



The more you sweat, the less you bleed.

This summer, Belvoir's Downstairs Theatre will be converted into a boxing gym: a place of dreams, of glory, of a better life. The walls are covered in inspirational quotes, bodies are in constant motion and minds are elsewhere. The stakes are high. Everyone wants to be special; we all have something to prove; and the only thing that's certain – no matter how high you fly, you will eventually lose. A sweaty, energy-fuelled study of a contemporary masculine drama, *I'm Your Man* will situate the audience in the moment, at the centre of the action.

For 18 months theatre-maker **Roslyn Oades** (*Stories of Love and Hate*) and her trusty tape recorder followed a determined young boxer from Bankstown through his preparations for a world-title fight. *I'm Your Man* is the story of those she met along the way: past legends, up-and-comers and failed contenders whose lives have been irreversibly changed by the fight game.

I'm Your Man is no ordinary slice-of-life. The actors wear earpieces and take their words directly from the ringsides, gyms and dressing rooms of Oades' recordings. Through the disciplined recreation of audio scripts in performance, *I'm Your Man* recontextualises rarely heard voices. The actors recite this audio script with absolute precision like a musician following a score, recreating the exact speech patterns of original interviewees. The result is an extraordinary, hyper-natural form of documentary theatre that evokes the essence of the audio source with fidelity – even if the performer is of a conflicting gender, age or racial background to the original speaker.

The **Sydney Morning Herald** described this style of work in *Stories of Love and Hate* as "...resolutely truthful and non-actorly work, with a beautifully accurate rendering of the cadences, timing and slippages of real speech."

I'm Your Man will challenge preconceived notions of the rough, testosterone-driven world of boxing, while creating new ways of experiencing real-life stories in a theatrical form.

Belvoir & Sydney Festival
present

I'm Your Man

Creator & Director **ROSLYN OADES**
Sound Designer **BOB SCOTT**
Lighting Designer **NEIL SIMPSON**
Movement Director **LEE WILSON**
Dramaturg **RAIMONDO CORTESE**
Project Manager **TIM CARROLL**

With
MOHAMMED AHMAD
BILLY MCPHERSON
KATIA MOLINO
JUSTIN ROSNIAK
JOHN SHRIMPTON

BELVOIR ST THEATRE | DOWNSTAIRS
12 JANUARY – 5 FEBRUARY



sudney festival 2012

In association with



Media Release December 2011

NOTES FOR EDITORS

SEASON INFORMATION

Dates 12 January to 5 February 2012

Previews Thursday 12 & Friday 13 January 2012

Opening night Saturday 14 January 2012

Times Tuesday 7pm | Wednesday to Friday 8.15pm | Saturday 2.15pm & 8.15pm | Sunday 5.15pm

Tickets Full \$42 | Seniors (excluding Fri/Sat evenings) \$36 | Concession \$32

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.

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 burlesque circus to New York rap to Russian theatre; from contemporary dance to family programs to traditional Indigenous arts practice. 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 from wherever they live.