

MEDIA RELEASE

Melbourne
Fringe



17 August 2011

Black Box 149

Presented by La Mama Theatre

The day that started two Gulf Wars. A pilot is in hiding. Is he being hunted? Why? Terror, lies and deception. A Western aircraft, its crew and passengers stranded on a Kuwait runway as Saddam's army invades. Silence follows. Who knew the truth then who knows the truth now? In this agonizingly political world, the betrayals and secret intrigue of leaders who have power and control over us, is experienced in often terrifying ways, by civilians. Directed by Matt Scholten, featuring the multi-talented Majid Shokor and Dennis Coard. Designed by artists Peter Mumford and Stelios Karagiannis. Written and conceived: R.Johns. Operator Ben Morris.

Majid Shokor the Iraqi actor was an eyewitness to the rising against Saddam explored in part in this drama. He came as a refugee to Australia and was of the Iraqi actors in the film Lucky Miles. He has been nominated as an actor in Melbourne's Greenroom Awards. He has performed under the direction of Neil Armfield at Belvoir St and is an exceptional multi-skilled performer.

Dennis Coard (who plays the pilot) is a very well known and well loved actor. He was on Home and Away for many years, he is a familiar face on television and commercials and has an illustrious theatre background.

Matt Scholten is a highly respected director. He is artistic director of IF Theatre. He is acclaimed for directing the plays of Daniel Keene with "restraint and rare emotional intelligence". He knew he wanted to direct Black Box 149 when he read the lines the "contamination of terror". Matt Scholten has the ability to craft an intense theatre event in Black Box 149 both riveting and disturbing.

The design of Black Box 149 will be part cockpit, part rural farm. The theatre space will be claustrophobic for actors and audience. Peter Mumford designer is the brilliantly inventive resident set designer for Red Stitch Theatre

The lighting designer, Stelios Karagiannis works on systems for aeroplanes and will create a lighting state that imitates the flight cockpit. He is the highly thought of resident lighting designer for Red Stitch Actors Theatre.

R.Johns (writer) most recently had an Australia Council skills and development grant to go to Mumbai in 2009, with her play At the centre of light. Her story about Iran: Carrying Shoes into the Unknown was on the VCE playlist twice in different categories. She was co-writer on the project that gave voice to the women of the Kelly clan in Quilting The Armour. As a writer she celebrates the individual conscience rebelling against the misuse of power.

"...written with passion." - Chris Bendall . director

"...poetic and stark." - Gary Abrahams - director

<http://www.lamama.com.au>

Black Box 149

VENUE

La Mama
205 Faraday St
Carlton, Victoria 3053

DATES: 21 - 25 Sept

28 Sept - 2 Oct

TIME: 8.00pm, Wed and Sun 6.30pm (90min)

TICKETS

Full: \$25

Concession: \$15

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