



MEDIA RELEASE

CASTLEMAINE STATE FESTIVAL • 15 - 24 MARCH 2013

PUPPETS, DANCE & CIRCUS SHOWS FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES OVER BOTH WEEKENDS OF THE FESTIVAL

The Castlemaine State Festival has plenty on offer to families and children over the opening (16-17 March) and closing weekends (23-24 March). In particular the theatrical program is rich with puppetry, circus acts, fairytale delights and stunning visual dance pieces to stir the imagination.

The first weekend features indigenous work **Wulamanayui and the Seven Pamanui** at the Phee Broadway Theatre. It retells the story of Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs using dreamtime story and stunning multi-artform skills of puppetry, projection, pantomime and song.

Multi award-winning Danish children's theatre company **Carte Blanche** presents **Water Reflection** at the Castlemaine Town Hall. Dive into a puzzling world of water and visual echoes and be taken on an evolutionary journey that will challenge the origins of life itself. Quite unlike anything you will have seen before.

Scotland's renowned Puppet State Theatre will present **The Man Who Planted Trees**, a beautiful theatrical adaptation of Jean Giono's environmental classic that tells the inspiring story of a shepherd who plants a forest acorn by acorn, transforming a barren wasteland. Destined to be a smash-hit at the Festival.

Premiering within the close confines of The Cube, **Transplant** is a surreal and humorous emergency room drama with a fairytale motif. **Locally written and produced**, *Transplant* is a short, snappy installation/puppetry performance for the most intimate sized audiences, who inadvertently become involved as the fairytale unfolds.

Audiences young and old will be delighted by **Olaf – Professor of Philosophy** and **Adam – Professor of the Laboratory**, two hilarious works from Belgian comedian Stéphane Georis. Professor Olaf travels the world with a chest of drawers that open to reveal ordinary objects on the brink of transformation into extraordinary characters, while Professor Adam is a side-splittingly hilarious scientist struggling to discover the origin of the universe.

And finally something for the little ones aged 4-8 years – is a collision between Dr. Seuss, Circus Oz and Alice in Wonderland, **Curiosity** is an energetic and wonderfully warm live theatre adventure. Performed by three of Australia's most brilliant circus performers, *Curiosity* is a rare theatrical treat.

Combined with these stunning visual works, over both weekends there is a huge program of free events taking place in Castlemaine's central Victory Park and the Continuing Education Building that provide the perfect setting for a family excursion to experience the Festival.

All the details and performance dates online – www.castlemainefestival.com.au