

**MERRIGONG  
THEATRE  
COMPANY**ILLAWARRA  
PERFORMING  
ARTS CENTREWOLLONGONG  
TOWN HALL

**A word-for-word adaptation of a short story by Patrick White.  
With live music by Zephyr Quartet.**



Merrigong Theatre Company is delighted to present winner of the 2015 Adelaide Critics Circle Award ***The Aspirations of Daise Morrow***, a work from acclaimed Australian company Brink Productions. Based on a short story by Australian writer and Nobel Prize recipient, Patrick White it features a cast led by **Paul Blackwell** and **Genevieve Picot**, two of Australia's greatest actors, with live music by **Zephyr Quartet**.

*The Aspirations of Daise Morrow* is Brink's theatrical reimagining of White's acclaimed *Down at the Dump*, transformed into a raw, immediate and unexpected performance experience while retaining all of the writer's language, wit, scathing insight and wonderful humour.

Set in the fictional suburb of Barranugli, the Whalley family are getting ready for a day at the dump while, next door, the Hogben's prepare for the funeral of the scandalous Daise Morrow. *The Aspirations of Daise Morrow* is on the surface a story about the complexities of small communities. It also speaks of the darkness that lies at the heart of society: fear of the outsider, the unknown, the uninhibited and unusual. It is brutally funny, profound in its understanding and empathy for human nature, and filled with magic and wonder.

**Chris Drummond**, Artistic Director of Brink, says the point of inspiration for *The Aspirations of Daise Morrow* was simple; *"Take on White's incredible text - holus bolus - and give it over to a group of artists to devise a theatrical response, rather than whittling away at an adaptation trying to re-form the brilliance that's already there. This gave our artistic team direct access to White's fabulous imagination and opened up an entirely unexpected world from which to create a truly unique theatrical encounter."*

*The Aspirations of Daise Morrow* is a 'word for word' piece, presented in Brink's immersive style with the performers working around the audience within an installation resembling a cemetery. White's Australian vernacular and wit is formidably embodied by a stellar cast which teams Blackwell and Picot, with emerging actors James Smith and Lucy Lehmann.

A 30 year veteran of stage and screen - Blackwell's recent theatre credits include *Belvoir's Faith Healer* directed by Judy Davis for which he received a Green Room Award, *Eh Joe, 1984* and the title role in *Vale*

## MEDIA RELEASE



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for State Theatre Company of SA (STCSA). Another seasoned actor, Picot's is best known for her film roles including *The Dressmaker*, *Muriel's Wedding*, *Proof* and *Undercover*.

The audience will also enjoy a score composed and performed live by Zephyr Quartet, one of Australia's most innovative contemporary string ensembles. The wooden-floored expanse of the Wollongong Town Hall will be transformed into a magical earthen-floored space, designed by **Michael Hankin**, where actors and musicians perform in and around the audience seated in the round under the haze of an Australian 'sky' created by Tony Award winning lighting designer **Nigel Levings**.

WHEN	9 – 12 May 2018
WHERE	Wollongong Town Hall
TICKETS	\$49 - \$67
BOOKINGS	<a href="http://www.merrigong.com.au/">http://www.merrigong.com.au/</a> or (02) 4224 5999

### For further media information and interviews, please contact:

Edie Watt, Marketing Specialist (Artistic Program), Merrigong Theatre Company:  
[ewatt@merrigong.com.au](mailto:ewatt@merrigong.com.au) or  
02 4221 0803 or 0422 050 691.



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