

Media Release: Thursday 28 September 2017

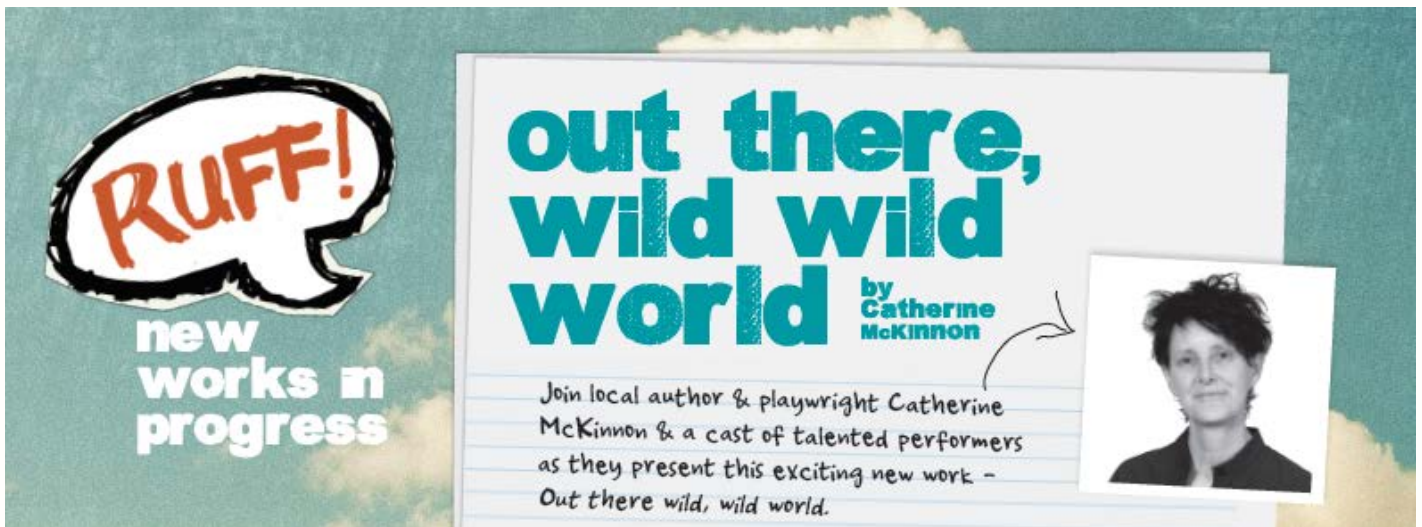
Merrigong Theatre Company presents

RUFF - OUT THERE, WILD WILD WORLD

By Catherine McKinnon

Sat 14 Oct, 11am

Bruce Gordon Theatre, Illawarra Performing Arts Centre



RUFF – New works in process is a rare opportunity to get up close and intimate with our theatre-making process.

It offers audiences a chance to go behind the scenes to the artistic coal face and explore the architecture of what it is to build a new Australian work, meet the creatives and share their thoughts.

This October, join local author and playwright Catherine McKinnon, Merrigong Artistic Development Manager Leland Kean and a cast of talented performers as they present this exciting new work on the stage.

Out there, wild wild world unravels the landscape of the everyday, mapping the savage pleasures of living and the sweet brutality of dying. As they sit in a hospital waiting room, Gabby and Kit debate the best way to die while Cal and Zita wrangle over life support. Nearby, teenagers Maddy and Alana fantasize about murder, while hospital staff, Seb and Anoushka, do their best to stuff-up falling in love.

Is this a tragic comedy or a comic tragedy? Maybe it's the catastrophe called life. *Out there, wild wild world* is about ordinary people doing not so ordinary things.

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

Dr Catherine McKinnon lectures in performance and creative writing at the University of Wollongong. McKinnon grew up in South Australia, and, after studying theatre performance and cinema at Flinders University, worked for the Red Shed Theatre and later the State Theatre Company, as a theatre director and writer. Her play *Immaculate Deceptions* and numerous others were produced for the Red Shed Theatre, while *Eye of Another*, was performed at the Adelaide Festival.

In 2008 Penguin Viking published her novel, *The Nearly Happy Family*. Her play *Tilt* was selected for the 2010 National Playwriting Festival, and *As I Lay Dreaming* won the 2010 Mitch Matthews Award. Her short stories, reviews and articles have appeared in Transnational Literature, Text Journal, RealTime, Narrative and Griffith Review.

McKinnon, along with four other writers, won the Griffith Review Novella 111 Award in 2015, and her novella *Will Martin* was published by Griffith Review in October of that year. Her play *Hurt*, from *The Hurt Trilogy*, was performed in July 2016, by Whitebox Theatre, while *Kin*, from the same trilogy, was performed in July 2016, at Pact, as part of their AXIS program. More recently, McKinnon's novel, *Storyland*, was published by Harper Collins in February, 2017.

RUFF – OUT THERE, WILD WILD WORLD

Venue: Bruce Gordon Theatre, Illawarra Performing Arts Centre 32 Burelli Street, Wollongong, NSW, 2500

Performances: Saturday 14 October, 11am

Running time: Approx 1 hr 20mins

Tickets: \$15

Call the IPAC Box Office on 02 4224 5999 or visit merrigong.com.au
A transaction fee of \$6.90 applies for phone and online bookings.

Website Link: <http://merrigong.com.au/shows/ruff-2-2017.html>

Media enquiries: Please Contact Amandine Faggotter on 02 4221 0801 or email afaggotter@merrigong.com.au



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