

## MEDIA RELEASE

Monday 15 February 2010

### LA BOITE THEATRE COMPANY LAUNCHES 2010 INDIE SEASON

Independent theatre makers, media and industry VIPs gathered at the Roundhouse Theatre last night for the official launch of La Boite's 2010 Indie Season. The inaugural 4-play season sees collaborations with four of Queensland's leading independent producers – Pentimento Productions, 23<sup>rd</sup> Productions, Bella Shanley and Stella Electrika.

#### PLAY 1

### The Bitterling

**Presented by Pentimento Productions and La Boite Indie**

**17 Mar – 4 Apr**

*Sometimes going back is the only way forward...*

From the writer of last year's runaway hit *The Truth About Kookaburras* comes the haunting new play set at the height of Brisbane's disastrous 1974 floods. Fifteen years after her disappearance, Rose Cutler surfaces from the violent floodwaters that threaten the home of her mother and son. For Ruby, who was left to raise her grandson alone, her daughter's return is as astonishing as it is unforgivable. But for apocalyptic teen Kevin, his mother's emergence with the flood is an unmistakable sign that the world is about to end. *The Bitterling* is the latest work in **Sven Swenson's** acclaimed *Sundial Series*.

**Writer and Director** | Sven Swenson

**Designer** | Tim Wallace

**Lighting Design** | David Walters

**Composition/Sound Design** | Phil Slade

**Fight Director** | Don Burgess

**With** | Louise Brehmer, Dash Kruck and Kaye Stevenson

#### PLAY 2

### Blackbird

**Presented by 23<sup>rd</sup> Productions and La Boite Indie**

**7 – 25 Apr**

After sell-out seasons in London's West End and New York, David Harrower's controversial Olivier Award-winning *Blackbird* at last receives its Queensland premiere this April. In a debris-filled factory lunchroom, one-time lovers Ray and Una are reunited. As they sort through secrets and self-deceptions, it becomes clear that theirs was no ordinary love affair. Fifteen years ago when the 3-month relationship began, Una was just 12-years-old and Ray was her 40-year-old neighbour. **Mark Conaghan** (23<sup>rd</sup> Productions' *Closer*) directs **Kathryn Fray** (*Closer*) and **Daniel Murphy** (QTC's *Macbeth*, *Away*) in this devastating no-holds-barred drama.

*"a riveting study in sexual obsession that leaves one both shaken and stirred"* (The Guardian)

**Writer** | David Harrower

**Director** | Mark Conaghan

**Designer** | Kade Sproule

**Lighting Design** | Jason Glenwright

**Sound Design** | Chris Perren

**With** | Kathryn Fray and Daniel Murphy

PLAY 3

## My Name Is Rachel Corrie

**Presented by Bella Shanley and La Boite Indie**

**27 Oct – 14 Nov**

On 16 March 2003, 23-year-old American college student and activist Rachel Corrie was run down by an Israeli Defence Force bulldozer while trying to stop it from demolishing a Palestinian house. Details of the events surrounding her death are disputed – the Israeli Defence Force claims it was an accident; eyewitnesses accuse Corrie was deliberately and callously murdered.

Based on journals, letters and impassioned emails from Corrie's time in the Gaza Strip, *My Name Is Rachel Corrie* promises a powerful and politically provocative theatre experience.

"...theatre that not only stirs our hearts but sticks in our heads." (Newsweek)

**Edited by** | Katherine Viner & Alan Rickman

**Director** | Shane Anthony

**Designer** | Alice Lindstorm

**Composition** | Chris Perren

**With** | Julia Billington

PLAY 4

## The New Dead: Medea Material

**Presented by Stella Electrika and La Boite Indie**

**17 Nov – 5 Dec**

*The New Dead: Medea Material* is a contemporary, multi-media, multi-disciplinary interpretation of the Medea myth from the text by Heiner Müller. Incorporating live, hybrid classical/industrial/electro music and original songs by musician and actor **Emma Dean**, pole dancing, rollerskating and film, this show feels like a rock concert with a broken heart and comes to La Boite after seasons at NIDA and the Adelaide Fringe Festival.

**Writer** | Heiner Müller

**Translated by** | Carl Weber

**Director** | Kat Henry

**With** | David Berry, Emma Dean, Lia Reutens

## ABOUT LA BOITE INDIE

La Boite Indie is a curated season of four independent theatre productions, each of three weeks. For this work, La Boite will transform its theatre into a more suitable 98-seat black box. La Boite will provide financial, technical, marketing and artistic support. La Boite Indie aims to nurture a more sustainable independent theatre culture in Brisbane, to cultivate new audiences, to enable closer ties between independent practice and La Boite, and to help create outstanding, contemporary works for theatre made with passion and rigour. It is a much-needed new platform for independent theatre in Brisbane. We're very excited to have four vibrant independent theatre companies working with us at La Boite in 2010 and we look forward to seeing La Boite Indie grow year by year.

**For more information or to organise an interview please call Marketing Coordinator Adam Brunson on (07) 3007 8603 or email [adam@laboite.com.au](mailto:adam@laboite.com.au)**

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