

WTF IS THE WTF?

Brisbane Powerhouse presents
World Theatre Festival 2010

We already have a comedy festival, a queer film festival, various music festivals and even a kid's festival. Isn't it about time Brisbane Powerhouse covered all bases by having a world-class theatre festival too? Well, here it is – the inaugural *World Theatre Festival* (WTF?) at Brisbane Powerhouse from **Tuesday 2 to Sunday 13 February 2010**.

There is so much new, exciting, innovative and experimental theatre being created locally and around the world and we want to bring it to you. The inaugural program defies traditional theatre conventions with works that demand audience engagement from Ireland, the UK and Australia as well as intriguing installations and artist-run workshops.

The effortlessly charming **Daniel Kitson** makes his way back to Brisbane Powerhouse from Tue 2 – Sun 7 Feb with his tale of love, heartache and a forsaken flat, *66A Church Rd*. Winner of the *Edinburgh Fringe First Award*, it's a break-up show, about his flat and has been called a heartfelt reflection on what we mean by home.

Rotozaza (UK) bring their interactive *Autoteatro* series to Australia with *Etiquette* and *Wondermart*, with these two fascinating pieces completely erasing the lines between audience and performer. From Ireland we have anarchic Dublin theatre company, **Pan Pan Theatre** with *Oedipus Loves You*, a savvy update of Sophocles' classic with a pure punk-rock sensibility.

Nationally acclaimed performer/choreographer, **Brian Lucas**, stages his intriguing and confronting dance theatre work, *Performance Anxiety*, drawing on the particular anxieties that arise when we find ourselves in front of an audience, whether on stage, in life or in the bedroom.

The Eisteddfod by **Lally Katz & Stuck Pig Squealing** was the winner of the *Green Room Award for best Independent Production* in 2004 and is a witty and highly immersive blurring of real and imaginary worlds. For something a little more twisted, *The Ballad of Backbone Joe* by **The Suitcase Royale** tells a tale of the apparent death of a woman in a red dress, complete with bone-crunching slapstick, dark humour and unique rag 'n' bone music.

We hope this annual festival will not only engage and inspire audiences but will also encourage fellow arts practitioners to get involved, to challenge and invigorate their practice with industry workshops being run by creatives such as Gavin Quinn (Pan Pan Theatre - Dublin), Rotozaza (UK), Lally Katz (AUS) and The Suitcase Royale (AUS).

Join us and prepare to be surprised by some of the most interesting theatre works from across the globe during the *World Theatre Festival* from Tue 2 to Sun 13 February 2010.

Tickets available through **Box Office** on 07 3358 8600 or online at brisbanepowerhouse.org

-ENDS-

| | |
|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Date | Tuesday 2 – Sunday 13 February 2010 |
| Time | Various |
| Venue | Whole venue + Off-site |
| Tickets | From \$20, Industry Workshops FREE |
| Bookings | 07 3358 8600 or brisbanepowerhouse.org |

**For more information, images and interviews please contact
Brisbane Powerhouse Publicist, Rachael Morgan
p 07 3358 8670 m 0404 775 377 f 07 3358 8649
e rachaelm@brisbanepowerhouse.org**

HOME IS WHERE THE HEARTACHE IS

Brisbane Powerhouse presents

66A Church Road - A Lament, Made of Memories & Kept in Suitcases by Daniel Kitson

Daniel Kitson is heading back our way soon, bringing his heartfelt new theatrical work, *66A Church Road - A Lament, Made of Memories and Kept in Suitcases*, to Brisbane Powerhouse as part of the *World Theatre Festival* from **Tuesday 2 to Sunday 13 February**.

"Last September I had to move out of my flat after living there for almost six years. I didn't want to. I lived alone. I am single. 66a Church Road was the longest relationship of my life. This is a break up show. For my flat."

(Daniel Kitson, London May 2008)

Throughout the show, which won the *Fringe First Award* at the *Edinburgh Fringe Festival*, astonishing images of crumbling beauty and battered grandeur will emerge from time beaten suitcases, telling a richly funny, deeply sad and truly nostalgic story of the forsaken flat, a broken heart and the ache for home. Personal sadness becomes universal, beautiful, moving and hilarious.

Well known and loved as a stand up comedian, Kitson is increasingly ploughing a new and exciting furrow with his theatrical story shows. A yearly fixture at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and a regular fixture in arts festivals around the world, they have garnered awards and five star reviews, in London, Edinburgh, New York, and all round Australia.

