Welcome to Gardens Theatre
SEASON 2012

The 2012 Gardens Theatre Season offers some of Australia’s best touring drama to make you laugh, cry, to pull at your heart strings and to make you ponder the human condition. The season is full of recognisable stories – stories of love, loss, longing and just a little lust – and kicks off with Henri Szeps’s touching one-man show Wish I’d Said That. Then on to laughter, rivalry and renewed understanding of five feisty women in Biddies. This year we are delighted to present two David Williamson plays. Let The Sunshine is a satirical comedy set in Noosa and featuring Peter Phelps, whom you might remember from Sons and Daughters. Rhinestone Rex and Miss Monica is a romantic comedy that asks if love can conquer a serious clash in musical tastes...this is a show not to be missed! In the middle of the season you’ll find the gem Syncopation. Set in New York City in 1912, this story of romance and ballroom dancing is played out to the familiar melodies of Gershwin, Joplin and Berlin. Wrapping up the season is Diving For Pearls, featuring well-known favourite Kevin Harrington (SeaChange), which looks at how ordinary people cope when the juggernaut of economic change threatens their way of life.

As well as this rich season of professional theatre, we hope you will share in the journey of our own student artists, both actors and dancers, in their showcase seasons. Once again QUT’s Head of Acting, Dianne Eden, will provide our subscribers with the opportunity of gaining an insider’s understanding of the thrills and challenges of actor training.

There are also major changes happening at QUT’s Gardens Point Campus with a $230M Science and Engineering Centre under construction and due for completion mid 2012. A Bistro located right alongside the theatre as well as public parking close by will enhance your theatre-going experience.

I hope you will join with us and indulge your heart in this great selection of Australian drama.

Professor Susan Street
Executive Director, QUT Precincts

CURTAIN CALL

All the world may be a stage but actor Joe Bleakley is a star barely perceptible to the naked eye. Recently arrived in the Foggadieu Retirement Village, Joe decides that he will stage a performance for the other residents and puts together a selection of his favourite speeches from some of the great roles he never got to play. As Joe prepares for his performance we learn about the man, his joys and triumphs as well as his disappointments with life and his troubled relationship with his daughter.

Starring Henri Szeps
Designer Graham Maclean
Lighting designer Scott Allan
Music accompaniment Michael Bartolomei

Presented by QUT Gardens Theatre and Wildie Creative Enterprises

Performance Dates
Friday 2 March 7.30pm
Saturday 3 March 2.00pm & 7.30pm

Tickets
Adult $40
Concession $32
Student $26
Schools $18
Vulnerable, feisty and in full bloom, these gals are everything – except old!

Five ordinarily marvellous women find themselves accidentally locked in their childhood classroom with nothing but ingenuity, Adora Cream Wafers and a bucket to get them through the crisis. As they deftly ply their needles, unknown resources come to the fore.

Indulging in a good old-fashioned “stitch and bitch”, their confessions are frank, their rivalries intense, and their jokes outrageous. The women discover a common frustration with the limitations of being female and mature in a world still largely defined by men, and as they’re released from their own constraints they rediscover their capacity to love, forgive – and take control. If you can’t beat ‘em, join ‘em!

Some of Australia’s most beloved actresses bring this delightful new comedy to the stage.

Starring Maggie Blinco, Annie Byron, Jeanie Drynan, Donna Lee, Linden Wilkinson

Director Wayne Harrison

Presented by QUT Gardens Theatre and CDP Productions

The Australian Government is proud to be associated with this tour through the national performing arts touring program, Playing Australia, which gives Australians across the country the opportunity to see some of our best performing arts.

Performance Dates
Friday 18 May 7.30pm
Saturday 19 May 2.00pm & 7.30pm

Tickets
Adult $40
Concession $32
Student $26
Schools $18
Award-winning Australian playwright David Williamson’s *Let the Sunshine* is part *Romeo and Juliet*, part *Meet the Parents*. Retired, left-wing radicals Toby and Ros flee scandal in Sydney by escaping to the warmer climes of Noosa. There, they meet Natasha and Ron – a shallow socialite and her brash property developer husband. When their children find love together, the pitter patter of tiny feet brings on the clashing of egos.

