

27 January 2012

GROUNDBREAKING NEW INDIGENOUS THEATRE WORK COMES TO BRISBANE

Queensland Theatre Company and Queensland Performing Arts Centre present

Bloodland

Concept by Stephen Page

Story by Kathy Balngayngu Marika, Stephen Page and Wayne Blair

Written by Wayne Blair

A Sydney Theatre Company and Adelaide Festival production in association with
Bangarra Dance Theatre

A partnership between Queensland's premium performing arts centre and state theatre company will bring a significant new Australian work by high profile Queenslander **Stephen Page** to Brisbane this March.

Bloodland is a Sydney Theatre Company production created by Stephen Page, Artistic Director of Bangarra Dance Theatre and award-winning choreographer, in collaboration with writer, director and actor **Wayne Blair** and Bangarra artist-in-residence and cultural consultant, **Kathy Balngayngu Marika**.

Queensland Performing Arts Centre (QPAC) Chief Executive John Kotzas said that **Bloodland** is the first production to be presented as part of a three year commitment between QPAC and Queensland Theatre Company (QTC) towards the development and presentation of Indigenous work.

"In partnership with QTC, QPAC is committed to increasing the amount of Indigenous work being presented and to building audiences for these performances among both Indigenous and non Indigenous communities," said Mr Kotzas.

"We are proud to present this culturally significant and unique performance piece which follows a successful première season in Sydney."

QTC Artistic Director Wesley Enoch said that **Bloodland** is one of the most complex cultural projects created in recent time, conceived by the cream of Indigenous theatre making talent.

"It is a landmark production and part of our partnership with QPAC to build significant Indigenous works and a long term strategy to expand the current scope of audiences, artists and producers," he said.

The work vividly dramatises a bitter tug-of-war taking place in a community which, despite being wracked by pain and division, divided by moiety, nevertheless hums with hope.

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From three photographs that formed the seed of an idea, Stephen and Wayne developed this original work for over a year, collaborating with local storytellers in Arnhem Land.

A groundbreaking piece of theatre, *Bloodland* examines the classic theme of forbidden love, while also exploring issues of black-on-black conflict, and the challenges of observing traditional lore in a community permeated by Western culture.

Featuring an Indigenous cast of twelve including established urban actors as well as traditional Yolngu storytellers; the production fuses traditional languages and Pidgin English as well as dance and song to tell the story.

“The language of this production is not restricted to the verbal, *Bloodland* incorporates spiritual and physical languages, ceremonial traditional dances and mimicry of modern western culture, filtered through aboriginal tradition,” Stephen Page said.

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Director: Stephen Page. Set Designer: Peter England. Costume Designer: Jennifer Irwin. Lighting Designer: Damien Cooper. Composer/Sound Designer: Steve Francis

Cast:

Kathy Balngayngu Marika, Elaine Crombie, Rarriwuy Hicks, Banula Marika, Noelene Marika, David Page, Hunter Page Lochard, Kelton Pell, Tessa Rose, Meyne Wyatt and Ursula Yovich.

...a full, rich and very different experience - a glimpse into the complexities of indigenous life.

Sydney Morning Herald

Bloodland is a conventional love story told in an unconventional way.

ABC online

Queensland Theatre Company and Queensland Performing Arts Centre present a Sydney Theatre Company and Adelaide Festival production in association with Bangarra Dance Theatre

Bloodland

When: 14-18 March (5 performances only)

Where: Playhouse QPAC Cultural Centre South Bank

Tickets: From \$42 to \$79, Youth \$33

Booking: www.qpac.com.au or call 136 246

Warning: Mild Violence

*Ticket price includes GST and Booking Fee. Please note transaction fees will apply

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