

# MEDIA RELEASE

## ARTISTS IMPRISONED! *CONVICT 002* CAST REHEARSE FRINGE SHOW 'INSIDE'!

At 9am on Tuesday 18 September 10 young theatre makers will be imprisoned for 1 day in a tiny cell in the Old Melbourne Gaol. Bereft of mobile phones, ipods or luxuries of any description, the team will be fed some 'gruel, salt horse and skilly' at the same odd hours as food is served in Guantanamo Bay. They will spend time in solitary confinement in the notorious 'padded cell', the effects of which will be countered by an hour of exercise.

Draconian as this may sound, when the artists emerge they will have internalised the feeling of incarceration – and will bring this understanding into their performance in White Whale Theatre's exciting new Australian theatre work, *Convict 002*.

### *Convict 002* by David Mence

Bold young Northcote-based company White Whale Theatre, returning from an acclaimed début season at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival 2006, is excited to present *Convict 002*, a dark and timely rewriting of Marcus Clarke's classic Australian novel *For the Term of his Natural Life*.

In the 1870s Clarke followed Dickens' lead in highlighting the plight of the poor and the downtrodden in heavily industrialised nineteenth-century England to produce his magnum opus which tracked the miseries that colonial power inflicted on those it considered to be the detritus of society – transporting them to a penal hell on the other side of the world, far from the gaze of reformist or regulatory authorities. Emerging Melbourne playwright David Mence (Assistant Director, *Othello*, Bell Shakespeare 2007) has adapted Clarke's classic for the stage and highlighted its resonance with the issues of incarceration which continue to challenge Australia – mandatory sentencing, immigration detention, David Hicks, Dr Mohammed Haneef, and the Barwon 13.



**White Whale Theatre** is an inspired new entity on the Melbourne theatre scene, having received rave 5 & 4 Star reviews at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival 2006 with their original work *Macbeth Re-Arisen*. In November 2007, WWT will present another new work *Melburnalia* at Forty Five Downstairs, featuring specially commissioned works by Kate Holden, Ross Mueller, Tee O'Neill, Alice Pung and Lally Katz.

## PHOTO CALL!

### Lock Down in Old Melbourne Gaol!

10 imprisoned 'convicts', 1 small prison cell!

Great photo opportunity for pre-Festival features

**Please contact Peter Van Der Merwe to confirm your exclusive picture opportunity**

Location: Old Melbourne Gaol,

Time: 11am-12pm

Date: 18 Sept 2007

## LISTING DETAILS

Northcote Town Hall, Studio 2

189 High Street Northcote

**9pm: Sept 26 – 30, Oct 2-7**

**2pm: Sept 29 & Oct 6**

Tickets: \$20/\$15/\$12

Bookings: 03 8412 8777 or

[www.melbournefringe.com.au](http://www.melbournefringe.com.au)

For images, interviews and further information please contact Publicity Manager **Peter Van Der Merwe** on **0439 385 739** or [peter@whitewhaletheatre.com](mailto:peter@whitewhaletheatre.com) or Publicist **Lol Maitland** on **0401 940 224**.