‘Williamson has not lost his touch with comedy or ear for human and societal foibles.’

STAGE NOISE

**STAGING DETAILS**

Presented by QUT Gardens Theatre and Christine Harris & HIT Productions

**Performance Dates**

Friday 15 June 7.30pm
Saturday 16 June 7.30pm

**Tickets**

Adult $40
Concession $32
Student $26
Schools $18

**Starring**

Peter Phelps, Dennis Coard, Hannah Norris, Toni Scanlan, Ryan Hayward, Ally Fowler

**Director** Denis Moore

**Designer** Shaun Gurton

**Lighting designer** Nick Merrylees

**Costume designer** Adrienne Chisholm

**WARNING:** Strong language and adult themes.
Syncopation is a smash-hit fusion of comedy, drama, romance and ballroom dancing set in the exciting, electric rush of New York City in 1912.

Henry Ribolow is a Jewish meatpacker crazy with a dream of becoming a ballroom dancer, and desperate for a dance partner. Anna Bianchi, an Italian Catholic seamstress, is unsatisfied with her life until she spots a curious ad in the paper: “Give your life a lift. Wanted: A Dance Partner to dance for royalty.”

Sparks fly as Anna and Henry take their first steps together and embark on a journey that will transform their lives.

They dance, urged on by the jazzy rhythms and haunting melodies of Gershwin, Joplin and Berlin. The beautiful story of Henry and Anna takes flight, soaring in amazing ballroom routines choreographed by Dancing with the Stars choreographer/dancer Mark Hodge and under the direction of Broadway’s Tony Award-nominated Stephen Lloyd Helper.

Syncopation

By Alan Knee

Starring Emma Palmer
Director Stephen Lloyd Helper
Choreographer Mark Hodge
Designer Adrienne Chisolm
Sound Designer Darrin Verhagen

‘A compelling story that promenades, foxtrots and tangos to life’.

THE AGE

Presented by QUT Gardens Theatre and Critical Stages and The Follies Company

Performance Dates
Friday 6 July 7.30pm
Saturday 7 July 2.00pm & 7.30pm

Tickets
Adult $40
Concession $32
Student $26
Schools $18
What do a classical musician and retired country and western singer have in common? Not a lot according to Monica who really just wants Gary, aka Rhinestone Rex, to do the job he’s being paid for and renovate her kitchen. She hates his taste in music, his attitude to women and the columns he wants to put on her kitchen cabinets. Gary can’t find much about Monica to recommend to anyone but still finds her attractive in a cold, rigid and inflexible kind of way. Can they find a way past all their conflicts towards a harmonious and fulfilling relationship? Or will their differences keep them from making beautiful music together?

Featuring Glenn Hazeldine (Tuesday’s with Morrie) and Ally Fowler in the title roles.

‘the writing is deft … (the) spirited, spiky sparring and repartee confirms Williamson as a gifted practitioner of his craft’

CURTAIN CALL

Starring Glenn Hazeldine, Ally Fowler
Director Sandra Bates
Designer Clare Moloney
Lighting Designer Peter Neufeld

Performance Dates
Tuesday 4 September 7.30pm
Wed 5 September 2.00pm* & 7.30pm
Thursday 6 September 7.30pm

* Complimentary parking not available for weekday matinee performances

Tickets
Adult $40
Concession $32
Student $26
Schools $18

The Australian Government is proud to be associated with this tour through the national performing arts touring program, Playing Australia, which gives Australians across the country the opportunity to see some of our best performing arts. This project has been made possible by the New South Wales Government through Arts NSW.
Diving for Pearls is the story of working class couple Barbara and Den, and their heroic struggle for a meaningful life amidst the turmoil of change. In love and facing the challenges and responsibilities of middle-age, they gamely confront pressing issues in their personal and working lives as the environment of their small coastal town transforms itself from an old industrial site of factories and warehouses to a brave new world of resorts and plush hotels.

Featuring Kevin Harrington (SeaChange, The Dish) this moving story is tempered by a wry and very Australian sense of humour.

