

MEDIA RELEASE

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MALTHOUSE THEATRE AT THE CUB MALTHOUSE 113 STURT STREET SOUTHBANK VIC AUSTRALIA 3006 T +61 3 9685 5100 F +61 3 9685 5112
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MALTHOUSE THEATRE PRESENTS

THE TELL-TALE HEART

MERLYN THEATRE

NOVEMBER 19 – DECEMBER 2

RETURN SEASON

ADAPTED AND DIRECTED BY **BARRIE KOSKY**

AFTER **EDGAR ALLAN POE**

PERFORMED BY **MARTIN NIEDERMAIR** AND **MICHAEL KIERAN HARVEY**

ORIGINAL MUSIC **BARRIE KOSKY**

DESIGN ADAPTATION

BY **ANNA TREGLOAN** (SET AND COSTUME)

& **PAUL JACKSON** (LIGHTING)

RETURN SEASON DIRECTOR **MICHAEL KANTOR**

SONGS BY **BACH, PURCELL AND WOLF**

From the "Master of Horror", via Australia's own theatre terror **Barrie Kosky**, comes a tale of suspense, murder, and madness that has played to sell-out houses at the 2009 Sydney Festival, 2008 Edinburgh International Festival and its original presentation at Malthouse Theatre in 2007 for the Melbourne International Arts Festival. Having been besieged to bring this production back ever since, we're delighted to present this return season as the final production for Michael Kantor's artistic programming for Malthouse Theatre.

The Tell-Tale Heart is part-play/part-musical, based on the classic short story by Edgar Allan Poe, a writer whose legacy haunts the shelves of our greatest modern literature. A classic of the horror genre and an extravagant psychological portrait, the darkest of black humour pervades Poe's his macabre and most famous short story *The Tell-Tale Heart*. In the hands of Kosky and Austrian actor **Martin Niedermair**, *The Tell-Tale Heart* is a horrifying yet engrossing and entertaining monologue that journeys into the human abyss of insanity, fear and obsession.

In this retelling, Niedermair's angelic singing, accompanied by multi-award winning Australian pianist **Michael Kieran Harvey**, is eerily juxtaposed with the chilling details of the crime he describes. A man – a murderer – sits alone upon a staircase, pursued by shadows of darkness and demons. If at first he seems a mass of neuroses, his tics and spasms the symptoms of a terrible guilt, soon enough he is revealed as the dark soul of our age and, eventually, of the state of a theatre trembling on the edge of obsession and madness.

"SICKENING THEN SOOTHING, THIS IS THE STUFF OF FEVERED NIGHTMARES." THE GUARDIAN

"...IT'S AS IF ALL YOUR FIRESIDE HALLOWEENS HAVE COME AT ONCE... IT'S A DELICIOUSLY WICKED RENDERING OF A DARK-HEARTED FLIGHT OF SELF-DESTRUCTIVE FANCY." THE UK HERALD

MALTHOUSE THEATRE'S THE TELL-TALE HEART IS BASED ON SCHAUSPIELHAUS VIENNA'S 2004 PRODUCTION, *DAS VERRÄTERISCHE HERZ*. *DAS VERRÄTERISCHE HERZ* WAS CONCEIVED AND DIRECTED BY BARRIE KOSKY AND PERFORMED BY MARTIN NIEDERMAIR IN GERMAN. THIS PRODUCTION IS PERFORMED IN ENGLISH, AND WAS RECONCEIVED WITH THE ORIGINAL ARTISTS, PREMIERING AT THE CUB MALTHOUSE, WORKSHOP FOR THE MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL ARTS FESTIVAL, 2007.

SEASON INFO

VENUE: MERLYN THEATRE, THE CUB MALTHOUSE, 113 STURT STREET SOUTHBANK VIC AUSTRALIA 3006

OPENING NIGHT: SATURDAY 20 NOVEMBER, 7.30PM

SEASON: NOVEMBER 19 – DECEMBER 2. TUESDAYS AT 6.30PM. WEDNESDAY TO SUNDAY 7.30PM. (NO MATINEES)

BOOKING INFO: WWW.MALTHOUSETHEATRE.COM.AU / 03 9685 5111

TICKET PRICES: \$23 - \$49 + MIN BOOKING FEE \$1.50

MEDIA CONTACT:

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