

# JUDITH WRIGHT CENTRE OF CONTEMPORARY ARTS

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## NEW PLAY TO ALLURE FANS OF *SEX AND THE CITY*

Judith Wright Centre presents  
**OFTEN I FIND THAT I AM NAKED**  
BY FIONA SPROTT

Fans of *Sex and the City* and *Bridget Jones* are tipped to flock to the world premiere of a new Australian theatre comedy, **Often I Find That I Am Naked**, at Judith Wright Centre from Thursday 13 to Saturday 15 August 2009.

**Often I Find That I Am Naked** follows the life of Jezebel, a professional Australian woman who spends her time shopping, drinking cocktails and looking for love, says acclaimed producer and lead actor Jo Thomas.

"This play is about a successful, self-built career woman who spends her time drinking cocktails, shopping and searching for love any way she can – speed dating, Facebook, text sex, RSVP, STD clinics, rehab, even hiring a private detective," Thomas said.

"While Jezebel dreams about discovering perfect love, the reality is that her attempts to find it usually end up in disaster, like waking up naked and hung-over in a stranger's bed," she said.

"I've got to admit I can relate to many of the dating mishaps in this piece (maybe minus the rehab and private detective). It's hard to find someone you can connect with, and after years of dating you can feel a bit like Charlotte from *Sex in the City* – exhausted!" she said.

**Often I Find That I Am Naked** is by critically acclaimed playwright Fiona Sprott, whose work has been produced across Australia and the UK, as well as in New York, Bulgaria and soon Brazil and Canada.

Directing **Often I Find That I Am Naked** is National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA) graduate Shane Jones, who has also trained in New York with Anne Bogart and the Saratoga International Theatre Institute and directed an array of works in Brisbane, Sydney, New York and Hong Kong.

Joining Jo Thomas on stage is local actor Sam Clark, a USQ graduate who has toured with theatre productions such as *Newton's Law* and *Stick and Stones*, and made TV guest appearances on *Sea Patrol* and *Tightrope*.

**Often I Find That I Am Naked** is complete with a live music soundtrack, including some catchy 80s tunes, performed by Tom Raymond of *Doch* and *Miguel* fame, and a set design by Matilda Award nominee and QUT Visual Arts graduate Kitty Taube.

Despite the play's humour and occasional semblance of frivolity, lead actor Jo Thomas says that **Often I Find That I Am Naked** addresses issues of loneliness and alcoholism.

"Even though Jezebel has a great disposable income she's got no one to share it with; so, on a deeper level the play is about dealing with the loneliness that comes with single life in modern society," Thomas said.

"As Jezebel spends lots of money on partying and cocktails the play explores the way we, as a society, lean on alcohol as both a crutch and means of escape," she said.

Premiering this August at the Judith Wright Centre, **Often I Find That I Am Naked** is produced by Jo Thomas and the Judith Wright Centre, and supported in initial development by Metro Arts.

-ENDS-

<b>Date</b>	Thursday 13 – Saturday 15 August 2009
<b>Time</b>	Thu – Sat 7.30pm + Sat 2pm
<b>Venue</b>	Judith Wright Centre of Contemporary Arts
<b>Tickets</b>	Cabaret \$35, Full \$30, Concession \$27
<b>Bookings</b>	07 3872 9000

For further information, images and interview opportunities please contact  
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## OFTEN I FIND THAT I AM NAKED - BIOGRAPHIES

### FIONA SPROTT (WRITER)

After graduating from the University of Adelaide with a BA degree in Educational Theatre, Fiona co-founded performance company, Safe Chamber, with Jason Sweeney. The works produced by Safe Chamber were group devised pieces incorporating a process of rigorous research, writing, and development of audience-interaction concepts for creating a live experience in which the spectator was active witness and participant. Fiona began writing and performing monologues as part of her work with Safe Chamber and then embarked upon an independent career as a soloist writer-performer.