"On the surface, this is a play about Daniel Kitson and his flat. But at its heart, it's about the relationship between a good man in search of a kindly and fulfilling life, and a society that often seems to have lost all sense of beauty, humanity, craftsmanship, quality and love. And when that theme fires his writing with the fierce, lyrical anger that is Kitson's hallmark, what emerges not only makes us laugh; but also speaks for the part of all of us that struggles to stay human in a harshly commercialised world." *The Scotsman*

"This is poetry shot though with laughter and pathos, a heartfelt reflection on what we mean by home - as good as anything Kitson has done." *The Times*

"66A Church Road is a gorgeously written and consummately performed piece of storytelling... Kitson captivates...his sentences sing." *Scotland on Sunday*

Tickets available through Box Office on 07 3358 8600 or online at brisbanepowerhouse.org

-ENDS-

| | |
|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Date | Tue 2 – Sun 7 February 2010 |
| Time | Tue-Sat 8pm + Sun 7pm |
| Venue | Visy Theatre, Brisbane Powerhouse |
| Tickets | Tue (preview) all tickets \$34, Wed-Sun Full \$40, Concession \$34 |
| Bookings | 07 3358 8600 or brisbanepowerhouse.org |

For more information, images and interviews please contact
Brisbane Powerhouse Publicist, Rachael Morgan
p 07 3358 8670 m 0404 775 377 f 07 3358 8611
e rachaelm@brisbanepowerhouse.org

INTERACTIVE ME, INTERACTIVE YOU

Brisbane Powerhouse presents

'Wondermart' & 'Etiquette' Rotozaza Productions

The best films and theatre make you feel immersed in the drama, as if you are experiencing it yourself. The UK's **Rotozaza** take that one step further, not just blurring the lines between audience and performer but erasing them completely when they bring their *Autoteatro* series, *Wondermart* and *Etiquette* to Brisbane Powerhouse from **Tuesday 2 to Sunday 13 February** as part of the 2010 *World Theatre Festival*.

Wondermart, by Silvia Mercuriali in collaboration with Tommaso Perego and Matt Rudkin, takes you out of Brisbane Powerhouse into the wilds of the supermarket and your own private recorded soundscape. Wearing headphones, and anonymous behind your trolley, you are both actor and audience on a journey through the familiar surroundings of the retail environment where reality and imagination merge together.

The concept of *Etiquette* is even simpler. You take a seat at a table in a public café, where a few curious props await. Seated with a friend or a stranger and each with your own set of headphones you follow instructions that tell you what to say and which prop to use.

Not only the audience but also the star, you will be surprised and moved in unexpected ways by your own story. *Etiquette* will arouse in you a new understanding of dramatic dialogue and communication.

Since launching at the Edinburgh festival in 2007, *Etiquette* has been to over twenty countries and translated into thirteen languages, performed always by people just like you.

Rotozaza was formed in 1998 by Ant Hampton, who joined with Silvia Mercuriali soon after. They conceived of *Autoteatro* in 2001, a self-generating performance mechanism where the audience's participation *is* the show and nothing else. *Autoteatro* offers the fantasy of carrying out actions or speaking to somebody without having to plan what you do or say or take responsibility for it.

Become the star of your very own show and engage in theatre like you never have before when *Wondermart*, *Etiquette* and the *World Theatre Festival* shake up Brisbane Powerhouse from Tue 2 – Sun 13 February.

Tickets available through **Box Office** on **07 3358 8600** (not available online). *Etiquette* is available in the following languages - English (inc. Ghanaian versions), Portuguese, Dutch, Spanish, German, French, Italian, Japanese, Greek, Slovene, Hungarian, Polish, Welsh and Croatian. *Wondermart* only available in English.

-ENDS-

| | |
|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Date | Tue 2 – Sun 13 February (No sessions Mon 8 February) |
| Time | Wondermart Every 60 Mins. Tue-Fri 10am to 7pm, Sat 10am to 5pm, Sun 10am to 3pm Etiquette Every 40 mins 12 noon to 10pm |
| Venue | Wondermart Off-site audio tour commencing at Brisbane Powerhouse Etiquette Mosquito Foyer |
| Tickets | \$20 |
| Bookings | 07 3358 8600 or brisbanepowerhouse.org |

For more information, images and interviews please contact
Brisbane Powerhouse Publicist, Rachael Morgan
p 07 3358 8670 m 0404 775 377 f 07 3358 8611
e rachaelm@brisbanepowerhouse.org

YOU THINK *YOUR* FAMILY'S DYSFUNCTIONAL?

