

08 September 2010

THE STORY OF THE MIRACLES AT COOKIE'S TABLE

A powerful play about family and culture and the ways in which storytelling binds people together
The Australian

Purcell delivers a startlingly powerful performance
Daily Telegraph

Award-winning Queensland actor and director **Leah Purcell** (*Box the Pony, King Lear, Black Chicks Talking*) will direct and star in Bungabura Production's new presentation of Wesley Enoch's powerful drama **The Story of the Miracles at Cookie's Table** at Queensland Performing Arts Centre's (QPAC) Cremorne Theatre from 14 – 30 October 2010.

This powerful family saga spans four generations and is a moving testament to culture lived, lost and found and the strength of a family adapting and gathering together.

First produced by Griffin and Hothouse Theatre Company, this new production of **The Story of the Miracles at Cookie's Table** offers a compelling theatre experience that encapsulates themes of ownership, heritage, culture and sexuality.

QPAC Chief Executive John Kotzas said that QPAC is very pleased to be presenting this work because of its cultural significance for Queensland and the Centre's longstanding relationship with Bungabura Productions.

"The Story of the Miracles at Cookie's Table is an immensely important piece of theatre –a story about families that transcends cultures," said Kotzas.

In the 1870s a girl is born under a tree, which is cut down to become a kitchen table. Generations later, a young man and his mother fight for ownership of the table.

Winner of Patrick White Playwrights Award 2005 and short listed for both the New South Wales and Victorian Premier's Literary Award, **The Story of the Miracles at Cookie's Table** was written by renowned Queensland-born director and playwright, Wesley Enoch, who was recently appointed as the new Artistic Director of Queensland Theatre Company.

Wesley Enoch said the **Story of the Miracles at Cookie's Table** has a mix between a strong naturalistic narrative of connection and a long imaginative storytelling about family and heritage. I was trying to write a piece about the emotional power of stories to bind a family together through hardship and adversity. Leah Purcell is one of the country's best actors and she has created a character in a way that goes beyond what I could imagine as a writer," said Enoch.

Director and lead actor Leah Purcell, whose portrayal of Annie has been described by reviewers as startlingly powerful, received a Helpmann Award for Best Actress in a Play in 2008.

"I am very proud of winning a Helpmann Award because I worked extremely hard to bring Annie to life, but being conscious of not making her character a cliché.

"This play is a universal story for all. It's gutsy, it packs a punch or two, it's laugh-out loud funny and takes you on an emotional journey as Annie and Nathan re-connect from being estranged for many years," said Purcell.

“The Story of the Miracles at Cookie’s Table is a great yarn and a theatre experience worth seeing, whether you are a regular to the Arts or if you are experiencing theatre for the first time, this is something worth seeing,” she said.

QPAC presents
Wesley Enoch’s
THE STORY OF THE MIRACLES AT COOKIE’S TABLE
A Bungabura Production
Starring and directed by Leah Purcell

Winner Patrick White Playwrights Award 2005
Winner Helpmann Award Best Actress in a Play 2008

WHEN 14 to 30 October

WHERE Cremorne Theatre, QPAC, Cultural Centre, South Bank

TICKETS* Adult \$49 Concession \$39
Matinees – Adult \$39/Concession \$29
Schools \$18

BOOKINGS 136 246 or www.qpac.com.au

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

Please note this performance contains **strong language**

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