



## SHORT & SWEET MELBOURNE 2007

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### SEASON OUTLINE (as at November 2, 2007)

(PLEASE NOTE: PRODUCTIONS ARE NOT LISTED IN RUNNING ORDER.)

### TOP 30

#### Week 1 – December 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>, 8pm

##### **a ramble through the wooded glen**

Writer: Thomas Henning (VIC)

Director: Moritz Bleibtreu

Presented by black lung theatre

Cast includes: Sacha Bryning, Gareth Davies, Thomas Henning and Mark Winter.

The Noel heat has settled down to render the yule a real stinker. The kind of weather where milk becomes cheese the moment it leaves the cow. The youth of tomorrow are still the sperm of today and right now, they're resting. Who can tell what kind of madness heat like this brings on? Who can tell what exactly can come from the inside of a man and/or woman? (probably a doctor)

##### **Bury your Goldfish**

Writer: Michelle Wallace (VIC)

Director: Jonno Katz

Cast: Clare Bartholomew, Nicola Gunn.

It's time for 'that' discussion. How do you keep the water in a fish tank from turning green?

##### **Carnal Pseudo-Skewered Pig**

Writer: Jane E Thompson (VIC)

Director: Yvonne Virsik

Cast: Amy Humphreys, Lawrence Price.

Model hosts Cynthia and Alastair (offensively intelligent, ridiculously witty and devastatingly attractive... *please*) crave to emerge victorious from the carnal carvings of their dinner party. But should the salad be served away from the dead animal?

A satirical take on upper-middle class angst. With food.

##### **Hope fades but the duck never dies**

Writer: Jane Miller (VIC)

Director: Rachel Baring

Cast: Daniel Rice, Sarah Bollenberg

Teflon, buttons, a sink and a Nazi....oh and a duck, all the things that keep a good relationship together.

##### **Love Story 2007**

Writer: Anna Lall (VIC)

Director: Bruce Langdon

Cast: Francesca Waters, Leon Durr.

At her age, Julia, has turned self-protection into an art form. Can Robin, the dark young painter, tempt her into a gloriously risky love affair?

**Michael Goes Home**

Writer: Bridgette Burton (VIC)

Director: Jae Dee Scott

Presented by Baggage Productions

Cast: Devon Lang Wilton, Liz McColl, Mick Lo Monaco, Ian Rooney

*Four years estranged. Three hearts broken. Two conversations. One opportunity to reunite with no second chance.*

**Sleeping Leeches**

Writer: Liza Dezfouli (VIC)

Director: Elizabeth Semmel

A woman. A man. Making love means making do. Or is the truth that the older you get the harder you fall? He can go down but will he ever grow up?

**Spots**

Writer: Steven Hopley (NSW)

Director: Sarah Giles

Cast: Peter Flaherty, Francesca Waters, Nicholas Dubberley, Sophie Lampel, Alex McQueen.

5 People. Life. The usual... A problem. You'd help them out... What are friends for right? I mean... you'd speak up if something was wrong... you'd help them if they were in danger...

**The Gap**

Writer/Director: Phoebe Hartley (VIC)

Cast: Liz McColl, Michael Cahill

Trapped in a room with no doors, forgotten and unfed, madness looming. Their only hope is the gap.

**Thrilling Hostage Melodrama at High Speeds with Pineapple**

Writer: Adam Hadley (ACT)

Director: Heath Miller

Cast: Sheridan Harbidge, Robynne Kelly

Juniper "Junie" Jones believes there is a right way to kidnap someone. Gwendolyn "Gills" McGoo believes what she is told, at least until she forgets it two minutes later. They are armed. They are dangerous.

**Week 2 – December 12<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>, 8pm****49 Stories about Brian MacKenzie**

Writer: Gregory Hardigan (USA)

Director: Alix Stirling

Cast: Nicholas Bendall

"My name is Brian MacKenzie. I lived across the street from Greg Hardigan. These are some stories he wrote about me". This play considers how we exist in the minds of other people, and the memories that shape our lives.

**Cable Car of Death**

Writer: Nathan Curnow (VIC)

Director: Gareth Ellis

Ollie, Floyd and Kat are trapped in a cable car above the Swiss Alps and the second last cable just broke. They have ten minutes, hair clips, chewing gum, dental floss, plus the mobile phone number of the great Harry Houdini.