Brisbane Powerhouse presents

Oedipus Loves You

Punk rock sensibility strikes a fierce chord in a savvy update of Sophocles' classic drama when anarchic Dublin company **Pan Pan Theatre** brings *Oedipus Loves You* to Brisbane Powerhouse as part of the 2010 *World Theatre Festival* from **Wednesday 3 to Sun 7 February**.

Decidedly modern twists are brought to bear, remote-controls combined with ample humour, rock music and many a 'Jerry Springer moment', yet this exploration of the Oedipus myth stays truer to the thrust and themes of the original than you might first think.

Oedipus is still counselled by the wise Tiresias, but now the sightless sage is a Freudian analyst and ex-glam-rocker. Sexual desire runs unchecked and tensions still seethe but now the backdrop is the barbecue grill of Oedipus' suburban hideaway.

The well-known tale of Oedipus, and the accompanying 'Oedipus Complex', remain entrenched in parts of our popular culture, our society and our European heritage and is still deeply connected to contemporary living and modern day art practices. *Oedipus Loves You* looks at the historical curiosity of the myth and its relevance for our anxious age.

This dynamic and unique performance follows the super-plot of *Oedipus Rex* and some of *Antigone* in a fresh and original way but enveloped in many different normal truths about normal life. The dramatic tension is maxed up by Gavin Quinn's remote-control direction and thrash-metal performed live on stage by the cast of five.

Pan Pan Theatre was created by Aedín Cosgrove and Gavin Quinn in 1991 and has developed an individual aesthetic that has grown from working in theatre over the last eighteen years exploring new forms, approaches and experiments with time, space, music and performance.

Pan Pan Theatre creates and produces contemporary live performances in a variety of locations and situations nationally (IRE) and internationally. They have toured throughout Europe, Canada, China and South Korea and also founded and produced the Dublin International Theatre Symposium, 1997-2003.

Don't miss this strikingly original production. Tickets available through **Box Office** on **07 3358 8600** or online at brisbanepowerhouse.org

-ENDS-

| | |
|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Date | Wed 3 - Sun 7 February 2010 |
| Time | Wed-Sat 7.30pm + Sun 6.30pm |
| Venue | Powerhouse theatre, Brisbane Powerhouse |
| Tickets | Wed (preview) all tickets \$35, Thu-Sun Full \$42, Concession \$35 |
| Bookings | 07 3358 8600 or brisbanepowerhouse.org |

**For more information, images and interviews please contact
Brisbane Powerhouse Publicist, Rachael Morgan
p 07 3358 8670 m 0404 775 377 f 07 3358 8611
e rachaelm@brisbanepowerhouse.org**

IF WE'VE NEVER HAD IT SO GOOD, WHY DO WE FEEL SO BAD?

Brisbane Powerhouse and Brian Lucas present
Performance Anxiety
Created and Performed by Brian Lucas

Nationally acclaimed performer/choreographer **Brian Lucas** holds a mirror up to our age of anxiety, revealing reflections which dazzle and provoke in his newest solo dance work *Performance Anxiety*. Dance, movement, physical imagery, voice and sound combine to create an intriguing and confronting performance, presented as part of Brisbane Powerhouse's *World Theatre Festival* in the Turbine Rehearsal Room from **Tuesday 9 to Sunday 13 February 2010**.

Lucas draws on personal experience of the particular anxieties which arise when we find ourselves in front of a live audience, and explores the universal parallels that exist between the experiences of the professional performer and the struggle to "perform well" in our day-to-day lives, be it in the bedroom, the boardroom or the supermarket checkout queue.

As these anxieties infiltrate the performance space, Lucas conjures up characters who usually only exist on the periphery of our consciousness. He allows them to take centre-stage - revealing their inner lives, giving voice to their unspoken fears, hopes, strengths and frailties, and providing an opportunity for them to grab centre stage and shine. *Performance Anxiety* is the bastard, hybrid child of *The United States of Tara* and karaoke night in a desolate gin-joint on the periphery of the planet.

This intimate performance in a cabaret style setting is the perfect opportunity for audiences to experience the provocative, powerful and intricately precise works of this stunning dancer and choreographer, who has worked with many of Australia's best known performance companies, including Chunky Move, KAGE Theatre, Chamber Made Opera, Circa, The Queensland Ballet, Queensland Theatre Company and, for eight years, Expressions Dance Company (four of those as assistant artistic director). Later in 2010 Brian will be directing Ionesco's *The Chairs* for La Boite Theatre Company.

Sit back with a glass of wine in "The Loser Bar" (Turbine Rehearsal Room, Brisbane Powerhouse) from 9 to 13 February and share in the tales of the terminally stressed, the people under pressure, and the heroes on their small crusades.

