



Red Stitch Actors Theatre

Who we are; since its creation in 2001 and first season in 2002, Red Stitch Actors Theatre has consistently produced contemporary theatre of the highest standards for Melbourne, Victorian and Australian audiences.

With a commitment to exceptional new writing from around the world, the company has built a reputation for doing work that was not on offer at most local venues. The company steadily built audiences around two excellent four-play seasons per year, most often of Australian or Victorian premieres.

At the heart of this success was an even more important difference – Red Stitch was and is an Ensemble, a company conceived, owned and operated by 15 actors and designers. It is the vision, passion, ability and dedication of this group that creates the work for which the company is famous, and commands a powerful loyalty from its audiences.

The touring and remounting of our productions, and developing partnerships with major venues and arts organisations, are important for enhancing Red Stitch's local and national profile and are essential for the company's growth. Red Stitch has been fortunate to have toured productions regularly since 2003, and has a good working relationship with both Regional Arts Victoria and Performing Lines. The company has established solid links with producers and venues, including The Arts Centre (Victoria) for whom we have remounted three productions. Red Stitch partnered with the Melbourne Festival to deliver a program of play-readings in 2011, and delivered a commission in collaboration with the Flinders Quartet in 2012. In 2013 our play *Midsummer* had a 5 show season at GPAC, we have continued this in 2014 with a tour to 11 venues across Victoria of our 2012 hit show "The Kitchen Sink" and confirmed tours of *Love, Love, Love* and *Grounded* in 2015.

Red Stitch Actors Theatre Presents

Dead Centre & Sea Wall

By Tom Holloway

By Simon Stephens

Directed by Julian Meyrick





Dead Centre by Tom Holloway Sea Wall by Simon Stephens

Dead Centre World Premiere of a new Australian work

Sea Wall Australian Premiere

**July 22 –August 22, 2015 Red Stitch Subscriber Season
Direct Tour August – September 2015**

Remount Tour Season January – September 2016

Red Stitch Actors Theatre presents the World Premiere of *Dead Centre* by Tom Holloway and a companion piece the Australian Premiere of *Sea Wall* by Simon Stephens, Directed by Julian Meyrick

In an exciting cross-continental theatrical endeavour, Red Stitch Actors Theatre presents *Dead Centre/Sea Wall*. Combining the talents of two established writers, Red Stitch brings you an award-winning and highly-lauded piece of UK writing with *Sea Wall* and a world premiere of *Dead Centre* by the hugely successful Australian writer Tom Holloway in a specially commissioned work.

A man and a woman have been torn apart by a tragic loss; he lives in the UK, she lives in Australia. Bound together by their shared pain but living thousands of miles apart, *Dead Centre/Sea Wall* explores the lives of these two seemingly unconnected people in unexpected and heart-rending ways. In *Sea Wall* we are introduced to Alex. Alex's story begins full of clear light and smiles, as he speaks about his wife, visiting her father in the South of France, having a daughter, photography, and the bottom of the sea. But his contentment falls away into deep and heart-breaking grief, crumbling to pieces with a striking vividness. In *Dead Centre*, a woman going through a

period of emotional anguish decides to pack her bags and leave Britain and its sorrows behind. Inspired by a Fosters ad that seems to follow her on one particularly sad Tuesday; she books a flight and heads for sunny Australia to escape from her troubles in the hope of starting again. While residing in the “*Neighbours*-like” suburb of Frankston she yearns to explore more of the big country that has enabled her to begin her new life by escaping the old one she left behind. Haunted by her past, an ex-husband and a missing father she decides to visit Uluru in an attempt to gain some clarity and perspective on things. Surprised by the range of emotions she feels when she encounters the big red rock; she slowly begins to face her past and attempts to move on with her future. These two beautifully written companion monologues, written by Green Room and AWGIE award-winning Tom Holloway (*Dead Centre*) and Olivier award-winning Simon Stephens (*Sea Wall*), speak to each other in vibrant and colourful ways and provide a snapshot of modern life told through the lens of life, loss and all that comes in between

Dead Centre / Sea Wall features ensemble members **Rosie Lockhart** as the unnamed woman and **Ben Prendergast** as Alex.

