

MEDIA RELEASE



**PINTER'S POST-WAR THRILLER
REVIVED WITH AUSTRALIAN TWIST**

THE BIRTHDAY PARTY BY HAROLD PINTER



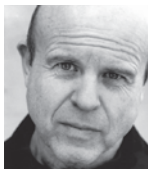
**Jada
Alberts**



**Isaac
Drandic**



**Gregory
Fryer**



**Marshall
Napier**



**Glenn
Shea**



**Pauline
Whyman**

Harold Pinter's first full-length play, ***The Birthday Party*** written in 1958 and now considered a classic post-war drama, will be revived in a new production directed by **Julian Meyrick**. It will open on **Wednesday 24 June at the Arts Centre, Fairfax Studio**.

Structured as a thriller, *The Birthday Party* is set in a seaside boarding house and follows the story of cranky loner Stanley, who is terrorised by two visitors who come to stay, Goldberg and McCann. Who are they? And why are they so keen to celebrate his birthday? Not previously staged by MTC, this new production by Julian Meyrick will revisit the play from a contemporary Australian perspective.

The Birthday Party was met with general incomprehension and shock when it was first performed in London. Reviews were almost entirely hostile and it closed after only eight performances. Later it was filmed for television and its popularity grew and grew. Fifty years on it is considered one of the masterpieces of twentieth century drama and Harold Pinter is regarded as one of the world's greatest playwrights. He was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 2005 and died in 2008.

"Pinter's enduring, ultimately undefinable play ... has the power of all first-rate art to acknowledge the past and reflect the future while existing in the tangible present." Michael Billington, *The Guardian*

Language is at the heart of all Pinter's works. He makes the inarticulate articulate and uses words as a weapon of terror. Pinter has written 29 plays, including *The Caretaker*, *The Homecoming* and *Betrayal*, 21 screenplays, including *The Servant*, *The Go-Between* and *The French Lieutenant's Woman*, and directed numerous theatre productions.

Jada Alberts, Isaac Drandic, Gregory Fryer, Marshall Napier Glenn Shea and Pauline Whyman

Director **Julian Meyrick**, Set Designer **Stephen Curtis**, Costume Designer **Louise McCarthy**, Lighting Designer **Matt Scott**, Composer **Darrin Verhagen**

***The Birthday Party* - the Art Centre, Fairfax Studio**

Season dates: 19 June - 1 August

Opening night: Wednesday 24 June at 8:00pm

Tickets: From \$58.20 (Under 30s - \$30)

MTC Theatre Box Office 03 8688 0800 or mtc.com.au

Mini subscriptions Now on Sale: 3-6 Play Packages start from as little as \$153.00 (Under 30s only \$75.00), 03 9684 4555 or mtc.com.au

Media Contact:

Christy Hopwood, MTC PR and Communications Manager,
(03) 9684 4527, 0411 780 516 or c.hopwood@mtc.com.au