

EQUUS

By Sir Peter Shaffer

Sir Peter Shaffer's seminal work is presented in Perth in startling new light for the first time in over thirty years. **Equus** rocked the conservative majority when it stampeded the London stage in 1973, prompting outrage and awe in equal measure. Today it remains as potent, confronting and astounding as ever.

A not-to-be missed event, an intimate drama of epic proportions, **Equus** uncovers our darkest secrets and deepest desires as Shaffer weaves a masterful thread through humanity, a thread that binds us all and draws us closer to the truth of who and what we really are. A psychiatrist is transformed by his patient, a boy is transformed by his passion and the waking world is transformed by our dreams.

Equus is the powerful and provocative story of a stable boy and a psychiatrist who seek to understand the sexual and religious mystery that leads to a climactic and unbelievable event. Revived in 2007, and not professionally produced outside London's West End and New York's Broadway theatre districts for nearly 30 years, multi-award winning **Equus** is a contemporary classic.

"One weekend I was driving with a friend through the bleak countryside. We passed a stable. Suddenly he was reminded by it of an alarming crime, which he had heard about recently at a dinner party in London. He knew only one horrible detail, and his complete mention of it could barely have lasted a minute – but it was enough to arouse in me an intense fascination..." Sir Peter Shaffer

Perth Theatre Company received the exclusive southern hemisphere rights for **Equus** through direct negotiation with West End producers David Pugh and Dafydd Rogers, who had restricted the international rights for commercial presentation for the past decade.

Perth Theatre Company's General Manager Tony Bonney says "this is an amazing once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to present what is undeniably one of the greatest plays of the twentieth century. **Equus** will be the most notable event in the Australian theatre calendar this year. This is a coup for Perth Theatre Company - a southern hemisphere exclusive presented at His Majesty's Theatre, the best drama theatre in the country. The fact we have this opportunity over far larger companies across the country is testament to the Company's commitment to text-based theatre."

Rodney Phillips, General Manager of His Majesty's Theatre added that he was "delighted that our initiative to successfully present *Amadeus* by Sir Peter Shaffer at His Majesty's Theatre in association with our colleagues at the Perth Theatre Company in 2006, has led to our further joint production of **Equus** for 2009. We promise a theatrical tour de force to Perth audiences in September!"

Equus will star William McInnes (*SeaChange, Blue Heelers, Unfinished Sky*), one of Australia's most popular stage and screen actors, in the pivotal role as psychiatrist Martin Dysart and the extraordinarily talented Khan Chittenden (*Dangerous, Clubland, All Saints, Packed to the Rafters*) as stable boy Alan Strang, with choreography from Queensland's Gavin Webber (*Dance North, Underground, Roadkill, Lawn*). Khan filmed his first US based film *Endless Summer* last year in Ventura, California.

1975 New York Critics' Circle Award for Best Play
1975 Tony Award for Best Play

Brilliant, beyond imagination – WOR Radio

One of the greatest English plays; magnificent. Rarely does contemporary drama probe so deep. An electrifying evening of theatre – The Sunday Times (UK)

Undeniably seductive – USA Today

Primal and electric – Entertainment Tonight

DIRECTOR Melissa Cantwell

STARRING William McInnes, Khan Chittenden and introducing Alexandra Fisher in a cast of 14.

SOUND DESIGN Kingsley Reeve/Paul Tanner

LIGHTING DESIGN Graham Walne

COSTUME AND SET DESIGN Shaun Gurton

CHOREOGRAPHY Gavin Webber

** **Equus** contains adult themes, nudity and strong language.

By special arrangement with David Pugh and Dafydd Rogers in association with MacNaughton Lord 2000 Ltd.

WHEN: Previews: Saturday 12 September and Monday 14 September 2009

Season: Tuesday 15 to Saturday 26 September 2009

WHERE: His Majesty's Theatre, 825 Hay St, Perth

BOOKINGS: BOCS Ticketing 9484 1133 or www.bocsticketing.com.au or at any BOCS Outlet.

