

## Five New Short Plays by Outstanding Local Writers presented in One Unique Production:

# MELBURNALIA

featuring

The CBD – Kew – St Kilda – Ringwood – Footscray

in short works by

Ross Mueller – Lally Katz – Kate Holden – Tee O'Neill – Alice Pung

White Whale Theatre has boldly gone where most fledgling theatre companies would fear to tread – they have commissioned five outstanding Melbourne writers to each create a 20-minute piece about a slice of life in a Melbourne suburb.

These five short plays are woven together in *Melburnalia*, a unique evening of theatre presented by a talented ensemble of six performers, which will have its premiere at Forty Five Downstairs on 1 November 2007. Directed by David Mence and dramaturged by Melanie Beddie, *Melburnalia* is a thought-provoking exploration of the diverse localities, peoples and meanings that come together to form 'Melbourne'.

Local audiences will be able to see specially crafted works by playwrights Ross Mueller (*The Glory, Construction of the Human Heart*), Tee O'Neill (*Requiem for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*) and Lally Katz (*The Black Swan of Trespass, Criminology*), as well as witnessing the first theatrical creations of novelists Kate Holden (*In My Skin*) and Alice Pung (*Unpolished Gem*). These five works will interlink and form a single theatrical journey, with audiences whisked from suburb to suburb and shown an ever-changing portrait of a city with many masks.



In every nook and corner of Melbourne may be found the traces, textures and imprinted experiences of its citizens. Paraphernalia and miscellanea yield up their stories: from the transformative streets of St Kilda to the boulevards of Kew; first love in Footscray and betrayal in Ringwood; from the wide lanes of the Maroondah Highway to the narrow cafés of Degraves St; from heroin to homosexuality; library to laneway; sex work to stage work; bohemians to bogans to boat people to an Apocalypse Bear; all are joined by the shared experience of this place we call Melbourne.

**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 David Mence's original work *Macbeth Re-Arisen*. The company has recently had a successful season of Mence's new work *Convict 002* in the Melbourne Fringe Festival.

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 Producer **Kelly Farrow** on **0407 244 501**.

### LISTING DETAILS

Forty Five Downstairs  
45 Flinders Lane

Bookings: 9662 9966

8.00pm: 1-3, 7-10, 14-17 November

6.30pm: 4 & 11 November

\$26 (full) \$22 (concession) \$20 (preview)

[www.whitewhaletheatre.com](http://www.whitewhaletheatre.com)

