

NEW MUSICAL CELEBRATES BEAUTY AND B*TCH OF BEING A WOMAN

Judith Wright Centre and Joymas Creative present

HANDLE WITH CARE

BY MEGAN SHOREY

"Megan's work is charming, but also gutsy and heart-felt. A highly creative, polished performer...."
Mark Yeoman – Director Noorderzon Festival, The Netherlands

Audiences will be offered a "first-class ticket to the world inside a woman's head" when **Handle with Care** premieres at the Judith Wright Centre of Contemporary Arts in Brisbane from Wednesday 14 to Saturday 17 April 2010.

Acclaimed composer and performer Megan Shorey says **Handle with Care** comprises four mini musicals, **Girlfriend**, **Three Kilos**, **In My Arms** and **Silk Powersuit**, which reveal the "beauty and bitch" of being a woman.

"**Handle with Care** combines four mini-musicals that rejoice in the beauty and bitch of being a woman, delving into issues of love and relationships, body image, motherhood and gender rivalry in the workplace," Shorey said.

"You could say that **Handle with Care** is a first-class ticket to the world inside a woman's head; it's a piece that appeals to both men and women, and is the perfect opportunity to open discussion between the genders," she said.

Directed by award-winning director Lewis Jones, **Handle with Care** stars Rachel Dunham, Penny Farrow, Sarah Knight, Judy Hainsworth, Liz Buchanan, Kathy Burns, Airlie McCormack and Kathryn McIntyre.

The first of the four mini-musicals is **Three Kilos**, a personal look at the pressures women place on themselves in the quest to attain the physically impossible: airbrushed skin, 'photo-shopped' angles and that ever-elusive size 0.

Girlfriend questions the notion of the perfect man and soul-mate as, on the eve of a wedding, three friends ponder their misspent youth over a few too many glasses of bubbly.

The corporate world has a place for young successful women, and that will always be one step behind her closest male rival according to **The Silk Powersuit**, which examines gender rivalry in the workplace.

Handle with Care ends with the powerful work **In my Arms**, written by Megan Shorey in just a week and selected from hundreds of national and international works for the world renowned *Short, Sweet and Song* theatre festival.

Exploring the joys and pains of motherhood, **In My Arms** tips its hat to *Sliding Doors* as the stage is split into two identical nurseries with a woman in each room; in the first room she holds a baby, in the other she holds nothing.

Complete with exquisite design, set and staging, the world premiere of **Handle with Care** will play at the Judith Wright Centre from Wednesday 14 to Saturday 17 April 2010.

-ENDS-

Date	Wednesday 14 to Saturday 17 April 2010
Time	Wed – Sat 7.30pm
Venue	Judith Wright Centre of Contemporary Arts
Tickets	Full \$35, Concession \$30
Bookings	07 3872 9000 or judithwrightcentre.com

For further information, images and interview opportunities please contact
Judith Wright Centre Senior Marketing Coordinator Dorothy Farrell
p 07 3872 9005 f 07 3872 9001 e dorothy.farrell@jwcoqa.qld.gov.au

JUDITH WRIGHT CENTRE OF CONTEMPORARY ARTS

HANDLE WITH CARE - BIOGRAPHIES

JOYMAS CREATIVE is an exciting new Brisbane production company committed to bringing original, contemporary Musical Theatre to Queensland. Works include *In My Arms* (Short Sweet & Song Musical Theatre Festival, Sydney 2008), *Us* (Melbourne Fringe Festival 2006 and *Brisbane Cabaret Festival* 2005), *Us* (excerpts at AIMM, Brisbane 2005 and APAM, Adelaide 2006), *The Look of song* (Cairns Civic Theatre 2004 and Brisbane Cabaret Festival 2004).

MEGAN SHOREY is a composer and lyricist well known to audiences for her portrayals of some of the finest musical theatre roles in Brisbane and her original works, which have toured her both nationally and internationally as a solo artist. The fourth piece in this collection, *In My Arms*, debuted in Sydney to audience acclaim, as part of the internationally renowned theatre festival *Short Sweet & Song*. Invited to perform excerpts from original productions *Us* and *The Look of Song* nationally (spanning the East Coast), Megan Shorey's contemporary approach to Musical Theatre & Cabaret writing has won her audiences and critical acclaim from some of the countries leading festivals, production houses and industry professionals with appearances of her works in Adelaide (APAM), Melbourne (Fringe Festival), Sydney (Short Sweet & Song), Brisbane (Cabaret Festival, Brisbane Festival & Queensland Music Festival) and Cairns (Regional Tour). Dutch producer Hans de Visser (HDV Productions) brought Megan's work to the international stage, and in 2006 invited her to headline the Noorderzon Festival (Holland) alongside the likes of Martha Wainwright. Subsequent Megan was invited to perform at the *Edinburgh Festival*.

