

MEDIA RELEASE



DAVID WILLIAMSON'S DON PARTIES ON THE PARTY CONTINUES



**Diane
Craig**



**Georgia
Flood**



**Darren
Gilshenan**



**Robert
Grubb**



**Frankie J.
Holden**



**Sue
Jones**



**Garry
McDonald**



**Tracy
Mann**



**Nikki
Shiels**

We open MTC Season 2011 with the world premiere of **Don Parties On**, the sequel to **David Williamson's** landmark hit *Don's Party*. It is especially fitting to present this production on Williamson's 40th anniversary as a playwright. Robyn Nevin will direct a sensational cast including **Diane Craig, Georgia Flood, Darren Gilshenan, Robert Grubb, Frankie J. Holden, Sue Jones, Tracy Mann, Nikki Shiels** and **Garry McDonald**. **Don Parties On** opens **Thursday 13 January, 2011 at 8pm at the Arts Centre, Playhouse**.

In 1973, *Don's Party* was the play in which the young **Williamson** found his satirical line and length. The original production was set on the night of the 1969 Federal Election at Don's house, where he, his mates and their long-suffering wives drank and argued through a long night in which the failed promise of their lives uncannily mirrored the thwarted Labor victory.

Don Parties On is set on 21 August 2010, the night of our recent Federal Election and, of course, yet another election night party at Don's place. Over the decades, as he and his friends watched governments come and go, they have also closely followed the incoming results from each other's lives: the tallies of luck and misfortune, the unexpected swings for and against. And through it all, the lesson that this crowd of superannuated Baby Boomers never seemed to learn is that politics and strong personalities should never be mixed with alcohol.

Forty years ago, an aggressive young playwright muscled his way onto the scene with a clutch of time-defining plays, including *Don's Party*. With his sequel, **Don Parties On**, **Williamson** celebrates four decades of telling the tribe their story.

"The circumstances of this election alerted my dramatic instincts," said **David Williamson**. "The toppling of Kevin, the rise of the Lycra Kid, and the Labor party's back down on just about everything important made me feel big issues were at stake, and that the result was going to be close. It was going to be a night of drama, both for the nation and for Don's old friends."

David Williamson is one of Australia's most loved playwrights and an MTC favourite. His expansive career crosses both theatre and the silver screen. Some of his major works include: *Don's Party, Siren, The Department, Dead White Males, The Club, Travelling North, The Perfectionist, Emerald City, Money and Friends, Brilliant Lies* and *Let the Sunshine*. **Williamson** has won four AFI awards and the Australian Writers' Guild AWGIE award eleven times. He has received honorary Doctorates of Literature from the University of Sydney (1988), Monash University (1990), Swinburne University of Technology (1996) and the University of Queensland (2004).

Cast Garry McDonald (Don), Tracy Mann (Kath), Georgia Flood (Belle), Robert Grubb (Mal), Darren Gilshenan (Richard), Frankie J. Holden (Cooley), Diane Craig (Helen), Sue Jones (Jenny), Nikki Shiels (Roberta).

Director Robyn Nevin
Set Designer Dale Ferguson
Costume Designer Jennifer Irwin
Lighting Designer Matt Scott

'On the strength of *Don's Party* ... I have no doubt that Mr Williamson is the best playwright working in Australia, and one of the best in the world It is very, very funny' *The Sydney Morning Herald*

'Don's Party holds up a wickedly articulate mirror against the flight of enamel geese on the wall of an Australian house' *The Canberra Times*

'On almost every level of theatre *Don's Party* is superbly effective' *National Times*

*David Williamson's
Don Parties On*

the Arts Centre, Playhouse

Season dates: 8 January to 12 February, 2011

Opening night: Thursday 13 January, 2011 at 8pm

Booking details: The MTC Theatre Box Office 03 8688 0800 or mtc.com.au
the Arts Centre 1300 182 183 or theartscentre.com.au

Followed by a Sydney Season presented by Rachel Healy & Associates at the Sydney Theatre from 17 February to 8 March 2011

MTC 2011 Subscriptions on sale now The MTC Theatre Box Office
03 8688 0800 or mtc.com.au

Single tickets on sale from 7 December 2010 The MTC Theatre Box Office
03 8688 0800 or mtc.com.au the Arts Centre Box Office 1300 182 183 or
theartscentre.com.au

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