

**BELVOIR ST THEATRE SEASON SOLD OUT!**

# **EXIT THE KING**

**Opens: Wednesday 13 June, 2007**  
**Season dates: 14 June - 29 July, 2007**

Written by **Eugène IONESCO**  
Translated by **Neil Armfield** and **Geoffrey Rush**  
Directed by **Neil Armfield** Assistant Director **Matthew Edmond**  
Set and Costume Design **Dale Ferguson** Lighting Design **Damien Cooper**  
Composition **John Rodgers** Sound Design **Russell Goldsmith**  
Musician **Phil Slater**

With **Bille Brown, Julie Forsyth, Gillian Jones, Rebecca Massey, Geoffrey Rush, David Woods**

*Why will the sun not rise?  
Why are the heaters not working?  
A layer of filth has settled on the throne and the crack in the wall is getting wider.*

*The inevitable has come...  
The King is down, he has one hour and a half to live.  
Long Live the King!*

**Company B announce the Sydney season of *Exit the King* at Belvoir St Theatre has sold out!**

Reigniting one of Australia's most inspiring theatrical partnerships, **Neil Armfield** and **Geoffrey Rush** return to Belvoir St with their translation of **Eugène Ionesco's *Exit the King***. Having previously worked together on translations of ***The Marriage of Figaro*** and ***The Diary of a Madman***, ***Exit the King*** marks the return of Geoffrey Rush to the Belvoir stage for the first time since ***The Small Poppies*** in 2000.

Eugène Ionesco, was one of the foremost playwrights of the Theatre of the Absurd. His plays often depict the solitude of humanity and the insignificance of one's existence by playing on banal situations. One of his more famous plays ***The Chairs*** (1952) was performed as part of the Company B 2005 season.

***Exit the King*** is a tale of classic drama infused with pathos, laughter and some serious clowning. In this microcosm of existential sadness, the ridiculous pleasure of being alive is pulsating. This King's fight against decline is a tooth-and-nail, hair-tearing scramble for immortality. And whatever it is that's sucking the life from him is also closing down the whole planet. A comic relief of life-and-death proportions is played out providing rich opportunity for theatrical play and farce.

This great absurdist play presents an outrageously theatrical game that doesn't let up until the bitter end. Once it seemed King Berenger ruled over an empire, but now his kingdom has shrunk to the confines of his garden wall. His nation, constrained to a population of six, resides in the throne room. His first wife, Queen Marguerite, is making preparations while his second wife, Queen Marie, refuses to accept it's time. He can't control his guards, his family or even his own bodily movements - the King must go - and he's not going to go gracefully.



In a partnership spanning nearly 20 years, Neil Armfield and Geoffrey Rush have created some of Australia's most memorable theatrical productions of European classics including *The Alchemist*, *The Marriage of Figaro*, *The Government Inspector* and *The Diary of a Madman*. Geoffrey Rush returns to his first medium as a stage actor, once again walking the tightrope of comedy and tragedy in his ridiculous figure of King Berenger.

Joining **Geoffrey Rush** is an exceptional cast of stage contemporaries including **Bille Brown** as The Doctor, **Julie Forsyth** as Juliette and **Gillian Jones** as Queen Marguerite. After her comic appearance as the acrobatic *Pearl* in Stephen Sewell's *It Just Stopped*, Company B favourite **Rebecca Massey** returns to play Queen Marie and is joined by **David Woods** as the guard in his Company B debut.

PRODUCTION PARTNER The KPMG logo, consisting of the letters "KPMG" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font, with a stylized blue bar above the letters.

**Season Dates: 14 June – 29 July 2007**

**Previews: Saturday 9 June** at 8pm, **Sunday 10 June** at 5pm. All preview tickets \$32.

**Opening Night:** Wednesday 13 June at 8pm

**Venue:** Belvoir St Theatre, 25 Belvoir St, Surry Hills

**Times:** Tuesday 6.30pm, Wednesday to Friday 8pm, Saturday 2pm & 8pm, Sunday 5pm.

**Tickets:** Full \$52. Seniors (excluding Fri/Sat evenings) & Groups 10+ \$44. Concession \$32

**Under 27:** \$32 tickets for Tuesday 6.30pm available from 10am on the day (subject to availability).

**Bookings:** (02) 9699 3444 or [www.belvoir.com.au](http://www.belvoir.com.au)

**Please note: A limited number of tickets will be available for each performance (except 12 and 13 June). These tickets can only be purchased from the box office, in person, two hours prior to each performance. Limit of two tickets per person.**

**Media Information:**

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