LEWIS JONES has worked for over ten years as a freelance director and producer. His work as a director began in 1996 with his production of Frank McGuinness's *Someone Who'll Watch Over Me* for Matrix Theatre, for which he received a Matilda Award. Later that year, he directed *Bouncers* for his own company, someone. There have been numerous successful productions under the someone banner, including *Two by Jim Cartwright*, *Sweet Phoebe* by Michael Gow, *Dark Heart at the Tap Gallery Sydney* and four seasons of *He Died With A Felafel In His Hand*. For Laboite, Jones has directed *The John Wayne Principle*, *First Asylum*, *After January*, *The Removalists* and *Secret Bridesmaids' Business*. Other directing credits include *Sid the Serpent Who Wanted to Sing* (Opera Queensland), *Acis and Galatea* (USQ Opera School), *Gianni Schicchi* (Queensland Conservatorium) and *Hamlet* (Matrix Theatre/QPAC). In late 2005, he directed Queenie van der Zandt in her own-woman cabaret, *I Get the Music in You*, at Melbourne Fringe Festival and last year directed *Sweet Charity* for the Empire Theatre. In 2006 he played George in La Boite's production of *Perfect Skin* and directed *Mornings with Maryanne* and *Tom Waits for No Man*, both for the *Brisbane Cabaret Festival*. In 2007 and 2008, he worked as Executive Producer for Circa and also directed *Beauty and the Beast* and *Cabaret* for The Empire Theatre; a Matilda Award winning remount of *Tom Waits for No Man* for the *Brisbane Cabaret Festival*; *Women In Voice 17* at QPAC and *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* for Oscar Theatre at The Roundhouse Theatre. In 2009, Lewis has directed *Dead Cats Don't Bounce* at QPAC for Hot Tin Roof Productions and Choice written by and featuring Amanda-Lyn Pearson, which toured regional Queensland. As part of his position as Artistic Director of the Empire Theatre, Toowoomba, he directed *Singin' in the Rain*.

PENNY FARROW is a graduate of The University of Sydney. Her varied career has seen her working as a cabaret artist, actor, writer, teacher and director. She has also collaborated on several productions in the workshop stage. Penny had taught drama to all age groups, from pre-prep to adults. Her Queensland-based performance credits include work with Seymour Productions, Oscar, Harvest Rain, Warehouse, Joymas Creative, MadCat Creative and Opera Queensland. In 2006 she was nominated for a Matilda Emerging Artists Award and this year won Best Actress at the inaugural Short & Sweet Festival (Brisbane).

JUDY HAINSWORTH is best known for her role as Y'landah in *The Narcissist* (Sydney Theatre Company/La Boite) which enjoyed a sold-out season at the Sydney Opera House in 2008 and earned her a Matilda award nomination for Best Supporting Actress. Judy trained in acting at the University of Southern Queensland and her theatre credits include: *Holy Guacamole* (The Good Room); *Suddenly Single* creative development (QPAC); *Small Mercies* (La Boite); *He Died with a Felafel in his Hand* (Someone Productions/La Boite); *The Reunion* (Metro Arts Independents); *Little Women*, *Into the Woods*, *The Best of Broadway* (Harvest Rain); *Assassins*, *Parade* (Warehouse Theatre), *Godspell* (Starlight Theatre); and *Shakespeare's Women* (Toowoomba Shakespeare Festival). Judy was a featured vocalist at the 2008 and 2009 Lord Mayor's Seniors Christmas Parties, Brisbane Musical Theatre United Charity Concerts 2006 and 2007, Hats Off Briz Vegas '06, Oscar Theatre Company launches 2006 and 2010 and Moulin Beige cabaret.

KATHY BURNS is a teacher for The Actors Workshop, currently teaching Acting Technique, Theatre and Shakespeare. Kathy has an Advanced Diploma in Film, Television and Theatre Acting, a Post Graduate in Directing Actors and a Diploma in Workplace Assessment and Training. For the past eight years Kathy has worked as an actor, director and singer in film, television and theatre, recently working in Brisbane Festivals *ALICE21* as Alice; a singing, dancing and multimedia rock show in the car park of the Judith Wright Centre and in QPIX's musical short film *You*

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Tonight. She has also worked as a cabaret performer in the troupe 'Charli'; created children's songs and video clips for primary school programs; directed, written and performed for Nicky Noo's Creative playtime company; worked as a female vocalist on various albums and acted in a 10-episode series for *Beyond Blue*. In 2006 Kathy's production company, A RoughCut production, created a number of dinner theatre shows called *A Month of WHITE SEX* which was a sold out season. She has directed shows in Sue Benner Theatre, Brisbane Arts Theatre, Schannel Theatre and Foresters hall. Kathy's other technical experience includes stage management, lighting design, set design, costume design, production management and 1st and 2nd Assistant Director. In 2008 Kathy spent two weeks in Prague and Berlin studying the theatre and film industry, which inspired her to create the production *Please Release Me*.