"One of Australia's most commanding actor-dancers" The Australian
"Brian Lucas (a superb mid-career artist) courageously alerts us to the wounding truth." Real Time

Created and Performed by Brian Lucas
Sound designer Brett Coltery
Designer Kieran Swann
Lighting Designer Andrew Meadows.

Brian Lucas is supported by MAPS for Artists, a managing and producing collaboration between Metro Arts and Brisbane Powerhouse.

-ENDS-

| | |
|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Date | Tue 9 – Sat 13 February 2010 |
| Time | 9pm |
| Venue | Turbine Rehearsal Room, Cabaret Mode. |
| Tickets | \$25(f), \$20(c) |
| Bookings | 07 3358 8600 or brisbanepowerhouse.org |

For more information, images and interviews please contact

Contact: Katherine Hoeppe, Manager MAPS for Artists

e: katherine@mapsforartists.com.au **p:** 07 3002 7100 **m:** 0417 649 805

MAGICAL, MEMORABLE AND MIGHTY REAL

Brisbane Powerhouse presents
The Eisteddfod

One of the most exciting independent theatre companies in the country, **Stuck Pigs Squealing**, makes their Queensland debut with a play by **Lally Katz** when they bring *The Eisteddfod* to Brisbane Powerhouse from **Wednesday 10 – Saturday 13 February 2010** as part of the *World Theatre Festival*.

In this brilliantly executed new drama, Winner of the *Green Room Award for Best Independent Production*, orphaned siblings Abalone and Gerture are alone in a tiny room which they never leave. This eloquent exploration of their existence reveals their innermost fantasies and fears with compelling humour and precision.

Abalone frantically pursues his dream to win the annual eisteddfod, once again trying to prove himself the talent his mother believed him to be – but he can't do it alone. Meanwhile, Gerture is spending more and more time teaching in her imaginary classroom. Both are striving to confront their loss and isolation.

Chris Kohn's emphatic theatrical visioning and the evocative language of Lally Katz combine once again in a witty and highly immersive blurring of real and imaginary worlds.

Based in Melbourne, Stuck Pigs Squealing Theatre was established in 2000 and is a collective of artists dedicated to the creation of dynamic, imaginative and disturbing theatre events. A driving force in the emergence of Melbourne's dynamic and adventurous independent theatre scene, Stuck Pigs Squealing has produced award winning site-specific theatre and other works for festivals in Australia and North America.

Chris Kohn is co-founder of Stuck Pigs Squealing and has worked as a director, dramaturg, video artist and writer for various companies. His shows have been nominated for 12 *Green Room Awards* and received six, including two for Best Show in the Independent category.

Playwright, Lally Katz, is a graduate of the University of Melbourne's School of Studies in Creative Arts and studied Playwriting at London's Royal Court Theatre. She is a core member of Stuck Pigs Squealing, for which she has written, not only *The Eisteddfod*, but also *The Black Swan of Trespass* and *The Terrible Mysteries of the Volcano*.

Tickets for *The Eisteddfod* are available through **Box Office** on **07 3358 8600** or online at brisbanepowerhouse.org

-ENDS-

| | |
|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Date | Wed 10 – Sat 13 February 2010 |
| Time | 8.15pm |
| Venue | Powerhouse Theatre, Brisbane Powerhouse. |
| Tickets | Full \$30, Concession \$26 |
| Bookings | 07 3358 8600 or brisbanepowerhouse.org |

**For more information, images and interviews please contact
Brisbane Powerhouse Publicist, Rachael Morgan
p 07 3358 8670 m 0404 775 377 f 07 3358 8611
e rachaelm@brisbanepowerhouse.org**

GOTHIC AUSTRALIANA AND A WOMAN IN RED

Brisbane Powerhouse presents
The Ballad of Backbone Joe

If you like your theatre darkly funny, slightly creepy, clever and oh so cool, you'll love **The Suitcase Royale** and their show, *The Ballad of Backbone Joe*, when they thump, rattle and swing their way into Brisbane Powerhouse from **Wednesday 10 to Saturday 13 February 2010** as part of the inaugural *World Theatre Festival*.

A dollar fight gone wrong, a classy sheila with a mind for revenge and a private detective hot on her heels... *The Ballad of Backbone Joe* tells a twisted tale of the apparent death, the murder no less, of a woman in a blood red dress.

Set in the roaring carnival days of pre-war Australia, in a small town's abattoir and boxing emporium, the tale unfolds through jigsaw puzzle narrative, film, visual trickery, bone-crunching slapstick, dark humour and a unique Rag 'n' Bone music and junkyard aesthetic.

