

MEDIA RELEASE

MTC 2010 Education Program

MTC is delighted to announce the 2010 MTC Education Program. This year's program offers students access to some of the country's best productions as well as forums and workshops tailored to help students pass their final exams.

This year MTC will be presenting two productions, Matt Cameron's off-beat and unsettling fable *Ruby Moon*, starring Christen O'Leary and Tyler Coppin and a revival of the successful production of *Explorations: A Streetcar Named Desire*, where key scenes will be illuminated by canny dramaturgical analysis.

"It boggles the mind (as well as puffs the chest a little) to realise that MTC has been providing drama and theatre experiences for young people continuously for almost fifty years. This year I am proud to introduce a few fresh initiatives to the program. For regional schools, the Tattersall Foundation will be providing student travel subsidies for excursions to MTC performances and events. We are also introducing the MTC Ambassador program which will give a select group of Year 11 students the opportunity to meet on a monthly basis and share their passion for theatre by attending shows and behind-the-scenes events. I hope all students partaking in the MTC Education program will begin a life-long love affair with the theatre" said Artistic Director, Simon Phillips.

MTC 2010 EDUCATION PROGRAM OVERVIEW

PRODUCTION

A full scale production

***Ruby Moon* by Matt Cameron, Directed by Aidan Fennessy**

Once upon a shimmering summer's day, little Ruby Moon set off for Grandma's place down the end of the *cul de sac* – and never arrived. For long days and months afterwards, her parents, Sylvie and Ray, wait for word, any word, from anyone who might know what happened. Then one morning a parcel arrives, whose mysterious contents send them back out into the terrifying world for a final search for an answer. A dark and tangly wood of loss and bewilderment. Updating the Grimm Brothers' world to suit our modern anxieties, *Ruby Moon* relies on two versatile actors to create all the characters in a suburban neighbourhood gripped by a sinister enchantment.

Performance: Term 2, 19 April – 5 May

Venue: The MTC Theatre, Lawler Studio

* Tickets for this production are on sale to the General Public – MTC Box Office 03 8688 0800 or mtc.com.au

EXPLORATIONS

A Streetcar Named Desire by Tennessee Williams, Directed by Brett Adam

Seeking refuge in her sister's tenement in New Orleans, Blanche Du Bois arrives with nothing but a suitcase of finery and a fanciful story of how she came to lose everything she had. Almost at once her highbrow manner and refined pretensions provoke the contempt of her brother-in-law, the aggressive and boorish Stanley Kowalski, and between them, in that cramped apartment, a war of wills escalates dangerously. In this special MTC Explorations, an in-depth discussion led by the cast is illustrated and clarified by the performance of key scenes.

Performance: Term 3, 26 August – 3 September

Venue: The MTC Theatre, Sumner

MAINSTAGE SEASON 2010 SHOW & FORUM

***Richard III* by William Shakespeare, Directed by Simon Phillips**

The civil war is over and everyone can bask in the glorious summer created by the new King – everyone, that is, except Richard, Duke of Gloucester, who is more suited to darkness and chaos. Two elder brothers and two young princes stand between him and the English crown. Yet these barley barely count as obstacles for one so steeped in cunning.

A large-scale contemporary production presented in MTC's mainstage season.

Performance: Term 2, 24 April – 12 June

Venue: The MTC Theatre, Sumner

*** A Production Analysis Forum will be held on Wednesday 12 May at 10.30am**

***Dead Man's Cell Phone* by Sarah Ruhl, Directed by Peter Evans**

When the man next to her in a café fails to answer his mobile phone, Jean discovers that he is seriously *incommunicado*. Feeling some responsibility for the stranger and wanting to offer some comfort to the dead man's family, what can she do but keep answering the phone? But responsibilities taken up lightly can become burdens in time. A surrealist fantasy, *Dead Man's Cell Phone* traces one woman's accidental quest to make a few people feel just a little bit better about themselves.

A large-scale contemporary production presented in MTC's mainstage season.

Performance: Term 3, 26 June – 7 August

Venue: The MTC Theatre, Sumner

*** A Performance Analysis Forum will be held on Wednesday 28 July at 10.30am**

MTC offers generous group discounts for secondary or tertiary students to all plays in the main season. Tickets are available for all performances except Friday and Saturday evenings. To request a copy of our 2010 Season brochure visit mtc.com.au

WORKSHOPS

Practical workshops to assist students prepare for their VCE performance exam

Solo Performance

A full-day workshop, led by an experienced educator and a professional actor which will help students prepare for the process of selection, development and performance of their solo performance exam.

Performance: Term 2, 15 June – 22 June

Venue: MTC Headquarters, 252 Sturt Street, Southbank

Monologue Performance

A full-day workshop, led by an experienced educator and a professional actor which will help students prepare for the process of selection, interpretation, rehearsal and performance of their monologue performance exam.

Performance: Term 3, 23 July – 30 July

Venue: MTC Headquarters, 252 Sturt Street, Southbank

TRAVEL SUBSIDIES FOR REGIONAL & REMOTE SCHOOLS

Thanks to generous support from the Tattersalls Foundation, MTC is able to offer a limited number of travel subsidies in 2010. Schools in regional and remote areas will be eligible to apply for a subsidy to cover full or partial travel costs incurred by transporting a school group to an MTC production or Educational event. Visit mtc.com.au for further information and to download an application form, or register your interest by emailing education@mtc.com.au

FREE TICKETS FOR DISADVANTAGED STUDENTS

Thanks to a generous donation from the Sidney Myer Fund on behalf of one of MTC's supporters, Mr Geoffrey Cohen AM, we are able to provide a limited number of free or discounted Season 2010 or Education event tickets. These tickets will be allocated to schools for distribution to students who would otherwise not be able to attend an MTC event for reason of economic disadvantage. To register for consideration please email education@mtc.com.au

MTC AMBASSADORS PROGRAM

2010 will see the introduction of the MTC Ambassador Program. A group of nominated students will be selected by MTC's Education Manager as Ambassadors and will meet with each other throughout the year to attend seven MTC performances as well as behind-the-scenes and social events. The program has been developed to encourage and inspire young theatre enthusiasts to extend their knowledge and experience of live theatre.

For more information on the 2010 MTC Education Program visit mtc.com.au

Bookings on (03) 8688 0963 or at schools@mtc.com.au

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