**Gravity**

Writer: Mark Andrew (VIC)

Director: Wayne Pearn

Presented by Hoy Polloy

Cast: Ben Starick

A trauma patient struggles with making sense of surviving an air crash. As he describes the inexorable reassembly of the pieces of the puzzle, one basic, root cause remains.

**Lobster Tales**

Writer: Michael A. Stang (USA)

Director: Jamie Unicomb

Cast: Daniel Madrigali, Austin Castiglione

Bubb and Glubb, two lobsters in a restaurant tank, explore the meaning of their existence. Smooth as a bisque, tasty as mornay, this succulent comedy will give you a nip.

**On the cards**

Writer: Scott McAteer (VIC)

Director: Brian Cohen

Cast: Grant Durham, Kaela Hilton, Shiralee Williams-Hood

What if a Psychic tells you that in a few moments you're going to meet the love of your life... and it doesn't look so flash? Of course, the Psychic's been drinking. You have 10 minutes to weigh passion against hardship. Actually, you have no choice at all.

**Protest**

Writer: Tom Taylor (VIC)

Director: Sam Basger

Cast: Leah Filley, Nathan Strauss, Alex Roe

Some banners, some noise, some overenthusiastic police officers and before you know it, you're handcuffed and lying face down in a puddle. The voice of dissent is always being silenced...

**The Critics**

Writer: Ian Grody (USA)

Director: Christiane Hille

Cast: Milijana Cancar (Eileen), Fionn Quinlan (Gary), David Murray (Spinoza)

A lead-actress stops her performance to challenge a famous theatre critic on his indiscreet grunts during the show. What follows is a confrontation between critic and actors, a battle of egos full of twists and surprises.

**The Lobotomist – A ten minute musical**

Writer/Director : Robert Reid (VIC)

Produced by Anniene Stockton

Presented by theatre in decay

Cast: Mick Cahill, Bree Hartley, Jessica Kirby, Robert Lloyd, Ben McKenzie, Robert Reid

Trainee psychiatrist Walter Freeman is in love with his patient, the beautiful Madeline Ashbury. Fear of retribution from the Medical Board, and rejection by Madeline. Walter attempts to repress his feelings. Late one night the ghost of his name sake, Walter "Icepick" Freeman, inventor of the lobotomy, appears to him to teach him to take a chance and follow his dreams, no matter how crazy they may be.

### **The Neils**

Writer: Miles Blackford (VIC)

Director: Shiralee Williams-Hood

Cast: Cory Corbett, Paul Hogan, Richard Di Gregorio, Richie Hallal, Adam Mattaliano.

It's another day at the office for the five Neils. But Patrick shows up wearing a bright red tie and wants to know exactly what the Neils do all day...

### **The Replacement Son**

Writer: Steven Hounsome (VIC)

Director: Frank Howson

Cast: Ross Ditchum, Tim Hughes, Susan Strafford.

A son returns home to find that things are not quite the same. His parents have moved on and he is no longer a part of their life or plans.

## **Week 3 – December 19<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>, 8pm**

### **A Dish best served Cold**

Writer: Frank Otis (VIC)

Director: Lisa Minett

Presented by Defector Art.

Cast: Maria Coviello, Karla Hillam, Frank Otis, Rachel Torrance

To curb our primal instinct for revenge, society gave us the judicial system so that victims of crimes can get someone else to warmly dish it out. What if the victim doesn't think it just?

### **Almost**

Writer: Krista Dalby (Canada)

Director: Robert Chuter

Presented by Fly-on-the-Wall Theatre

Cast: Nicola Wright, Chris Pender

Life is rolling past two young professionals as they work at the same office everyday. She's a secretary with an attractive new boss. He's a young executive with an overly attentive secretary. A hilarious and heartbreaking story of an office romance that is on the verge of blossoming when fate intervenes.

*Almost was awarded Best Play at Sydney Short & Sweet 2007.*

### **Blindingly obvious facts**

Writer: Ben Ellis (VIC)

Director: Matt Scholten

A Re-Arrangement of things said for five voices about the death of Rachel Corrie, an activist who died in Israel. An online attempt at one woman's life, played out somewhere between truth and fiction by a troupe of total strangers.

### **Bomb Disposal**

Writer: Kate Toon (NSW)

Director: Nicole Smith

Cast: H Clare Callow (The Woman), Jonathan Dyer (The Man), Matthew Green (Bazza)

When two English holiday makers seek refreshment in a Sydney bar, the result is explosive.

### **BROCADE SONATA**

Created by Machination Theatre Ensemble Inc.