Praise for Sea Wall

Siobhan Murphy

The Metro

★★★★★

“Simon Stephens’ quietly devastating 30-minute monologue, Sea Wall, has received endless praise since it was first staged at the Bush in 2008”

Caroline McGinn

Timeout London

★★★★★

“Sea Wall’ plunges us suddenly into deep water, A 30-minute tour de force?”

The Guardian

★★★★★

“One of the most devastating 30 minutes that you are ever likely to experience in the theatre.”

Dead Centre by Tom Holloway

Sea Wall by Simon Stephens

The Production Crew

DIRECTOR.....JULIAN MEYRICK

SET DESIGN.....TBA

LIGHTING DESIGN.....CLARE SPRINGETT

STAGE MANAGER / OPERATORELIZABETH DOWNES

RESIDENT WARDROBE.....OLGA MAKEEVA

ACCENT COACH.....SUZANNE HEYWOOD

TECHNICAL MANAGER.....DAWN HOLLAND

PRESS AUDIOVISUAL..... JAMES BALLARD

PRESS PHOTOGRAPHY.....LACHLAN WOODS

PRODUCTION PHOTOGRAPHY.....JAMES BALLARD

BROCHURE IMAGE.....JAMES BALLARD

PUBLICITY.....TS PUBLICITY

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For World / Australian Premiere at Red Stitch, July/August 2015

Creators



Tom Holloway, Playwright

In 2006, Tasmanian playwright Tom Holloway studied in London at the Royal Court Theatre's Invitational Writers' Program and his play *The Bus* aired on ABC Radio National. In 2007, *Beyond the Neck*, inspired by interviews with those affected by the 1996 Port Arthur massacre, was one of 10 plays chosen to be part of the Royal Court Theatre's International Young Playwrights' Festival in London. The play had a sell-out season in Tasmania in September 2007, and in 2008 the play won the AWGIE award for Best Stage Play and was published by Playlab Press. Tom's play *Don't Say the Words* was produced in 2008 by the Tasmanian Theatre Company and Griffin Theatre Company and received great critical acclaim. The play has been published by Currency Press. *Red Sky Morning*, commissioned and produced by Red Stitch Theatre in Melbourne, won the 2007 RE Ross Trust Development Award and was funded by Arts Victoria and the Australia Council for development from first draft to performance readiness. It played to great acclaim in 2008, and was described as "play of the year" by the Sunday Age.



Simon Stephens, Playwright

Having taught on the Young Writers' Programme at the Royal Court Theatre for many years, he is now an Artistic Associate at the Lyric Hammersmith. His writing is characterised as part of the in-her-face generation and is widely performed not only in the UK but also throughout Europe, with several of his plays being premiered abroad. Along with Dennis Kelly, he is one of the most performed English-language writers in Germany.

The Cherry Orchard (2014), Carmen Distruption (2014), Blindsided (2014), Birdland (2014) incorporating Sea Wall and T5, The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time (2012), A Doll's House (2012), Three Kingdoms (2011), Estonia, I Am The Wind (2011), Wastwater (2011), The Trial of Ubu (2010), T5 (2010), A Thousand Stars Explode in the Sky (2010), Marine Parade (2010) Punk Rock (2009), Canopy of Stars (2008), Sea Wall (2008), Pornography (2007), Harper Regan (2007), Motortown (2006), On the Shore of the Wide World (2005), Country Music (2004), Christmas (2004), One Minute (2003), Port (2002), Herons (2001), Bluebird (1998), Bring Me Sunshine (1997). Awards The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time won the Olivier Award for Best New Play 2013, Punk Rock was nominated at the TMA Awards for Best New Play in 2010, and was also nominated for the Evening Standard Award for Best New Play in 2010, Pornography won the Critics' Awards for Theatre in Scotland for Best New Play in 2008, On the Shore of The Wide World won the Olivier Award for Best New Play in 2005, One Minute won at the Tron Theatre Awards as Best New Play in 2003, *Port* won the Pearson Award for Best New Play in 2001

Director



Julian Meyrick, Director

Professor of Creative Arts, Flinders University. Artistic Counsel State Theatre Company South Australia. Honorary Associate, La Trobe University. Honorary Fellow, Deakin University. Associate Director and Literary Advisor at Melbourne Theatre Company 2002-07. kickhouse theatre artistic director 1989-98. Founder member and Deputy Chair of PlayWriting Australia 2004-09. Member of the federal government's Creative Australia Advisory Group 2008-10. Director of many award-winning theatre productions, most recently *Angela's Kitchen*, which attracted the 2012 Helpmann for Best Australian Work. Director of the inaugural production of *Who's Afraid of the Working Class?* and winner of the 1998 Green Room Award for Best Director on the

