

2011
**CASTLEMAINE
STATE FESTIVAL**
1-10 APRIL

Media Release

KAGE NEW WORK – SUNDOWNER – WORLD PREMIERE

Featuring Helen Morse in a breathtaking performance about Alzheimer's

CASTLEMAINE, February 2011 – In a world premiere, **KAGE'S** new dance theatre work *Sundowner* opens at the Phee Broadway Theatre Castlemaine on 2 April 2011. Working in partnership with **Alzheimer's Australia**, KAGE explores Sundowners Syndrome through a breathtaking dance theatre performance featuring acclaimed **actress Helen Morse**, as well as **Gerard Van Dyck, Michelle Heaven** and **Stuart Christie**.

Sundowner is based around writer Peggy (**Helen Morse**) who, in her late 50s, has younger onset Alzheimer's. Seen through the eyes of three generations *Sundowner* tells the story of the mysteries of Alzheimer's and Sundowners Syndrome – the inexplicable phenomenon where many with Alzheimer's become particularly disorientated and confused when the sun goes down.

Since 2009 KAGE has been involved in a number of focus groups **with carers and people with younger onset dementia**. In partnership with Alzheimer's Australia KAGE listened **to real life stories and offerings about life with Alzheimer's**. KAGE wishes to confront the stigma attached to the disease and to reveal the life affirming moments in these experiences. At every performance, a book of stories and a CD from *Sundowner* **will be available**.

KAGE'S work continues to cross boundaries of theatre and dance, and the choreography adds beauty and a deep sensuality to the work. Through small moments like dancing in the living room to reflecting on memories from younger days, the physicality of *Sundowner* brings communication through the body to the fore. *Sundowner* also features the **Tivoli Lovelies, original dancers from the Tivoli Theatre**. The warmth and tenderness of these women provides consolation and compassion and an affirmation of life and all its cycles.

Creatives include **David Denborough** who collaborated previously with KAGE's work *Headlock*, **Dan Potra** for set design, **Paula Levis** for costume design, **Damien Cooper** as lighting designer. The music is composed by **Kelly Ryall** with a **feature song co-written by well-loved Australian singer-songwriters Paul Kelly and Megan Washington**. KAGE has used text from a children's story book "My Gran's Different" by Sue Lawson and Caroline Magerl, as well as footage with **Jennifer Byrne** from ABC's *First Tuesday Bookclub*. *Sundowner* is a major new performance work combining dance, drama and original composition.

For originality, theatricality and sheer entertainment KAGE was outstanding! (Sydney Morning Herald)

CAST AND CREATIVES:

Director: Kate Denborough

Writer: David Denborough

Cast: Helen Morse, Gerard Van Dyck, Michelle Heaven, Stuart Christie plus the Tivoli Lovelies - Betty Arnold, Vicki Charleston, Verlie Whittaker, Jackie O'Neil, Dot Lanphier, Lil Paranos, Lila Wells, Julie Obst.

Lighting Designer: Damien Cooper

Set Designer: Dan Potra

Costume Designer: Paula Levis

Composer: Kelly Ryall with additional music by Paul Kelly and Megan Washington

Producer: Simone Collins

EVENT DETAILS:

DATE: Saturday 2 & Sunday 3 April

TIME: 2pm and 7:30pm

PLACE: Phee Broadway Theatre, Mechanics Lane Castlemaine

TICKETS: \$25 / \$20

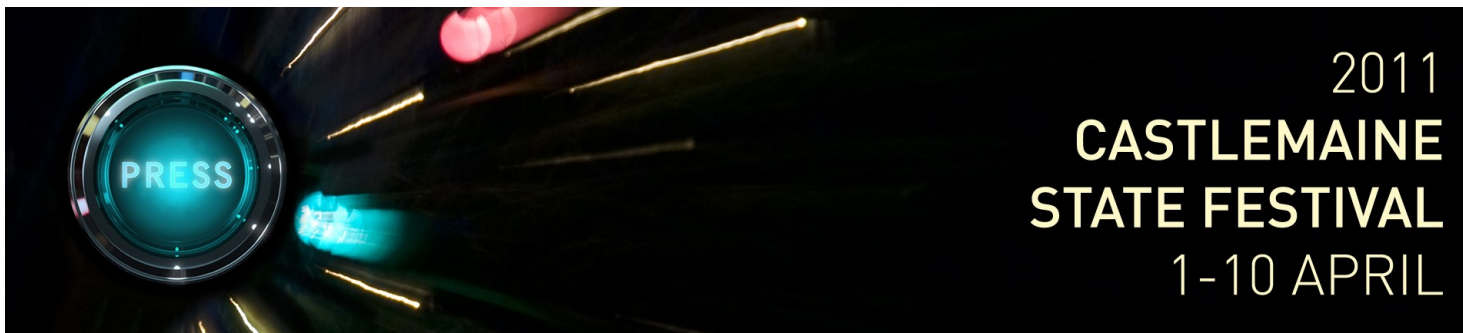
BOOKING: 5434 6100

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KAGE BIOGRAPHY:

KAGE creates genre-busting dance theatre that compels and resonates. As co-directors of KAGE, **Kate Denborough** and **Gerard Van Dyck's** visionary partnership has sparked for over a decade. Extraordinary visual design, physical dexterity and humour are all indelible traits of KAGE's work. Since its performance debut in 1997, KAGE has propelled dance-theatre into fresh territory, claiming international awards, recognition and new audiences along the way.

Their first major work **No (Under)standing Anytime** headlined Next Wave Festival 2000, creating a world inhabited by unexpected and eccentric personalities. It remains one of KAGE's significant works. Van Dyck's idiosyncratic and delightful solo show, **The Collapsible Man**, premiered at Melbourne Fringe 2001. The critically acclaimed **Nowhere Man** premiered in a sell-out season at Melbourne International Arts Festival 2003 where it was awarded runner-up in The Age Critics' Awards. The company's first work for a young audience, **The Day the World Turned Upside Down** is a children's magic show. With the feel of a child's storybook classic, its irreverent slapstick, mesmerising storytelling and vaudeville sensibility continues to astonish audiences everywhere. **Headlock** was a multi award winning performance and was first presented at the Malthouse in 2006 touring to the Sydney Opera House and the Adelaide Festival Centre in 2009. **Appetite** was presented as part of Melbourne International Arts Festival in 2008.

A heady mix of brutal, sensual physicality with subject matter that lingers in the imaginary, **KAGE** reveals the magical and exposes the interior landscapes of the disaffected. Combining drama and theatrical illusion with dance, KAGE continues to innovate, collaborating with elite physical performers and creatives to present works of extraordinary power.

KAGE was delighted to be the inaugural Company in Residence at the Victorian Arts Centre in 2009. In 2010 KAGE became a resident company at the Abbotsford Convent.

It is rare to see a show so beautiful and deeply original, where one stunning image succeeds another, where each scene startles or amuses, where absolutely every detail is attended to perfection. I can't remember the last time I was genuinely sorrowful a show had finished. (The Age – Nowhere Man)

The sheer bloody minded dynamism and emotional depth of these hell raising performances is a wild, explosive, multi-faceted trip into the masculine psyche. The intensity never falters. Young masculinity is portrayed as physically invincible and still emotionally, heart breakingly exposed. KAGE has achieved a profoundly rich production with Headlock. It is physically thrilling, precise and riotously vigorous. The final scene of this stunning production is the most moving theatre experience I have ever had, and I won't ruin it by describing it. Go see it. (Melbourne Stage Online)

www.kage.com.au

For interviews and more information: Pia Johnson, Publicist – pia.johnson@gmail.com // 0413 450 951



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