Director: Megan Jones

Presented by Machination Theatre Ensemble Inc.

Cast: Lucy Morris (Carlotta), Jessica Gatt, Asher Brown, Danielle Goronszy, Justyna Kiczor, Dane Westaway-Shaw, Tom Worrell, Kaleb Hawkins, Daniel Pauer

Carlotta is restless with longing. She leaves her home and ventures into the sultry night. Wandering down back alleys, she follows the hidden pulse of the city which leads her to a sumptuous hidden restaurant. Her desires are enflamed by the arrival of an engaging couple who are eating there. Carlotta is about to experience a decadent taste of the night. Do you like to watch?

*Thank yous: National Institute of Circus Arts (NICA), Adrian Dimitrievitch, Amanda Fairbanks, Ayumi Takehara, Bridgid Eames*

### **Perfect**

Writer: Aaron Scully (NSW)

Director: Stephen Nicolazzo

Cast: David Bailht, Katherine Halliday

Two clueless Melbournians travel around the world to find their ideal partner, only to find that their naive notions of romance still can't get them a date, despite a change of scenery.

### **The Gentleman Had an Axe**

Writer: David Astle (VIC)

Director: Gorkem Acaroglu

John Batman bought Melbourne for handkerchiefs, mirrors, scissors - and an axe. A treaty or a steal? Two centuries later, the story cuts two ways.

### **Uncontrollable Performance Art Moments**

Writer: Simon Brook (QLD)

Director: Julia Greenham

When Rodney the performance artist meets the girl of his dreams he must harness all his untapped passion, put on his own show, find true love - and impress his mother.

### **Word Space**

Writer: Elizabeth Bennett (Tas)

Director: David Mence

Cast: Michael Finney, Robbie Marshall

Two disgruntled graffiti artists scale the Sydney Opera House: their mission, to impart an anti-war message. But will the swarms of police gathering far below see them as peaceful protesters?

### **You Me and Desiree Potato**

Writer: Lachlan Philpott (NSW)

Director: Paul Terrell

Cast: Leah Filley, Dylan Henry, Colin Masters

"As sure as the cherries drop off the tree each autumn, as sure as they stain the dirt outside, as sure as the stench spreading throughout the house from the souring rotten fruit, Mona knows that she and Jay must leave."

## WILDCARDS

### Wildcard 1 – Saturday December 8<sup>th</sup> at 2pm

#### **Death by 1000 cuts**

Writer: Mika Tsoi (VIC)

Director: John Muirhead

If your sister ruined the biggest day of your life by sleeping in, wouldn't you be mad? To put his plans back on track, Josh is fetching a bucket of water.

#### **Double Dana**

Writer: Christina Costigan (VIC)

Director: Simone Young

Cast: Sean Weatherly, Luke Mulquiney, Christina Walls, Eleanor Wilson

Dana is breaking up with her boyfriend Steve while falling for a new guy Rob. Her cycle of serial monogamy echoes what's gone before and what's yet to come.

#### **Good**

Writer: Patricia Cornelius (VIC)

Director: Kate McLennan

Cast: Jez Constable, Stephanie Edgerton, Rudie Chapman, Lawrence Mooney

Doug is a fading ex-footballer with a rising star son. Doug is good, he's got no hesitation in telling you that. Being good is one thing, staying good is another.

#### **iFAM\***

Written, directed and performed by Adria Oliver-Castellucci, Ruby Mathers, Nellie Muldoon, Georgia Kelly, Raffia Kaiser-Grove (VIC)

Presented by Melbourne Girls College

A satirical performance, exploring the dependence of today's average family on technology and unrenewable resources, viewed through the eyes of a cynical political activist.

(\* iFAM is presented in *Short & Sweet* as the winning production from *Melbourne Fast & Fresh 2007*, which is *Short & Sweet's Schools programme*.)

#### **Intexticatd**

Writers: Miriam Hall, Adele Johnston and Imogen Rogers (QLD)

Director: Daniela Marchetta

Cast: Kate Ballard, Kate Boston Smith, Hannah Fox, Lauren Gore, Elke Osadnik

Babs and her four girlfriends are chronic texters. Fed up with the rippling effect their late-night, man-seeking addiction is having on their 20-something lives, Babs pulls rank and initiates some textual healing. It all looks promising until an intrusive beep shocks the group. (*Intexticatd* was created from the work-in-progress [sextool.com](http://sextool.com)).

