

MEDIA RELEASE

Metro Arts and Robert Thwaites present

A CATCH OF THE BREATH

18 August – 5 September 2010



A Catch of the Breath weaves Brisbane-born writer Michael Thwaites' compelling verse into a rich spectacle of dynamic physicality, gorgeous scenography, an original musical score and powerful spoken word.

Robert Thwaites' highly physical work captures the apprehension and wonder in the poetry of his grandfather, Michael Thwaites, as he grapples with the themes of his generation - the immensity of space, the terror of mortality, the wonders of nature, and legacy we leave.

"On returning to my grandfather's poetry, I felt very close to the passions and fixations that are expressed in his beautifully crafted verse. Our experiences of life were quite different, yet there are insights within the poems that persist across generations, and it is these that have inspired the process for me and my creative team." Robert Thwaites

In Australian society, there is a legacy of cultural values underpinning our everyday lives, particularly in relation to war and the Anzac tradition. *A Catch of the Breath* is a reflection on our uneasy relationship with the past. Sometimes looking back is the only way to move forward...

Four people enter a deceased estate to sort through the relics of a man's life. The experiences they uncover take them on a journey through the turbulent 20th century, and one person's struggle to exist in uncertain times. The family members attempt to piece together impressions of this man's life, based on the writings, photographs, newspaper articles and objects in the space. Past and present collide, as the family encounters the deceased's experiences of childhood, of war, of encounters with nature.

Michael Thwaites' extraordinary life involved naval service in World War II, and being appointed director of counter-espionage for ASIO during the Cold War. His poems are populated with tender and amusing observations of his life and times, as well as a penchant for dark introspection. As the twentieth century slips into history, what insights do we have to gather from those among us who lived through it?

A Catch of the Breath is co-presented by director/ producer Robert Thwaites and *!Metro Arts Independents*, a program dedicated to artists and the development of their practice. Artists demonstrating commitment, skills, experience and a clear objective for a project are selected to professionally present a season of their new work. This contemporary work is a collaboration of some of Brisbane's most exciting emerging artists.

Director/ Animator/ Designer
Composer
Production Manager

ROBERT THWAITES
JEREMY NEIDECK ***
CHRIS VERNON

Featuring
EMMA CHE MARTIN
ROBBIE O'BRIEN
DAVID PAWSEY
PETA WARD

WHAT: A CATCH OF THE BREATH
WHEN: 18 August – 5 September 2010 Tues – Sat 7.30pm
WHERE: METRO ARTS, 109 Edward Street, Brisbane
BOOKINGS: 07 3002 7100 or www.metroarts.com.au
TICKETS: \$20 / \$16 / \$12 GROUPS

*** Please note that there is a change to the original creative team, Jeremy Neideck is now the composer.

ENDS

To arrange interviews, request story angles or for more information please contact:

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