

THINGS ON SUNDAY SEASON TWO 2009

19 JULY

MORE PRICKS THAN KICKS ...*

As a young man Samuel Beckett went cap in hand to his countryman James Joyce in the hope of a literary apprenticeship. For several years he assisted Joyce with his work and his own first published piece was an essay in defence of *Finnegan's Wake*. Such an apprenticeship is by no means uncommon in the literary canon but often overlooked in considering the mature works of an artist. Here we track not only Joyce but also Chekhov, Dante and Proust in Beckett's *oeuvre* and delight in the sinuously sly and witty writings that provoked Beckett's imagination. Greg Stone (*Blackbird, Eldorado, Stuff Happens*) and Rachael Maza Long (*The Sapphires, Così, Stolen*) do the honours with the words as arts commentator and author Alison Croggon gives us the lowdown on the men who wrote them.

*Title of Samuel Beckett's first collection of short stories.

16 AUGUST

AS COMMON AS MUCK

The image of Australia as a big dusty dirt-bowl is similar to the idea that we're a monocultural country with a few colourful bits around the coastline. Everything looks the same and everyone speaks the same— apparently. Australia is as full of diversity as the Garden of Eden and the Tower of Babel. In this session it's language that's our focus: not just different languages but dialects, idioms, local lore that doesn't make it over the back fence. Three very special and loquacious guests will be marshalled by Chrissy Sharp, the inaugural Director of the Centre of Books, Writing and Ideas and a woman with her own opinions about what makes us talk— to discuss the who, how and why.

27 SEPTEMBER

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE MOON

Paul Kelly is the quintessential songwriter of our times: tender-hearted about people while pulling no political punches in telling it like it is. His career traces an ongoing journey between the humblest of outback pubs and the grandest arenas, and his collaborative partners, especially Indigenous musicians, range far and wide. All these experiences were brought to bear in adapting, with the creative team, the true-life story of Michael Riley's *Blacktracker* (1996) into the musically-based short film drama *One Night the Moon*. Paul shares this journey with us in an intimate conversation that also serves as an introduction to the screening of *Blacktracker*. Come and meet the man behind the songs and watch the 30-minute documentary that inspired him.

SEASON TWO 2009

All Things on Sunday sessions are in the Merlyn Theatre and commence at 2.30pm sharp. Tickets are \$10 for non-subscribers. Duration: one hour.