#### **Pirated**

Created and performed by Cleo Cutcher, Christy Flaws, Ailsa Wild (VIC)

Original sound design: Ania Reynolds

Performed by Sweet'n'Sour Circus

Three pirates, a giant squid, a wild ocean battle and a treasure chest full of surprises. This is a glorious adventure in shadow play with a rollicking original music score.

### **Sage and Maximilian**

Writer: Brooke Fairley (VIC)

Director: Brooke Fairley and Kylee Mcdowall

Presented by Pretty Penny Productions

Cast: Brooke Fairley, Kylee Mcdowall, Emily Williams

Sage and Maximilian is a true story of a young woman who lived in a far away place. She had a very special and dangerous gift!...Some would call it a curse.

### **The Empty Space**

Writer/Director: Chris Dickins (VIC)

Presented by Alchemy Community Theatre

Cast: Paul Bebbington, Penelope Jade

A child years for his father - A young actor dreams of success - A man mourns a broken marriage - A teacher reaches out to the unlovable - A man dares to hope for love again.

### **The Jumping Play**

Written, directed and performed by Angus Cerini (VIC)

Presented by angus cerini - doubletap

People ask me why I jump...

### **The Salsa Slur**

Writers: Short & Sweet Script Development Group (VIC)

Director: Kate Shearman

Cast: Bobbi-Lea Dionysius, Ingrid Gang, Justyna Kiczor, Kate Prestt, Daphne Quah, Janeen Sonsie, Lara Woolf

A Salsa Class. Tuesday Night. 8pm. Seven women. One Room. A Slur.

What was said? Who said it? Who heard it? A simple, fun night out gets complicated.

## **Wildcard 2 – Saturday December 15<sup>th</sup> at 2pm**

### **... I AM ...**

Writer: Mary-Anne Butler (NT)

Director: Larelle Bossi

Cast: Julianne Donovan

One morning, a woman wakes up to find herself of an age between zero and eighty. The light of day reflects a woman's brutal journey beyond her own crisping, paper-dry body.

### **4 seconds**

Writer: Leon Foo (Singapore)

Director: Rose Connors Dance

Cast: Luigi Lucente (Darren), Andrew Serong (Sammy)

4 Simple Seconds. And the clock is ticking. What would you say, to sum it up. 'I love you'... And it's over.

**All the way to the top**

Writer/Director: Joeline Crnogorac (VIC)

Presented by Pregnant Goldfish Productions

Cast: Elena Mandalis, Liana Jessop, Alexis Porter, Petra Yared, Kate McLennan

Four girls stand on an empty and bare stage, each in the midst of their own audition. Hayley Randwick and Chelsea Donovan are auditioning for the latest Kerfords Crunchy Crack Cakes breakfast cereal commercial, while Josie Jones and Deidre Scott find themselves auditioning for "Crustaceans of the Universe – The Tales and Adventures of Ocean Boy".

**Just Another Tuesday Night**

Writer: Natalie Lopes (VIC)

Director: Doug Montgomery

Cast: Claudia Stevens, Hannah Williams, Kim Stark, Maree Barnett, Mark Crees, Paul Bugeja, Rachel Elberg, Stephanie Lillis, Steven Kennedy, Erin Klein, Madeleine Harding, Amanda Berry, Anthony Gravina, Mark Barnard, Lauren Gore, Robynne Kelly

In a country town - there was an incident.

It was his last night, she had no reason, it's so inexplicably tied together that there had to be more than just coincidence. This is a true story and you've been warned.

**Keeping Annabelle**

Writer: Rachel Welch (UK)

Director: Traicee Evison-Griffith

Cast: Vikki Doak (Beattie), Leon Durr (Joe)

Beattie's greatest fears are realised when she is forcibly kidnapped and held against her will. Could this be the beginning of the end - or simply the end of her patience?

**New Arrival**

Writers: Leah Gabriel (VIC)

Director: Tim Redmond

Presented by Lovely Night Productions

Cast: Leah Gabriel, Tim Redmond

A young couple get a nasty shock when a friend arrives.

**Notes of State**

Writer: Felicity Decker (VIC)

Director: Larry Boyd

Cast: Dennis Manahan, Peter Tedford

Charlie Sober is a bore. Charlie Drunk is hilarious. Either way Charlie is his own worst enemy. What does it take for him to escape this dilemma and grow up?