KATHRYN MCINTYRE has just completed the newly revised Brisbane season of Macbeth; The Contemporary Rock Opera for Diane Gough Productions at the Cremorne Theatre, QPAC, and is currently studying a diploma of performing arts in music theatre and commercial dance with the Davidia Lind Dance Company. Kathryn has been involved in Brisbane Arts Theatre's *Fame* (2004) and *Cinderella* (2005), *Starlight/Turkish Delight's* Queensland premiere of *Witches Of Eastwick* (2007), and Harvest Rain Theatre Company's *Little Shop Of Horrors* (2005) *Children Of Eden* (2007) and *The Wiz* (2004) in the role of 'Evilene' for which she won a Del'Arte Award for Best Supporting Actress. In 2008 Kathryn took on the role of a 'Cheerleader' in the premier of the award winning new musical *Scissors Paper Rock* with Underground Productions and made her Gold Coast debut as 'Sheena' one of Peter Allen's trio in the fully staged production of *Boy From Oz* with the Gold Coast Arts Centre. Earlier this year Kathryn took to the stage as Mrs Cheveley in Oscar Wilde's *An Ideal Husband* with Starlight Theatre Company.

LIZ BUCHANAN is a graduate of QUT Academy of the Arts (BA Drama - Acting). She played Rae in the Premiere of *Long Gone Lonesomecowgirls* (La Boite Theatre Co) for which she received a Matilda Award Commendation, and recently reprised the role for a Western QLD touring version. Other theatre credits include *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Oscar TC), *The Year Nick McGowan Came To Stay* and David Williamson's *Operator* (La Boite), *Red Cap* (La Boite/QMF), *The Siren's Kiss* (Judith Wright Centre) and *Caucasian Chalk Circle* (HRTC at Gardens Theatre). Liz began performing professionally at 16 in musicals (*Sherwoodstock*, *Phantoad Of The Opera*), cabarets and extensively in cover and original bands. She later worked with a'capella vocal groups Seraphim and The Gritty Pearls. Recent band performances of her original music include QMF Spiegelent and *Brisbane Cabaret Festival*, and she was MC and a performer in 2008's *Women In Voice 17* (QPAC). TV credits include Channel Nine's *Sea Patrol*, the role of Ms Palmer on *Mortified* and guest roles on *H2o-Just Add Water*, *Monarch Cove* (US series), *The Sleepover Club*, *Fat Cow Motel*, *Medivac*, *Pacific Drive and Paradise Beach*. Liz also works as a voiceover artist for radio and TV, and has appeared in numerous TV and print commercials, as well as voicing characters for the CGI animated *Farmkids* international children's TV series, seen on ABC Kids.

RACHEL DUNHAM studied classical and musical theatre and then discovered jazz. Rachel toured as lead vocalist in the Queensland Youth Big Band, then relocated to Sydney. She studied with renowned voice coach Don Greydon who helped her expand her range, and develop more power and control over her voice. In the early 90's Rachel was based in New Zealand for several years, with a production company. During her time in New Zealand, Rachel fronted sell-out jazz shows at the Wellington International Arts Festival, opened for Ray Charles in his New Zealand tour and performed to 30,000 people at the Millennium Celebrations in Wellington. Rachel came home to Australia in 2000. In 2004 Rachel won the 'Best Supporting Actress' STAR award for her role as 'Mama Morton' in the Noosa Arts Theatre production of 'Chicago'. In 2006 she worked as vocal coach for a production of 'Fame' with a cameo appearance as 'Miss Sherman'. In 2007 starred in a Brisbane production of "Witches of Eastwick" as "Alex". Most recently Rachel was cast in Tom McSweeney's QPAC production of "Isn't It Romantic", a Rodgers and Hart tribute.

ARLIE MCCORMICK is a singer/actor/musician with more than 15 years experience. In 2001 she completed a Bachelor of Music in Contemporary Voice at the QLD Conservatorium. For many years she has performed in bands ranging from corporate jazz groups to cabaret based entertainment, including TV work for Channel 7 as one of the Carols Quartet. Arlie is also an accomplished pianist and has performed for years in piano bars throughout Brisbane, but her true passion is Music Theatre. Her career spans various musical styles including rock, pop, jazz, country and musical theatre. Arlie has played the title role of 'Calamity Jane' in 2003 and then one of the ensemble in *I Love You, You're Perfect Now Change*.

SARAH KNIGHT studied at the Brisbane Conservatorium of music. This classically trained singer has the technique that has seen her portray everything from the sweetest girl-next-door, an Opera singing Circus Freak to a green haired Doris Day and a gracious and charming Torch Song chanteuse. Sarah's performances include roles in *The Mikado*, *The Magic Flute*, *Les Miserable* and *The Sound of Music*. She has appeared at *Brisbane Festival*, *Brisbane Cabaret Festival*, *Woodford Folk Festival*, The Brisbane Ekka, Channel 9's *Lighting of the Lord Mayors Christmas Tree*, Redcliffe Carols and Channel 7's Picnic in the Park.

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