

# SEASON 2010



## Bell Shakespeare's relationship with Melbourne blossoms in its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary year in 2010.

The year 2010 marks the beginning of a new era in the history of Bell Shakespeare, with Artistic Director John Bell and Associate Artistic Director Marion Potts launching the Company's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary season, alongside a new brand identity and website, and an ever-expanding development arm and learning programme.

*King Lear* is the cornerstone of Bell Shakespeare's 20<sup>th</sup> year celebrations and promises to be one of the great theatre events of 2010.

In an unprecedented union of the Company's artistic leaders, **Marion Potts** directs **John Bell** as Lear in a poetic and powerful production of one of the greatest works in Western literature. Joining John Bell is a superb cast including **Peter Carroll** as the Fool, **Victoria Longley** as Goneril, **Leah Purcell** as Regan and **Susan Prior** as Cordelia. It plays at **the Arts Centre, Playhouse from 27 May to 12 June**.

Director Lee Lewis takes the 2009 Victorian bushfires as the inspiration for her new re-telling of *Twelfth Night*. The season runs at **the Arts Centre, Fairfax Studio from 31 August to 18 September**, and eight regional Victorian venues from 7 July to 26 August.

A Melbourne **Actors At Work** team – with four local actors – will take the Company's in-schools performance programme into schools throughout Melbourne and regional Victoria from **12 July to 5 October**.

To celebrate 20 years of Bell Shakespeare performances in Melbourne, the Arts Centre will hold an exhibition of two decades of the Company's costumes and production photos.

Bell Shakespeare's relationship with Melbourne blossoms in 2010, with several projects in creative development through **Mind's Eye**, the Company's development arm, under the artistic direction of Marion Potts.

*Venus & Adonis*, the inaugural Mind's Eye production, premiered in Melbourne in 2008, a co-production with Malthouse Theatre, directed by Marion Potts.

**Michael Kantor** from Malthouse Theatre and **Marion Potts** team up again in 2010 with the Mind's Eye creative development of *Lear* or *The Shadow King*. This work aims to re-envision Shakespeare's *King Lear*, performed in Indigenous languages with simultaneous translation, combined with pigeon English and some original Elizabethan text.

Another Mind's Eye project in creative development is *Arden*, a hip hop version of Shakespeare's *As You Like It* with Melbourne performers, **Candy and Kim Bowers (from Sista She)** and **Laura Scrivano**. *Arden* aims to reach young and marginalised people and communities using the culture of hip hop as a means of communicating the story.

Melbourne designer and installation artist **Anna Tregloan** will explore the possibilities of creating a live installation work that uses *Richard III* as its point of inspiration. Working with actors **Dan Spielman** and **Paul Lum**, Fight Director **Nigel Poulton** and Composer **Max Lyandvert**, the initial creative development will be held in Melbourne in November 2009.

Green Room Music through Mind's Eye is developing a new music theatre piece called *Night Songs* aimed at family audiences,

bringing together an outstanding team of creative artists: poet/critic and librettist **Alison Croggon**, dramatist/librettist **Daniel Keene** and composer/performer/music educator and artistic director of Green Room Music, **Andrée Greenwell**. This work is in its formative development stage.

Twenty years ago, Bell Shakespeare started with no more than a burning desire to bring classic theatre to the people of Australia, so that they might marvel at the greatest plays ever written and see their lives, loves and aspirations truly reflected.

In the past two decades, the Company has played to over two million Australians – including seasons in Melbourne every year – and taken productions overseas. It has also established a vast education network across the continent to inspire generations of students and teachers by turning ancient texts into living theatre.

In a long and exciting journey from the inaugural performance of *Hamlet* in a borrowed circus tent in 1991, Bell Shakespeare has produced 30 of Shakespeare's plays, some of them several times, alongside other classics.

Bell Shakespeare will be experienced by over 220,000 Australians in all corners of the country in 2010, consolidating its status as one of Australia's flagship performing arts companies.

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**For more information, images and interviews:**  
**Tatia Sloley, TS Publicity**  
**03 9419 8837 or 0403 305 395**  
**tatia@tspublicity.com.au**