

# MEDIA RELEASE

Melbourne  
Fringe



27 July 2011

## Ragdoll

### A Crime that Shocked a City

**Ragdoll - A Crime that Shocked a City is a true crime dramatic monologue based on the Arthur Freeman murder case. When Freeman threw his child Darcey from the Westgate Bridge in 2009, one witness said she looked like a 'ragdoll'. Writer/performer Paul Mitchell and director Suze Smith get inside the mind of a killer whose crime Melburnians will never forget. From 1- 8 October, Fringe Hub: Son of Loft, Lithuanian Club, North Melbourne.**

'Ragdoll's main character, Mark, is based on both Arthur Freeman and Robert Farquason, who murdered his two boys by driving them into a dam near Winchelsea. Although fictional, 'Ragdoll's storyline more closely follows the Freeman case.

'I wrote and performed a duologue based on the Farquason case at La Mama and Jolt Theatres in 2009 and last year,' Mitchell says. 'I was excited by the responses I received and I decided to explore the themes more deeply.'

Ragdoll looks at 'Mark's relationship with his wife Fiona, his role as a father of two boys, his struggles with direction as a man and as a husband, and his predilection to violence. The show represents an attempt to understand what pushes a man to commit a crime that most people find unthinkable, exploring how the dark forces of unprocessed anger and unmanaged grief can lead to tragedy.

'Ragdoll is a study of male violence, the role of fathers, the Family Court system, and the process of dehumanization that takes place when society attempts to either judge or understand crimes of this magnitude,' Mitchell adds.

Directed by Suze Smith (Strong, Black & Bitter and No One Owns the Streets) the show features a soundtrack created by multi-instrumentalist Bill Buttler.

'I wanted at first to write a show in which the protagonist experiences what these two men did, but decides not to take that unimaginable step. But I realized that was a cop out,' Mitchell says.

Ragdoll is a challenging work sure to form part of the dialogue about child protection, men's services, and our need to confront the humanity of Freeman and men like him, along with their evil actions and the tragic consequences.

"A challenging psychological and emotional exploration of these terrible stories...A contribution to a desperately needed national conversation [that] will deepen and enrich it in very significant ways." - Helen Garner

"The tenets of the work hold a grave relevance to contemporary Australia and its ever-shifting family structures.

" - Nadja Kostich

"Paul is an extremely talented writer and a natural actor." - Mari Lourey

<http://www.paul-mitchell.com.au>

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Ragdoll-A-Crime-that-Shocked-a-City/230286213651416>

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### VENUE

Fringe Hub - Son of Loft, Lithuanian Club

44 Errol St

North Melbourne, Victoria 3051

DATES: 1-8 Oct

TIME: 7.45pm, Sun 6.45pm (45min)

### TICKETS

Full: \$18.00

Concession: \$15.00

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