



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

MEDIA KIT

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Performance program

Profiling world-class artists, and collaborations between the local community and the international arena, the Castlemaine State Festival performance program presents unique **theatre, dance, musical performance, site-specific and solo works.**

The script *Precipice* written by **AWGIE Award winning playwright Catherine Ryan** will have its **world premiere performance** in the stunning tough landscape of the historic **Wattle Gully Mine** from 2-4 April. *Precipice* is a play about two characters balanced right on the edge, hovering, held in the moment before inevitable change. It's about recent times — the tensions between anxiety, threat and compassion. *Precipice* is directed by **Green Room Award winning Laurence Strangio** (*Waiting for Godot, The Flood, Alias Grace*), performed by **Bev Geldard, Tammy McCarthy, Tiffany Raae and Ian Scott.**

From the acclaimed performance group **KAGE** (*Appetite, Headlock, The Collapsible Man*), a brand new performance work called **Sundowner** will premiere from 2-3 April. This breathtaking performance written by **David Denborough** and directed by **Kate Denborough**, traverses sorrow, fears, humour and dignity, through stories of Alzheimer's – and its reality for so many Australian families. Featuring renowned **Australian actress Helen Morse, Gerard Van Dyck, Michelle Heaven, Stuart Christie**, with music by **Kelly Ryall, Paul Kelly** and **Megan Washington**, and an appearance from the **Tivoli Lovelies** (dancers from the original Tivoli Theatre).

Simone (!) is an intimate 90-minute journey into the life of French radical, philosopher and mystic, **Simone Weil (1909–1943)**. The essential drama in the play is the struggle between Simone's deep engagement with society and her growing relationship with God; a struggle which works to destroy herself and her vivid connections with the world. **Lorender Freeman** has used Simone's words to create a powerful one-woman show performed with great sensitivity and intensity by **Samantha Bews** from 2-3 April.

Renowned for her spell-binding stage presence and emotional expression, Belgian chanteuse **Micheline Van Hautem** delivers **one spectacular performance on 6 April of Jacques Brel's music**, singing in French, Flemish and English. Van Hautem has played to packed houses at the Edinburgh Festival, Sydney Opera House, has had two sell out seasons at the Adelaide Cabaret Festival, and in 2009 completed a 60-day European tour with Jacques Brel's nephew, and keeper of the flame, Bruno Brel. She is accompanied by virtuoso guitarist **Erwin van Ligten (Holland)**.

Using the drivers and stereos of 12 local cars – from Castlemaine the 'hot-rod centre of Australia' – **Car-cophony** will transform the ordinary vehicle into a 'wall of sound' in one of Castlemaine's neighbouring towns, Vaughan Springs, on the 3 & 8 April. Over 3 distinct movements, this car stereo symphony of ambient drones, guitar riffs and car crunching sounds will resonate in the little gorge to bring a new slant on hot-rod cars and music.

Local resident and distinctive dancer/choreographer **Michelle Heaven** will present her work **Disagreeable Object** from 6-9 April. Reminiscent of an old silent film in its style and execution, this bizarre and beautiful work sees Heaven in an unforgettable 'pea de deux' with the inimitable **Brian Lucas**. *Disagreeable Object* will be encased within **Ben Cobham's** distinctive design and beautifully accompanied by **Bill McDonald's** original sound score.

And a show for the whole family from 8-9 April, **The Adventures of Alvin Sputnik** - winner of the **Best Solo Show 2009 New York International Fringe Festival** - is a micro-epic theatre piece that melds technology and comedy in a touching story of enduring love. Creator and performer **Tim Watts**, uses mime, puppetry, live and recorded music with animation to present Alvin Sputnik Deep Sea Explorer on a journey into the next and oldest frontier: the deep blue sea.

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

www.castlemainefestival.com.au