‘…A pearler for current times…’
TIME OUT

Starring Kevin Harrington, Heather Bolton, Catherine Hill, Anna Samson

Playwright Katherine Thomson

Director Denis Moore

Designer Shaun Gurton

Lighting designer Richard Vabre

Costume designer Adrienne Chisholm

Composer Andrew Pendlebury

Performance Dates
Friday 14 September 7.30pm
Sat 15 September 2.00pm & 7.30pm

Tickets
Adult $40
Concession $32
Student $26
Schools $18

Presented by QUT Gardens Theatre
and Christine Harris & HIT Productions

The Australian Government is proud to be associated with this tour through the national performing arts touring program, Playing Australia, which gives Australians across the country the opportunity to see some of our best performing arts.

WARNING: Strong language and adult themes.
Subscribe Now

Become a Gardens Theatre subscriber and you’ll experience our 2012 theatre season with VIP treatment. A subscription entitles you to the following:

• Save on ticket prices with no booking fees
• Receive complimentary tickets to all showcase productions featuring QUT acting and dance students
• Receive exclusive invitations to subscriber events
• Choose the best seats in the house
• Flexibility to swap dates within a show

Select from the following subscription packages:

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6 Pik $222

6 Pik allows total flexibility to use 6 tickets as you wish at a discounted price, for yourself and/or your friends. You can spread them over the season, bring a group of friends to one show, or even see a show you like twice. Ring the box office to reserve your seats.

Concession Available for pensioners and seniors card holders, full-time students, groups of 10 or more and QUT staff. Proof of identity or student status required.

How to Subscribe

As a Gardens Theatre subscriber, you can attend your choice of four or more shows in our season for one discounted price. You will also enjoy VIP treatment that only our subscribers receive.

1. Online

Simply go to www.gardenstheatre.qut.edu.au and follow the prompts to subscribe. Choose your shows and pay securely online with your credit card.

2. Mail / fax

Complete the subscription form (download from www.gardenstheatre.qut.edu.au or ask the Box Office to post it to you). Be sure to select the exact performance dates and times for each show.

By post 2012 Subscriptions
Gardens Theatre, QUT
2 George Street, Brisbane QLD 4000

By fax 07 3138 4462 (credit card bookings only)

3. In person / phone

Gardenstix Box Office is open Monday to Friday 10am to 4pm.

In person Gardens Theatre, QUT
2 George St, Brisbane
(next to the City Botanic Gardens)

Phone 07 3138 4455

Payment

Please return payment with your completed booking form. Visa and MasterCard are accepted, as are cheques and money orders. For over-the-counter transactions we also accept EFTPOS and cash. No refund on purchased tickets. All tickets inclusive of GST.

For terms and conditions see www.gardenstheatre.qut.edu.au

Please note there is a section on the form for additional subscribers. Occasionally we need to contact you if there’s a last minute change to a performance so please provide contact information for each subscriber.
Make a night of it with
dinner before the show

Breads, Main Course and Dessert for $39.50 per person

Augustine’s is open prior to all professional season evening performances from Mon – Sat 5.30pm – 7.00pm

Bookings essential, call Augustine’s direct 3229 0014 (24 hours prior)

Essentially Dance

Essentially Dance features original dance works, showcasing the best of QUT’s dance performance students.

Dance 12

A diverse program of challenging works from guest choreographers and QUT Dance staff, Dance 12 features graduating students in their final performance before entering the profession as young artists and advocates for dance.

Performed by QUT Creative Industries Dance students with production support from Technical Production students.

Complimentary Show tickets for subscribers

Subscribe to the 2012 Professional Theatre Season and receive complimentary tickets to QUT Showcase performances.

Performance Dates

Essentially Dance*
5 – 9 June, 7.30pm & 7 June, 11.30am
Dance 12*
6 – 10 November, 7.30pm & 10 November, 1.00pm

* Complimentary parking not available

Tickets

Adult $25, Concession $15, School Groups $12
A Midsummer Night’s Dream

By William Shakespeare

Directed by Jennifer Flowers

Featuring QUT Acting 2nd year

Mythical warriors, lovers, artisans and spirits are conjured up in an exhilarating mix of fierce poetry and the madness of love.

Shakespeare’s A Midsummer Night’s Dream is a sparkling romp that proves ‘the course of true love never did run smooth’!

