who pose little or no threat to society, remain incarcerated.

Statistically the risk of recidivism decreases significantly with age; within a year of release inmates between the age of 18-24 have a recidivism rate of 22% whereas after the age of 43 years it drops to 2% and after the age of 55 years it drops further to below 1%.

The project also explores the socio-economic causes of crime and delinquency and encourages viewers to consider the human dimension of 'doing time' while growing old in prison.

Brisbane Powerhouse Visual Arts Curator, Jody Haines says that, to her, the exhibition is all about seeing the person not the crime and that she sees parallels between the situation in US prisons and the corrections system here in Australia.

"Similarly to the US, many inmates in Australian prisons are from low socio-economic backgrounds or marginalized groups; they get little support, fall into patterns of crime and then end up spending their lives in jail – at what cost to society?" she says.

"It makes me incredibly conscious of the direction in which our prison system is heading, especially regarding indigenous incarceration."

Prisoners of Age was first exhibited at Alcatraz Penitentiary and has also been shown at The Eastern State Penitentiary in Philadelphia, the Kilmainham Gaol in Dublin and last year at Fremantle Prison in Western Australia.

For more information call 07 3358 8600 or go to brisbanepowerhouse.org

Brisbane Powerhouse is Brisbane City Council's leading arts performance venue helping to deliver a vibrant and creative city.

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Date	Wed 19 October – Mon 21 November
Time	Mon 9am-5pm, Tues-Sun 9am-9pm
Venue	Brisbane Powerhouse
Tickets	FREE
Bookings	07 3358 8600 or brisbanepowerhouse.org

**For more information, images and interviews please contact
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