

MEDIA RELEASE
NOVEMBER 2, 2011



**sudney
festival
2012**

Sydney Festival and Belvoir in association with Carriageworks present

Thyestes

The Hayloft Project, Australia

Carriageworks Bay 20, January 15 – February 19

Co-Written & Directed by **Simon Stone** after Seneca

Co-Writers **Thomas Henning, Chris Ryan, Mark Winter**

Set & Costume Design **Claude Marcos** Composer & Sound Design **Stefan Gregory**

Lighting Design **Govin Ruben** Dramaturge **Anne-Louise Sarks**

With **Thomas Henning, Chris Ryan, Mark Winter**

"Thyestes is rock 'n' roll theatre: confronting, transgressive, uncomfortably hilarious, obscene, horrifying and beautiful." The Australian

Ancient Greek legends have a reputation for getting more than a little bloody. Most ferocious of all is the tale of Thyestes, the deposed king whose sons were slaughtered and served as a feast to their unwitting father.

Dragging mythological atrocities into contemporary reality, fast-tracking director **Simon Stone** and **The Hayloft Project** transposes Seneca's infamous epic into a series of domestic scenes around the banality and ordinariness of violence.

Terrifyingly observed, savagely comic and ultimately heartrending, **Thyestes** is a real and modern journey through the darkest of legends. Sydney Festival and Belvoir head to Carriageworks to stage this dangerously smart excavation of our ancient urges towards love and destruction.

The Hayloft Project was founded in Melbourne by **Simon Stone** in 2007. Now resident director at Belvoir, Stone directed the acclaimed 2011 productions; *The Wild Duck*, a new play inspired by Ibsen's, and *Neighbourhood Watch* with Robyn Nevin.

In Greek Mythology, Thyestes was the son of Hippodamia, King of Olympia. Thyestes and his twin brother, Atreus, were exiled by their father after murdering their half-brother, Chrysippus, in their desire for the throne. Taking refuge in Mycenae, the brothers became co-rulers and, in a move to claim the throne as his own, Thyestes begins an affair with his brother's wife. When Atreus discovers the lovers, he takes revenge by killing Thyestes' two sons, and serving them as the main course of a banquet, taunting Thyestes with the heads and hands of the murdered boys. Seneca the Younger wrote his version of **Thyestes** in the first century. First translated into English in the mid-16th century, the story has been translated numerous times as both theatre and opera.

www.sydneymfestival.org.au/thyestes

www.belvoir.com.au

www.hayloftproject.com

ABC Art Nation 6min piece on Thyestes www.abc.net.au/arts/stories/s3046004.htm

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| Where | Carriageworks Bay 20 , 245 Wilson Street, Eveleigh |
| When | Preview: January 15 at 5pm & January 17 at 8pm Season: January 18 – February 19 Tuesday at 6pm, Wednesday – Saturday at 8pm; Saturday 2pm; Sunday at 5pm Matinees: Wed January 25 & February 1 at 2pm |
| Duration | 1hr 40mins |
| Price | \$62 / \$42 Seniors \$52 Preview \$42 |
| Bookings | Belvoir: 9699 3444 Sydney Festival: 1300 668 812 Ticketmaster: 1300 723 038 |

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