Suitable for Years 9 – 12

Starring QUT second year Actors

Director Jennifer Flowers

Presented by QUT Precincts for the QUT Creative Industries Faculty

QUT creative industries

QUT Acting Showcase

Complimentary Show tickets for subscribers

Subscribe to the 2012 Professional Theatre Season and receive complimentary tickets to QUT Showcase performances.

Performance Dates

9 – 13 October, 7.30pm*
Gardens Theatre
* Complimentary parking not available

Tickets

Adult $25
Concession $15
School Groups $12

Other productions recommended for School Students:

Wild Honey 26 April – 5 May, The Loft, Kelvin Grove

Michael Frayn’s adaptation of Chekhov’s funny and romantic tale of a Russian schoolmaster facing up to the implications of being irresistibly attractive to four different women.

Directed by Jacobie Gray and featuring QUT’s second year actors.

The Crucible 13 – 18 August, Gardens Theatre

Arthur Miller’s allegory of McCarthyism is a central work in the canon of American drama.

Directed by Mark Radvan and featuring final year actors.
As another group of graduating actors leaves us to embark on their careers, we are about to audition 400+ eager applicants to select the next group (of about 16) acting students. So begins the journey for them.....

Many of our 2011 subscribers took advantage of the bonus offer of free access to QUT student productions throughout the year. I hope you’ve enjoyed gaining an insider’s view on the workings of a three-year actor training program.

The first year is Acting Bootcamp: during this year we keep the students away from the lights and smell of the greasepaint while they begin to learn their craft without public scrutiny.

At graduation they showcase their stage and film work to the profession in Brisbane and at Belvoir Street Theatre in Sydney.

If you’ve been on this journey with us for a little while, you might have noticed that several of the 2010 graduates won lead roles in television series, most notably, Anna McGahan and Anna Lawrence in Underbelly: Razor and Brenton Thwaites in Slide. Nathaniel Middleton (the young man who broke a little bit of this leg on stage during Cymbeline, and yet kept acting) is now playing Romeo for the Bell Shakespeare Touring cast. That’s a year’s work for him and he is really learning about the real world at the moment in Darwin. All of last year’s graduates have been signed by Management Agents and are going about their careers one way or another. If you are watching The Wild Boys, Michael Dorman who plays one of the lead bushrangers, is a QUT actor from a few years ago.

Next year in May the second years will do Wild Honey, an adaptation by Michael Frayn of Platonov, an early play by Anton Chekhov. Then in the second half of the year Jennifer Flowers will direct them in A Midsummer Night’s Dream. Jennifer wants to have serious magic going on at the Gardens, so watch for that in October.
The third years start the year with Leonard Meenach directing them in the contemporary American play *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot*, followed by Marlowe’s *Edward II*, directed by La Boite Artistic Director David Berthold. Their final production will be the Arthur Miller classic *The Crucible*.

Please come to our productions again next year. Somehow this year the chemistry worked for the young actors and when subscribers say hello to them they beam with pleasure and they learn how to conduct themselves. Also, I love your emails about who impresses you and who worries you. I don’t mind sharing the worry of training actors with you, our subscribers. When I get too worried, I watch *The Wild Boys* or *Underbelly: Razor* and know that they are out there.
Giving to QUT

As Australia’s leading university Cultural Precinct, we’ve made a very real and passionate commitment to enriching the lives of our community by working with its young people.

QUT Precincts makes it possible for the wider public to engage with the University’s cultural facilities, which include Gardens Theatre, Old Government House, the William Robinson Gallery, and QUT Art Museum at Gardens Point campus, and the Creative Industries Precinct at Kelvin Grove.

We know theatre broadens the mind and enlivens the heart. We know the visual arts encourages critical debate and appreciation, and that history and public programs deepen our understanding of ourselves and society.

We invite you to continue your involvement in our vibrant cultural precinct by making a gift to an area of your choice. Your support will ensure that we can continue to provide an engaging and dynamic arts program for our community.

Ways to be involved:

• Re-creation of the Governor’s Library in Old Government House
• QUT Art Collection
• QUT Precincts Public Programs

We understand that many of our patrons are willing to help and we hope these programs will appeal to you. We can promise that your gift, big or small, won’t go unnoticed.

