



sudney
festival
2012



Media Release November 2011



Belvoir, Urban Theatre Projects
& Sydney Festival present

Buried City

By **RAIMONDO CORTESE**

Original Concept & Direction

ALICIA TALBOT

Set & Costume Designer

MIRABELLE WOUTERS

Lighting Designer

NEIL SIMPSON with **SEAN BACON**

Composer & Sound Designer

PAUL PRESTIPINO

Movement Director

KATHY COGILL

UTP Executive Producer

MICHELLE KOTEVSKI

Community Liaison

ANNIE WINTER

Singer-songwriter

PERRY KEYES

Co-devisers & Performers

VALERIE BERRY

PERRY KEYES

RUSSELL KIEFEL

EFFIE NKRUMAH

HAZEM SHAMMAS

MEYNE WYATT

BELVOIR ST THEATRE | UPSTAIRS

6 JANUARY – 5 FEBRUARY

Late one night in the gutted façade of a building slated for redevelopment, a group of security workers, labourers and a local teenager find themselves haunting the same territory. Through their interactions an allegory of a city that is recreating itself in a post-Fordist and transnational image emerges. **Belvoir** has joined forces with the acclaimed **Urban Theatre Projects (UTP)** and **Sydney Festival** to create this big-picture show about how people and cities redefine themselves.

Over the past decade, UTP's Artistic Director **Alicia Talbot** has developed unique processes where individuals and industry professionals from outside of the arts are positioned as experts within the devising process, attending rehearsals on a regular basis to contribute dramaturgical advice. This critical feedback greatly impacts on the believability and authenticity of the work. For individuals and communities who have had the experience of being ignored, stereotyped or vilified, being involved in a process where their words and opinions are integral to the work is a very powerful experience. *Buried City* has been created in dialogue with individuals associated with the CFMEU and in particular their Retired Members Association, the Workplace Tragedy Support Group, Gadigal Information Service Aboriginal Corporation, African Women Australia Inc and the Les Tobler Construction Training Centre.

Buried City boasts a talented cast of seasoned performers alongside bright young things who are starting to make a real impact on Australian theatre. **Russell Kiefel** (*The Business*) and **Hazem Shammas** (*Scorched, Stuff Happens*) return to our Upstairs stage; **Valerie Berry** and **Effie Nkrumah** continue their collaboration with UTP; **Meyne Wyatt** (*Silent Disco, Bloodland*) makes his Belvoir and UTP debut; and award winning singer-songwriter **Perry Keyes** – the troubadour of Redfern-Waterloo – makes his theatrical debut.

For more information contact publicist Elly Michelle Clough
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NOTES FOR EDITORS

SEASON INFORMATION

Dates 6 January to 5 February 2012

Previews Friday 6 & Saturday 7 January 2012

Opening night 8pm Sunday 8 January 2012

Times Tuesday 6.30pm | Wednesday to Friday 8pm | Saturday 2pm & 8pm | Sunday 5pm

Tickets Full \$62 | Seniors (excluding Fri/Sat evenings) \$52 | Concession \$42

Venue Belvoir St Theatre | 25 Belvoir St, Surry Hills

Bookings 02 9699 3444 or www.belvoir.com.au

BELVOIR

When the Nimrod Theatre building in Belvoir Street, Surry Hills, was threatened with demolition in 1984, more than 600 people – ardent theatre lovers together with arts, entertainment and media professionals – formed a syndicate to buy the building and save this unique performance space in inner-city Sydney.

Over 25 years later, this space, known as Belvoir St Theatre, continues to be the home of one of Australia's most celebrated theatre companies – Belvoir. Under the artistic leadership of Ralph Myers and General Manager Brenna Hobson, Belvoir engages Australia's most prominent and promising playwrights, directors, actors and designers to realise an annual season of work that is dynamic, challenging and visionary. As well as performing at home, Belvoir regularly takes to the road, touring to major arts centres and festivals both nationally and internationally.

The name of our company is **Belvoir**, not the Belvoir, Belvoir Theatre or Belvoir Theatre Company. Belvoir St Theatre is our venue.

URBAN THEATRE PROJECTS

UTP is a social and political theatre company that draws upon a 30-year lineage of creating compelling new performance works, inspired by real people and their lives. Grounded in a social and political context, our work grapples with what it is to live in urban Australia and how this connects with the rest of the world. UTP works with both emerging and experienced artists, challenging notions of what theatre can be, who it can be by and who it is for.

The philosophy and artists of UTP have driven an investigation of new forms, new collaborations and new contexts, making it a leading innovator that consistently challenges and reinvigorates art form practice.

SYDNEY FESTIVAL 2012

Every January, Sydney Festival enlivens and transforms Sydney with a bold cultural celebration based on the highest quality art and big ideas.

The program is kaleidoscopic in its diversity from every corner of the globe, from circus to dance and physical theatre, classic to cutting-edge theatre, family programs for ever age, and traditional and contemporary Indigenous arts. In all, the program comprises around 300 performances and 80 events performed by over 1000 artists in at least 20 venues each year. Inclusive programming, a broad range of free events and accessible pricing policies for the ticketed shows means that Sydney Festival is open to all, welcoming Sydneysiders and visitors alike.



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