**The Anniversary**

Writer: Drew Larimore (USA)

Director: Claire Wearne

Cast: Tiffany Loft, Debbie Zukerman

Nothing at first- only darkness. A surge of some sort, liking the rising of a firework but more intense- a few seconds later... A GIGANTIC EXPLOSION. Lights slowly rise on Dorris and Marge covered in black soot, their hair sticking straight up." Siberia. Of all the places to spend the golden years...



**The Pursuit of Happiness**

Writer: Angela Carey (NZ)

Director: Michael McManus

Trying to convince people you're the real deal and not greediness can be a tough gig. Meet Happi and Ness together they are Happiness, without each other they are nothing.

**unAustralian**

Writer: Darinka Kralj (VIC)

Director: Danny Delahunty

Cast: Angus Brown, Nicolette Minster, Nadia Coreno

They're passionate. They're powerful. They're willing to do whatever it takes to uproot the social pollution threatening our fragile country. Above all, they're morons. They are: the Commonwealth unAustralian Bureau.

**Wildcard 3 – Saturday December 22nd at 2pm****668 : The Neighbour of the Beast**

Writer: Andy Piper (NSW)

Director: Jennifer Munday

Cast: Colin Donald, Chris Gaffney, Damian Vuleta, Matt Rolston, Pablo Woodward, Sue McGrath

OK, you want to sell your house - but who lives next door? A play that looks at the problems of living next-door to the ultimate party-animal.

**Break-Up**

Writer: Steve Wheat (VIC)

Director: Nicola Fearn

Cast: Amy Humphreys, Damien Vuleta, Ivan Nevill

Jeff finally sees his ex to have their break-up sex that they had planned for many years ago. Unfortunately it is over 6 months since they broke up and Jane is now seeing someone else ...

**Fat**

Writer: Dew Chaiyanara (Singapore)

Director: Alex Christopoulos

Cast: Emma Griffin, Jacque Moore

We live in a society where body image disorders are escalating and being fat seems to be unacceptable. What is fat and what is not?

**In the Closet with Pamela Anderson**

Writer: Natalie Faulkner (VIC)

Director: Jacqueline Schulz

Sometimes going into the closet is much more revealing than coming out. Two teenagers accidentally meet.

Ecstasy short-circuits anxiety. The perfect antidote; truly short and truly sweet.

**Mr and Mrs Metcalfe enjoy the music of Elton John**

Writer: Frank Leggett (NSW)

Director: Tara Daniel

Cast: Colin Donald, Denise Kuchmar

Stamp collecting, trivia, comfy pyjamas, teaspoons - the Metcalfes love 'em all. Yet underneath this dull exterior, great passion dwells.

### **Of Art and Artifice**

Writers: Christian Price and Megan Price (VIC)

Director: Megan Price

Presented by Fake McCoys Productions

Cast: Christian Price, David Jones, Emma Sachsse

At the end of the 19th Century, two writers meet to ponder the meaning of art, fame, and the shadows of their own destinies.

*Thank you to Patrick Stokes, Naomi Edwards, Kylie Grieger.*

### **Strangers**

Writer: Andrew Keegan (Singapore)

Director: Laura Jones

A woman tied up in a room... a man with a briefcase. Will the truth be revealed?

### **The Gravediggers**

Writer: Angus Grant (VIC)

Director: Nicholas Dubberley

Cast: Tim Budas, Troy Benjamin

Two men, two shovels, two graves. And a perfectly good backhoe excavator gathering dust. When a rich couple dies, the last respects are paid by The Gravediggers.

### **The Knitting Circle**

Writer: Susan Pellegrino (ACT)

Director: Brenda Addie

Cast: Ami-Lou Sharpe, Becca Posterino, Clara Pagone, Jane McArthur, Lucy Shaw, Zenith McCafferty, Val Blake

A stark and emotional journey about a woman's choice. Hauntingly beautiful and lyrical The Knitting Circle tackles the taboos of abortion with profound sensitivity and conviction.

### **Tupperware**

Writer: Wayne Tunks (NSW)

Director: Daniel Lammin

Tupperware can do many things - keep food fresh for weeks, provide a lovely place to keep the sewing, fill any drawer with its many lids and containers... It can also turn a enjoyable afternoon tea between friends into a violent blood-bath. In a variety of different colours and sizes!

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**Tickets: \$28 / \$23**

**Three performance package \$69\* (save \$15)**

\*choose any three performances from Top 30 or Wildcards

All performances will take place at the Arts Centre's Fairfax Studio

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\* Transaction fee applies