

Theatre Works proudly presents

Ghosts

By Jodi Gallagher after Henrik Ibsen

Directed by Steven Mitchell Wright

30 May - 15 June 2024

Theatre Works: 14 Acland Street, St Kilda

www.theatreworks.org.au

This Winter, **Theatre Works** invites audiences to dive into the hauntingly beautiful world of **Henrik Ibsen's Ghosts**.

A scathing commentary on 19th-century morality, when first staged in 1882 **Ghosts** was bitterly criticised and attacked for the taboo topics it spotlighted. In this gripping drama audiences join Mrs. Alving as she tries to shield her son from the truth of their family's past. But as ghostly secrets unravel, they are forced to confront the reality of their lives. Flawlessly shrouded in deception and duty, **Ghosts** is a journey through the shadows of hidden sins, and a quest for truth in pursuit of joy.

Masterfully adapted by **Jodi Gallagher** and brought to life through the visionary direction of **Steven Mitchell Wright**, this new production takes a recognised Scandinavian sitting-room drama and grafts it to the Australian landscape of the late 1800s. A dynamic fusion of **Ibsen's** classic structure with contemporary form and convention, this highly anticipated season will break new ground by also weaving in a tapestry of digital media that will bridge time, space, and consciousness.

"Ibsen was a staunch advocate of theatrical naturalism, keen on capturing the real, the everyday, and the nuanced dynamics of human relationships on stage", explains Director **Steven Mitchell Wright**.

*"While I deeply respect that, I find myself drawn to forms that challenge and even rebel against the priorities of naturalistic theatre. It's about probing the limits of what theatre can convey and how stories resonate with audiences beyond the boundaries of realism. Embarking on **Ghosts** wasn't just about the artistic journey; it was a personal challenge. Could we reinvigorate this classic? Could we make it resonate with today's audience? That challenge, that opportunity for creative and technical growth, was utterly compelling."*

This production will be **Wright's** second **Ibsen** season with his first - *A Doll's House* headlining **Brisbane Festival** with **La Boite Theatre Company** - winning multiple **Matilda Awards**.

While staying true to the spirit of Ibsen's work, this adaptation by **Jodi Gallagher** also boasts a contemporary, relevant script that marries poeticism with accessibility.

"I've never adapted this kind of canonical play before", adds writer **Jodi Gallagher**. *"I've found it wonderfully challenging. It's been a wrestling match for me - between fidelity to what I perceive as Ibsen's intention, and shaping the text into something more contemporary. Adaptation is such a subjective thing. Today's headlines echo ancient conflicts, the current obsession with trauma theory - all of these things were in my head as I worked through the writing. With this production, even as we flip the location - goodbye fjords, hello red earth emptiness - it was incredibly important to still place the text in that late nineteenth century zeitgeist."*

With a design influenced by the work of artists like [Gertrude Abercrombie](#), [Charles Baudelaire](#), and **Metallica**, this latest reimagining invites audiences into a world where the ordinary becomes extraordinary.



Bringing together a remarkable team of cast and creatives, Melbourne theatre lovers can expect a visually stunning, emotionally charged experience that stays true to the spirit of **Ibsen** while resonating with contemporary audiences.

Running for **three weeks only** this May and June at **Theatre Works**, the stage is set for a journey that will captivate, challenge, and inspire.

One of Australia's longest-running independent theatres, **Theatre Works** is constantly reinvigorating and reimagining the sector by providing a hotbed for artist and audience development. **Ghosts** is playing as a part of the "**By Theatre Works**" programming stream. Other **By Theatre Works** productions in 2024 include *Swansong*, *Things I Know to be True*, *The Volition Project*, and *The Machine Stops*.

*This project is proudly supported by the **City of Port Phillip** and **Creative Victoria***

Written by Jodi Gallagher after Henrik Ibsen

Directed and designed by Steven Mitchell Wright

Performed by Laura Iris Hill, Philip Hayden, Gabriel Cali, Oliver Cowen, and Kira May Samu

Composition and Sound Design by Leahannah Ceff

Produced by Belle Hansen

30 May - 15 June 2024

Tues - Sat 7:30pm

Previews Thursday 30 and Friday 31 May 7:30pm

Opening Night Saturday 1 June 7:30pm

Tickets: \$50 Full, \$42 Concession, \$28 Preview, \$20 Mob Tix and 20 at \$20 (+ booking fee)

Bookings: (03) 9534 3388 or online www.theatreworks.org.au/2024/ghosts

Venue: Theatre Works - 14 Acland Street, St Kilda

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Duration: 2 hours including interval

Suitable for ages: 14+

Warnings: Coarse language, loud sound, smoke effects and flashing light