

**PRESS RELEASE  
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**MERRIGONG THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS**

## **-- LOST BOYS --**

**By Lachlan Philpott**

*A fierce and compelling new play that forces us to examine secrets held for decades, and prejudices held today*

This May and June, Merrigong Theatre Company will present a brand new Australian work inspired by a shocking chapter in recent Australian history. Examining the heinous murders of dozens of gay men in Sydney in the 1980s. **Lost Boys** is a fierce and compelling new play by award-winning Australian playwright Lachlan Philpott (*Silent Disco, The Trouble with Harry*) specially commissioned and developed by Merrigong Theatre Company.

Cy and Robert Murphy are teenagers living a life of sun and saltwater, but as the sun sets, a malevolent culture of homophobia and violence surfaces, with consequences that ripple across generations.

Influenced by real events, including the murder of Wollongong newsreader Ross Warren, **Lost Boys** is told through the eyes of three generations of the Murphy family and rips into a dark part of our male-dominated culture, asking how perpetrators of violent crimes live with their unspeakable pasts.

After three years at Merrigong Theatre Company as Artistic Development Manager, acclaimed director and former Artistic Director of the Tamarama Rock Surfers Theatre Company and The Old Fitzroy Theatre in Sydney, Leland Kean, is thrilled to be making his directorial debut at Merrigong Theatre Company with the world premiere of *Lost Boys*.

*"In the wake of the yes vote, it is incredibly important that we do not forget the tragic events that have affected this community, the faces of the victims of these hate crimes, and the ongoing effect on their families and friends. This work turns the spotlight on these events, asking why and how people choose to act in this way,"* said Leland Kean.

Commemorating lives lost, this deeply affecting and potent new work forces audiences to examine secrets held for decades, and prejudices still held today. This is vital and unflinching work from a compelling voice in Australian theatre.

Merrigong Theatre Company Artistic Director / CEO said "*Lost Boys continues Merrigong's tradition and commitment to the production of new Australian work, furthering our legacy as a leading voice for the arts and artists in regional Australia.*"

**Director** Leland Kean **Designer** Katja Handt **AV Designer** Mic Gruchy **Sound Designer** Daryl Wallis **Lighting Design** Jasmine Rizk  
**Dramaturg** Jane Fitzgerald

**Starring** Josh Anderson, Adam Booth, Jackson Davis, Lucy Heffernan, Jodie Le Vesconte, Ben Pfeiffer, Jane Phegan, Lincoln Vickery

### **LOST BOYS**

**Dates:** Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May to Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2018

**Location:** Illawarra Performing Arts Centre, 32 Burelli St, Wollongong NSW 2500

**Tickets:** Adult \$49, Premium \$59, Under 30s \$29, Preview \$40

Available from <http://merrigong.com.au/shows/lost-boys.html>

or the Merrigong Theatre Company box office at (02) 4224 5999

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