

AWARD-WINNING BRISBANE SONGSTRESS RETURNS TO THE STAGE WITH INTIMATE SOLO PERFORMANCE

The Judith Wright Centre and Joymas Creative present

HUM – JUST LIKE BREATHING

From the creative team that brought the critically acclaim new musical *Handle With Care*

"I remember sitting at the piano when I was 10, writing songs... little songs. Even then, without a true understanding of the world and my place in it, I knew that I had stories I would want to tell. Need to tell. Just like breathing."

Following the recent success of the critically acclaimed new Australian musical *Handle With Care* in April, the Judith Wright Centre is thrilled to partner once more with celebrated Australian composer Megan Shorey.

Shorey returns to the Judith Wright Centre next month for *Just Like Breathing*, an intimate and honest concert performance of some of the world's newest contemporary works coupled with Shorey's best known repertoire and previews of forthcoming works.

Co-presented by the Judith Wright Centre and Shorey's production company Joymas Creative, *Just Like Breathing* marks Shorey's return to the stage as performer after three years devoted to writing and directing.

"Over the last three years I have had the fortune of bringing two beautiful babies into the world, and hence, have largely taken leave of the stage directly during this time," Shorey said.

"I am extremely excited to have the chance to tell a little of my musical journey... To share my inspirations with audiences who are familiar with my body of work, and to give everyone a preview of some of the exciting work in the pipeline for 2011 and beyond."

Just Like Breathing is the first instalment in the HUM Series, a program of single night showcases created to profile established and emerging artists and composers to new audiences.

"I sit in a bar or a club and watch audiences immerse themselves in the stories and songs of the latest independent artist behind their guitar or with their band," Shorey said. "They can't get enough. I believe there's a place for this kind of musical experience in the theatre."

"Contemporary chamber musicals provide an intimate and engaging vehicle for storytelling, which ultimately leaves the audience with a greater sense of ownership. The stories are tangible, the performers are close enough to touch, and the music is honest."

With a commission for the Sydney Fringe Festival in the works, two new developments for 2011, and a QNFA nomination for best new score for the movie-musical *Blueberry Lane*, both Shorey's profile and the Joymas brand are expected to explode over the coming months.

"For any new production company, the emphasis must be on quality and consistency. Joymas Creative is working tirelessly to fulfil our charter – supporting new, original and contemporary musical theatre works," Shorey said.

"With *Handle With Care* we found ourselves with an honest piece of work that resonated loudly with audiences, and when you've worked that hard to create quality work (and the subsequent buzz that follows), you have to continue to create: to build trust in your audiences. HUM is just the ticket to further introduce Brisbane audiences to what amazing performers, writers and composers we have on our beautiful doorstep."

- ENDS -

Date	Saturday 31 July 2010
Time	7.30pm
Venue	Judith Wright Centre of Contemporary Arts
Tickets	Cabaret \$45, Theatre Full \$35 Concession \$30
Bookings	07 3872 9000 or judithwrightcentre.com

**For further information, images and interview opportunities please contact
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JUDITH WRIGHT CENTRE OF CONTEMPORARY ARTS

MEGAN SHOREY – BIOGRAPHY

Whether on stage or in the studio, Megan Shorey is proving to be one of Queensland's most respected and sought after artists. With over 20 years of performance experience to her credit, Megan has appeared in Cabaret, Musical Theatre, Jazz and Classical engagements throughout Australia and Europe.

Performance highlights throughout Megan's career include the Brisbane Cabaret Festival, Music Cairns, Queensland Music Festival, Brisbane Festival, Melbourne Fringe Festival, Festival Cairns and The Noorderzon Festival (Holland).

Theatre credits include *West Side Story (Maria)*, *Chess (Florence)*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat (Narrator)*, *Annie (Annie)*, and Gale Edwards' production of *Sweeney Todd (Company)*, to name but a few.

While originally a classically trained singer (completing her studies at the Queensland Conservatorium of Music), Megan is now in demand as one of Australia's leading contemporary voice coaches.

Touring her critically acclaimed one-woman cabaret *The Look of Song*, and simultaneously releasing her debut EP *The Live Session* ensured Megan was to fast become recognized as a writer and composer. Megan has since showcased her original contemporary cabaret *Us* at both the Australian Performing Arts Market, and the Australian International Music Market to industry applause, with subsequent performances to follow in *Spiegel tent* productions around the world.

2008 saw Megan's original theatre composition *In My Arms* chosen to be performed as part of *Short Sweet + Song*, with personal performances in the Brisbane Festival followed by the co-written production of *A Slightly Sondheim Wedding* and *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Miss Rona Peretti) – both for Oscar Theatre Company.

In 2009, Megan was again chosen to showcase a new musical at *Short Sweet + Song*. The work, *3 Kilos*, went on to win Best Musical and Best Actress.

As writer/composer, Megan has presented works in national musical theatre festivals, written musical theatre scores for short film and after her QNFA nominated collaboration as Musical Director and Composer on the award winning short film *Blueberry Lane* she is now in talks to develop a musical theatre feature film in 2011.

Shorey's new musical *Handle with Care* opened to audience and critical acclaim in April 2010, "*cementing her reputation as one of Australia's brightest new talents*" (*Australian Stage*). Subsequently, Megan has been commissioned to compose a one-woman show for the 2010 Sydney Fringe for *Pricilla Queen of the Desert* star Lena Cruz.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM –

"*One of Australia's brightest new talents*" – Australian Stage Online

"*Megan Shorey's presence at the piano is compelling... she happily lives every song*" – The Courier Mail

"*Megan Shorey reveals her exceptional talent and skill at creating and examining these intricate, honest stories.*"
– Scene Magazine

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