

MEDIA RELEASE

Melbourne
Fringe



22 August 2011

Jane Austen is Dead... See you at the Wake A Toast to Love, Loss and Eco-Friendly Coffins

JANE AUSTEN IS DEAD: See you at the Wake
A double bill of dating and death makes its Australian premiere in the 2011 Melbourne Fringe Festival.

After a sell out season in the Wellington Fringe Festival, New Zealand writer/performer, Mel Dodge has been commissioned by Black Duck Theatre Collective to re-work her critically acclaimed show for Australian audiences and to collaborate with Australian writer/performer Letty Sutherland to create a double bill, contrasting in subject yet complimenting in sentiment, to mark their inaugural production for the 2011 Melbourne Fringe Festival.

JANE AUSTEN IS DEAD asks just how credible Miss Austen's depiction of romance is in a modern landscape of Facebook, RSVP and Video Dating. It looks at the difference between Austen's prose and predicted text messaging. Have Austen's classics set up single ladies everywhere in search for Mr Darcy only to find out that he is in fact married or gay? A treat for single ladies, anyone who's ever been single or those who see themselves single in the immediate future.

See you at the Wake, the second half of Black Duck's double bill, begins with the death of a homeless man and continues with the question of who he was? And more importantly who runs his funeral? The man's Centrelink case worker, a work for the dole schemer and an anxious funeral director's assistant set out to remember a man who was never there.

After having respective successes in both the Wellington and Edinburgh Fringe festivals both Mel Dodge and Letty Sutherland have come together to re-shape the old and invest in the new to create a double bill that looks at how time and circumstance shapes our lives, allowing audiences a funny yet moving night out.

"Funny and incisive, Dodge is a strong performer who invests her characters with plenty of presence. Her script cleverly underscores modern dating dilemmas for contemporary women." - The Gaurdian

"It is a pleasure to watch a performer of such skill ply her craft in quest of another theatrical treasure." - Theatreview

"Dodge is a consummate and versatile actor with loads of energy." - Dominion Post

<http://www.facebook.com/blackduckcollective>

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VENUE

Gertrudes Brown Couch
30 Gertrude St
Fitzroy, Victoria 3065

DATES: 21 - 25 Sept
28 Sept - 2 Oct
5 - 9 Oct

TIME: 7.00pm, Sat 2.00pm, Sun 5.00pm (2hr)

TICKETS

Full: \$23.00
Concession: \$18.00
Group: \$20.00

TO BOOK visit melbournefringe.com.au or call (03) 9660 9666

SHOW PUBLICIST

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