After performing her first major solo show in 1996, for Brand X Theatre, (*Partly it's about love, partly it's about massacre.*), she moved into working exclusively as a playwright/writer for other performers/companies and has enjoyed a moderately successful national and international career, which continues today. Her work has been produced in Adelaide, Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra, the UK repeatedly, New York (fringe), Bulgaria (Sofia, National Theatre), and will be produced in Brazil, and Canada during 2009/10.

Her other key area of work is with young people, through youth theatre companies, and with professional companies producing work for young audiences, such as SA based Budgie Lung Theatre Company, Urban Myth, DFaces (Whyhalla), and Southern Youth Theatre Ensemble. In 2009 she will be working on Gift/Back with Unreasonable Adults, a commissioned work for the *Come Out Festival*. The work is usually commissioned with a brief to explore topics of sexuality, depression, and suicide and the projects in question have often involved an educational or health related organisation. She is currently researching and developing a concept for a children's drama series (for television).

She now works with Unreasonable Adults, and Unreasonable Films, as one of the Project Leaders, and as company writer, with whom she explores the construction of creative material based upon interpretation of research, and theoretical texts, or critical ideas. She completed her Master of Creative Arts in 2009, on the topic *Single Girls and Serial Killers: Sex, Slaughter and the City*. From this material Unreasonable Adults worked up a range of performed "essays", one of which was commissioned by Robert Pacitti (the Pacitti Company) for the inaugural SPILL Festival of Contemporary Performance, in London, 2007.

### SHANE JONES (DIRECTOR)

Shane has worked for the past 10 years as a director, producer and acting coach. He is a 2006 graduate of the National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA) Directing Program and has also completed a BA in Theatre Studies at Queensland University of Technology (QUT). In 2007 he travelled to New York to train with Anne Bogart and the Saratoga International Theatre Institute. Recent directing credits include *War of the Worlds* (2008) in Hong Kong for Zen Zen Zo Physical Theatre, *Motortown* (2008) by Simon Stephens for 23<sup>rd</sup> Productions, *Hong Kong: Fa Hoi Fu Kwai* (2008) in Hong Kong for Zen Zen Zo, *The Caretaker* (2007) by Harold Pinter for Vena Cava, *Mountain Language*, *New World Order* and *The Dumb Waiter* by Harold Pinter, *The Rain* by Daniel Keene and *The Refuge* by Guy Birks, *Terror, Disorientation and Fear* (devised) and *The Rape of Innocence* (devised) at NIDA.

Previous directing credits include Steven Berkoff's *Agamemnon* (2005) and *Harry's Christmas* (2002), *The Oracle* (2005) for osmosis dance-theatre at Brisbane Powerhouse, the documentary *FIVE: Five Days, Five Mates, \$500* (2001) for Centenary of Federation Queensland, *songs* (2000) for La Boite's *New Boards Festival*, as well as numerous residencies and commissions. Shane has also worked as show director for CIRCA on their European tour of *CIRCA* (2009), movement coach for *Angels in America: Part One* (2008) for New Theatre, and assistant directed on *The Kid* (2008) for Griffin Theatre Company, *The Laramie Project* (2006) and *Beach* (2006) for NIDA, *Greek* (2004) for Punks Palace, *Voices* (2004) for Queensland Arts Council, *The Man Who Sold the World* (2000) for Brisbane Festival and *Ashes of Atreus* (1999) for Zen Zen Zo.

Later this year Shane will direct a film adaptation of the Australian stage classic, *Norm and Ahmed*, produced and distributed through Ariel Media in Sydney.

