

MEDIA RELEASE – for immediate release

MALTHOUSE THEATRE

Playbox Theatre Company
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MALTHOUSE THEATRE AND ARENA THEATRE COMPANY PRESENT

MOTH

**TOWER THEATRE
MAY 13 – MAY 30 2010**

BY DECLAN GREENE
DIRECTOR CHRIS KOHN
DESIGNER JONATHAN OXLADE
COMPOSER JETHRO WOODWARD
DRAMATURGE MARYANNE LYNCH

CAST INCLUDES
DYLAN YOUNG as SEBASTIAN
SARAH OGDEN as CLARYSSA



A MALTHOUSE THEATRE &
ARENA THEATRE COMPANY COMMISSION

WINNER: 2010 MALCOLM ROBERTSON PRIZE

"It's okay Sebastian. They're just memories. Every time it will hurt a little less..."

Ecstatic visions, a serious Saint Sebastian fixation, a talking moth, mental illness and religious zeal collide in the world premiere of young Melbourne writer **Declan Green's**, *Moth*. In co-commission with **Arena Theatre Company** this moving, highly charged and funny play will be directed by Arena Artistic Director **Chris Kohn** and propels *Black Lung* luminary **Dylan Young** as Sebastian back into the Tower Theatre at Malthouse Theatre.

Sebastian is a terminally unpopular sixteen-year-old suburban kid, with an overactive imagination and an obsession with death and the Anime character *Sailor Moon*. His only friend Claryssa is an Emo Wiccan Goth art-freak barely one rung higher than Sebastian on the school popularity ladder.

Both Claryssa and Sebastian are stuck together in an eternal night, where they are trying to piece together their shared history and reconcile their differences. What starts as just another night drinking down at the cricket nets soon gives way to an ecstatic vision that leaves Sebastian unconscious and Claryssa missing without explanation. The next morning, he wakes up with a mysterious moth in a jar by his bed, a yearning to save the souls of all humankind and a desperate need to reach Claryssa. And so begins the Passion of Sebastian...

Once again, as seen in his recent Melbourne Fringe Festival success *A Black Joy*, Green empties the idea of a 'fixed self'; Sebastian and Claryssa 'remember' with visitations from a cast of characters including Sebastian's mother, who runs a mail order lingerie company, and Father Max, the local pastor at the Baptist new Age church, who may or may not be a paedophile....

At a rapid fire pace, *Moth* shifts location, time frames, characters and concerns in a schizophrenic delusion of role-playing and storytelling to face the trauma that lies underneath these young characters' lives.

Declan Greene is a writer and performance-maker based in Melbourne. His produced works include *Bog*, *Laugh Out Loud*, *Rageboy*, *Home Economics* and *A Black Joy*. With Ash Flanders, Declan runs DIY trash-theatre company *Sisters Grimm*, and in 2009 he was one of the Australian delegates at World Interplay, a festival for young playwrights from around the world. *Moth* will also reignite the award winning partnership (as seen in *Goodbye Vaudeville*, *Charlie Mudd*) of director **Chris Kohn** and designer **Jonathan Oxlade**.

"ONE CERTAINTY AT THE MALTHOUSE IS THE TOP QUALITY OF THE DESIGN AND JONATHON OXLADE'S BRILLIANT SET AND COSTUMES TRANSPORTS US... DIRECTOR CHRIS KOHN USES EVERY KIND OF HOOPLA IMAGINABLE TO KEEP THE SHOW PULSING WITH DARK THEATRICALITY." THE AGE (ON *GOODBYE VAUDEVILLE CHARLIE MUDD*)

"A DARK, EXPLOSIVE TALENT, A PLAYWRIGHT WHO CHANNELS THE ANXIETIES OF 21ST CENTURY LIVING INTO A TUNNEL OF COMEDIC NIGHTMARE THAT IS AS GROTESQUE AND PITILESS AS BOSCH." ALISON CROGGON, THEATRENOTES (ON WRITER DECLAN GREENE)

Season info: MELBOURNE

Beckett Theatre, The CUB Malthouse

13 May – 30 May 2010

Opening night: Friday 14 May at 7.00pm

Season: Tuesdays – Saturdays at 7.00pm, Sundays at 4.30pm; matinees – Thursday 13 May, Wednesday 19 May, Thursday 20 May, Wednesday 26 May, Thursday 27 May at 1.00pm, Saturday 15 May at 2pm

Booking info: www.malthousetheatre.com.au / 03 9685 5111

Ticket Prices: \$16.50 – \$30 + min booking fee \$1.50

MALTHOUSE THEATRE



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