To support QUT Precincts

• Include a donation with your annual Gardens Theatre subscription
• Donate securely online at www.giving.qut.edu.au
• Phone (07) 3138 9097 (9.00am-4.00pm weekdays)

Image from the exhibition Little Masters, a partnership program between QUT Art Museum and Gardens Point Creche
QUT Creative Industries Precinct
Kelvin Grove

1: Creative Industries Precinct
2: The Block
3: The Glasshouse
4: The Loft

Located just five minutes drive from Brisbane’s CBD, QUT Creative Industries Precinct is a technology-driven, world-class destination, featuring contemporary indoor and outdoor spaces in a high-tech, digital environment. As well as corporate functions, cocktail receptions, dinners, launches and conferences, the Creative Industries Precinct is the ideal location for film shoots, interactive exhibitions, live experimental theatre and film screenings.

Visit www.cipprecinct.qut.edu.au/venues
Phone 07 3138 7750
Email events@qut.edu.au

QUT Gardens Point Precinct
Brisbane CBD

1: Old Government House    2: QUT Art Museum
3: Gardens Theatre         4: Gardens Theatre Foyer

Cradled by the City Botanic Gardens, QUT Gardens Point Precinct is home to four exceptional performance, events and wedding venues. Old Government House is the perfect location for elegant and sophisticated events, offering both indoor and outdoor spaces for cocktail parties, corporate events and weddings. Gardens Theatre and Foyer are ideal venues for performances, tradeshows, presentations and corporate functions. QUT Art Museum offers a sophisticated venue for cocktail functions with a difference.

Coming in mid 2012, an impressive conference and reception venue will open in the new QUT Science and Engineering Centre. Located on level 10 (top floor) with city and river views and an adjacent outdoor terrace, this new venue will be suitable for corporate presentations, banquet dinners, cocktail functions and wedding receptions.

Visit www.gardenstheatre.qut.edu.au/venuehire
Phone 07 3138 7750 Email events@qut.edu.au
Getting to Gardens Theatre

**Bus**
From the northern suburbs, exit at the Queen Street bus terminal (15–20 mins walk to Gardens Theatre). From the southern suburbs, exit at the Mater Hill or South Bank Busway stations (10 mins walk across the Goodwill Bridge).

**Train**
From the northern suburbs, exit at Roma Street Station (25 mins walk to Gardens Theatre). From the southern suburbs, exit at the South Bank Station (10 mins walk across the Goodwill Bridge).

**CityCat**
Gardens Theatre is a 5 minute walk from the QUT CityCat terminal. To find out more about transport options go to the journey planner on Queensland Transport’s website www.translink.com.au or call TransInfo 13 12 30.

Foot
Gardens Theatre is a 15–20 minute walk from the city down George Street, or from South Bank Parklands, across the Goodwill Bridge.

**Car – Paid Parking**
Paid parking (maximum stay 4 hours) is available 7 days/24 hours in the QUT Short Term Car Park under the freeway on Gardens Point Road, off Alice Street.
*Daytime parking availability is limited during the university semester, resulting in queuing times or no parking spaces. See map above for directions.

**Car – Complimentary Parking**
Parking is available from 6.30pm for all professional evening shows and 12.30pm for weekend matinees. Enter the QUT gate house on Gardens Point Road.
*Subject to change due to QUT Science and Engineering Centre. Visit website www.gardenstheatre.qut.edu.au for up-to-date parking arrangements.

Bookings

**Online**
www.gardenstheatre.qut.edu.au

**Phone**
GardensTix 07 3138 4455
Open Monday to Friday
10.00am – 4.00pm
(book fees apply)

**In person**
Gardens Theatre
QUT Gardens Point
2 George St, Brisbane
Open Monday to Friday
10.00am – 4.00pm

**Full Bar Facilities**
Catch up with friends and enjoy a drink at our relaxed foyer bar before and after a show, and during interval (if applicable).

**Access and Special Seating**
Gardens Theatre has wheelchair access to both the foyer and auditorium. Please advise when booking of any special requirements.

**Concession**
Available for pensioners and seniors card holders, full-time students and QUT staff. Proof of identity and student status required.

**Group Bookings**
Group discounts – $32 for 10 or more people.

Show details correct at time of printing. Subject to change without notice.