### JO THOMAS (ACTOR)

Jo works as a performer and producer and is currently based in Brisbane. She has recently been busy shooting the low-budget feature film, *Down Under Mystery Tour* with Director, Michael Noonan. Her other film and television credits include guest roles on *Medivac* and *Neighbours*, various short films and TV commercials and the feature films *In My Image* and *Talk*, which was shown in Cannes. Jo was just part of the large ensemble for Sven Swenson's new piece, *The Truth About Kookaburras* which recently premiered as part of Metro Arts Independents season. Last year, Jo was seen on stage at Metro Arts in *MicroTrip II* and in *Tradition Impossible* for the Southbank Corporation. She also spent many months working on the creative development of a new piece of theatre, *Rosie Little's Cautionary*

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*Tales for Girls*, which is scheduled to premiere in 2010. Jo did an internship with Shakespeare & Company in the USA and she is a graduate of both USQ and QUT. Her other performing credits in Brisbane include recent productions at Brisbane Powerhouse and Judith Wright Centre of Contemporary Arts. Jo is well known in Brisbane circles for her character, Twottie Goldsmith who performed monthly in *Show Us Yer Bits* at the Brisbane Powerhouse for a number of years. Jo has been awarded grants from Brisbane City Council, Arts Queensland and Queen's Trust to devise new works of theatre. Jo has also been doing animation voice-over work and her Mistress of Ceremonies work includes the Spiegel tent for the *Queensland Music Festival*, the *Brisbane Cabaret Festival* and the BCC *Senior Idol* series.

## **SAM CLARK (ACTOR)**

Since graduating from the Bachelor of Theatre Arts (Acting) at USQ in 2005, Sam has toured *Newton's Law* (Queensland Arts Council / Strut and Fret), as well as *Sticks and Stones* (Brainstorm Productions). His other theatre credits include *Getting Betterer All The Time* (Felicity Carpenter), *Ha Ha Ha Plop!*, *Dirty Moles*, *19 Pages* (Backbone Youth Arts), *A Midsummer Nights Dream* (Harvest Rain), *Motortown* (23rd Productions), *Risk* (Umbra Productions/Elaine Acworth) and *Snagged* (DeBase Productions). His film and TV credits include *Sea Patrol 3: Red Gold* and *Tightrope*, a QLD Police / RACQ feature. Sam is a founding member of AS Theatre, and appeared in their 2008 production of Martin McDonagh's *The Lieutenant Of Inishmore*. Sam is a proud member of the MEAA and is on the QLD Branch Council, as well as being Secretary of the Society of Australian Fight Directors Inc.

## **TOM RAYMOND (LIVE MUSICIAN)**

Tom Raymond grew up on the Darling Downs, studying Suzuki Method piano from age four. At seven, upon hearing Benny Goodman, he commenced clarinet and by the completion of highschool had achieved his A.mus (piano) and his L.mus (clarinet) through AMEB. While completing his honours degree in classical clarinet at the QLD Conservatorium, he rediscovered a passion for improvised music and became heavily involved with the transcription and performance of Balkan gypsy music as a founding member of *Doch*, teaching himself piano accordion in the process. He currently appears with *Doch*, *Miguel* (a 9-piece jazz/ latin outfit) and the *Fox Lane Quartet* (French gypsy jazz) and enjoys any opportunity to collaborate with proponents of different artforms.

## **KITTY TAUBE (DESIGNER)**

Kitty Taube completed her Bachelor of Visual Arts with First Class Honours in 2003 at the Queensland University of Technology (QUT). Taube graduated with a major in performance and installation art and has exhibited her work at the Institute of Modern Art, QUT Art Museum, State Library of Queensland and Metro Arts. Taube has experience working as an exhibitions installer for the Queensland Art Gallery (QAG) | Gallery of Modern Art (GoMa), Museum of Brisbane (MoB) and QUT Art Museum. Taube currently works as Gallery Manager for Jan Manton Art, Brisbane. Theatre credits include: *Holy Guacamole* (Adelaide Fringe Festival), *Motortown*, *Hollow Crossing*, *Bronte*, *Closer* and *Micro-Trip* (Metro Arts, Brisbane). Design Assistant credits include: *The School of Arts*, *The August Moon* (Queensland Theatre Company), *The Wishing Well*, *Summer Wonderland* (La Boite) and *Beautiful* (The Loft, QUT). Taube was nominated for best stage design in the *2009 Matilda Awards* for her work on *Hollow Crossing*.