Contra bass, banjo, guitar, accordion, drums and the ghostly voice of a red-dressed vixen carry this broken-down truck of a show down the windy road of revenge.

The Ballad of Backbone Joe is the newest addition to The Suitcase Royale repertoire and reprises the small-town setting from another of their productions, *Chronicles of a Sleepless Moon*. It sees the development of a style of 'Gothic Australiana' evoking an eerie atmosphere of isolation and telling the mysterious tales of grotesque characters.

The Suitcase Royale, Miles O'Neil, Glen Walton and Joseph O'Farrell, met in Melbourne and played as a band in folk clubs and pubs until they devised their first theatre show. The result showcased the trio's unique aesthetic using found objects, puppetry, shadowplay, animation, ingenious use of lighting and strange inventions to tell a simple story in a wonderfully original way. They are dedicated to creating new works of the imagination with an eye to detail and an ambition to construct highly developed and complex performances that impart the simplest of tales.

The Ballad of Backbone Joe was developed with the assistance of Federation Square, the Australia Council for the Arts and the Art Centre's *Full Tilt* program and has been presented at Fed Square, *Darwin Festival*, the *Imperial Panda Festival* (Sydney), *Ruhrfestspiele Festival Fringe* (Germany) and Melbourne's Arts House. It will also play as part of *Sydney Festival's* Wharf Program.

Tickets available through **Box Office** on **07 3358 8600** or online at brisbanepowerhouse.org

-ENDS-

| | |
|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Date | Wed 10 – Sat 13 February 2010 |
| Time | 7pm |
| Venue | Visy Theatre, Brisbane Powerhouse |
| Tickets | Full \$29, Concession \$25 |
| Bookings | 07 3358 8600 or brisbanepowerhouse.org |

**For more information, images and interviews please contact
Brisbane Powerhouse Publicist, Rachael Morgan
p 07 3358 8670 m 0404 775 377 f 07 3358 8611
e rachaelm@brisbanepowerhouse.org**

GET ENGAGED, GET INSPIRED AND MOST OF ALL GET INVOLVED

Brisbane Powerhouse presents
World Theatre Festival (WTF?) Workshops

The 2010 *World Theatre Festival* is about more than just good theatre. This annual festival is not only going to engage and inspire audiences but will also give fellow arts practitioners the chance to get involved and invigorate their practice when creatives such as **Rotozaza, Gavin Quinn, Lally Katz** and **The Suitcase Royale** hold FREE industry workshops at Brisbane Powerhouse on **Wednesday 3 - Thursday 4 and Thursday 11 February**

Rotozaza's Theatre of Command and Response (TOCAR) workshop at **10am on Wed 3 Feb** takes you through the process used in their 'autoteatro' works, *Etiquette* and *Wondermart*. You will have a chance to learn about the company's fascination with people coping with tasks, both live and unrehearsed. Then you will have the chance to explore how the company creates theatre that leads their audiences through a task based performance experience using simple audio technologies.

Gavin Quinn's workshop at **1pm on Thu 4 Feb** is a discussion entitled *Clytemnestra is a Pretentious Name for a Dog*. Gavin talks about how he explores a personal sense of aesthetics in post-experimental theatre making practice and how this manifested in *Oedipus Loves You* and other works.

The workshop with **Lally Katz** at **10am on Thu 11 Feb** gives you a chance to listen to one of Australia's most interesting and imaginative playwrights talk about writing for the stage and the processes she employs. From work devised collaboratively in a group with Stuck Pig Squealing such as *The Eisteddfod*, to commissions from major theatre companies, Lally Katz is fast becoming one of the most prolific writers of her generation.

The Suitcase Royale has been busy taking their junkyard aesthetic to the world and has now recorded and released their debut album. In their workshop, at **1pm on Thu 11 Feb**, hear about how one of Melbourne's most innovative independent theatre ensembles build narrative, characters, sets and music from figments of their imagination.

All workshops are FREE and will take place in the Rooftop Terrace.

Participants to register by emailing wtf@brisbanepowerhouse.org

-ENDS-

| | |
|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Date | Wed 3 & Thu 4 + Thu 11 Feb |
| Time | Rotozaza 10am, Gavin Quinn 1pm, Lally Katz 10am, The Suitcase Royale 1pm |
| Venue | Rooftop Terrace. |
| Tickets | FREE |
| Bookings | 07 3358 8600 or brisbanepowerhouse.org |

**For more information, images and interviews please contact
Brisbane Powerhouse Publicist, Rachael Morgan
p 07 3358 8670 m 0404 775 377 f 07 3358 8611
e rachaelm@brisbanepowerhouse.org**