Fringe. Responsible for expanding the Affiliate Writers Scheme at MTC and for initiating the Hard Lines new play development program. As an academic, he has published histories of the Nimrod Theatre and the MTC, a Currency House Platform Paper, and numerous articles on Australian theatre, cultural policy and contemporary dramaturgy. He is currently completing a series of case studies from Australian theatre in the 1980s focusing on the relationship between creative practice and arts funding

Dead Centre by Tom Holloway Sea Wall by Simon Stephens

The Cast

THE UNAMED WOMAN.....ROSIE LOCHART

ALEX.....BEN PRENDERGAST

Starring: Ensemble



Rosie Lockhart, Actor

Rosie has been a member of Red Stitch Actors Theatre since early 2013 after her turn in *Penelope*. As a Graduate of the Victorian College of the Arts Bachelor of Dramatic Art (2012), Rosie is passionate about creating new Australian work. She has spent most of 2014 collaborating with *Arthur*, a Theatre Company devising *The Myth Project: Twin* (MTC Neon) and *The Mesh* by Elise Hearst premiering at Red Stitch in October 2014. Further theatre credits include *This Year's Ashes*, *Straight* and *Foxfinder* (Red Stitch). Born and raised in Tamworth NSW, Rosie completed a BA (Media & Communications) at The University of Sydney and The Actor (part time NIDA) before moving to Melbourne to further her training. VCA credits include *Compleat Female Stage Beauty*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *Doubt* and *Crimes of the Heart*. Television credits include *Offspring* and *Winners & Losers* (2014).



Ben Prendergast, Actor

Ben Prendergast joined the Red Stitch ensemble in 2013 and has appeared in *The Pride*, *Midsummer*, *Straight*, *NSFW*, *the Flock* and *the Next*, and *The Flick*. A native Melbournian, Ben started his performance life as a musician, and later moved into Theatre, Film and TV. Most recently Ben has appeared in the feature films *Predestination* (Ethan Hawke), *The Last Dance*, and TV shows *The Frontier* (NBC), *The Dr Blake Mysteries*, and *Miss Fishers Murder Mysteries*. Productions

Technical Information

Lighting Requirements

Pre-Rig required.

A lighting plan will be forwarded prior to the tour. Lighting fixtures used will be drawn from venue stock where possible in addition to highlighted fixtures.

The basic lighting design consists of-

- 3 colour wash (warm, cool, OW) covering whole stage
- 6 downlights specials focused tight spots
- Corridor special
- Window special

This design should be able to adapt to most standard rigs

In order to facilitate a one day-bump in it is essential that a full pre rig is done for lighting (all lamps rigged, patched, colored and flashed out).

A minimum of 48 individual dimmer channels

Venue to supply all necessary 3 phase, 240V (10Amp) and DMX cabling.

Venue to supply lighting gel as specified in lighting plan.

Please note:

Producer Supplies Specialist Lighting

Sound Requirements

In order to facilitate a one day-bump in it is essential that a full pre rig is done for audio (all components rigged/set up and working)

- Flown speakers capable of adequately covering entire audience area (min of 4 RCF's or equivalent)
- 2 CD players
- Sound desk
- 1 x Stage Management Announcement Mic for dressing rooms / back of house

○ All cabling to suit

The above should be standard in most venues.

Audio / Visual TBC

Staging Min. this production is adaptable to any stage with minimal set however there will be visual design which will require projection

tbc. Note that this set will be designed and built for touring at the outset

Other Supplied by Producer

Risk Assessment

Public Liability

Additional Information & Contacts

→ **General Manager – Dianne Toulson**

E-mail: gm@redstitch.net

→ **Artistic Director – Ella Caldwell**

E-mail: ella@redstitch.net

→ **Marketing & Communications Manager – Annie Bourke**

E-mail: admin@redstitch.net

→ **Technical & Production Manager – Dawn Holland**

E-mail: dawn@redstitch.net

→ **Contact Numbers**

T +61 3 9533 8082

F +61 3 9510 8760

→ **Website**

www.redstitch.net