

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

MOONLIGHTING AT DECKCHAIR

Perth based theatre director Jeremy Rice is producing his first theatre piece since moving on from Barking Gecko Theatre.

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Ruby Moon is being presented by Always Working Artists at Deckchair Theatre under the umbrella program and although the subject matter is about children, the audience is far removed from those Rice has been working with.

Ruby Moon, written by Matt Cameron, follows two parents when an empty investigation leads them to take matters into their own hands.

Recently produced in Melbourne and Sydney (Cate Blanchett directed the Sydney premiere) Rice says the play brings to life suburbia's dark soul.

"As a parent, I find stories of missing children gut-wrenching.

"But as a theatre director, I find *Ruby Moon* a very clever and powerful exploration of those gut-wrenching fears.

"I think *Ruby Moon* combines two fairy-tales: the classic Brothers Grimm story of Little Red Riding Hood with a modern TV story from *Without A Trace*.

"Or even from real life: Keisha Abrahams, the Beaumont children, Melbourne's Eloise Worldidge.

"The classic fairy-tale takes us into the realm of our subconscious hopes and fears and our grim fascination with real stories of disappearance", he says.

Benj D'Addario and Kate Rice take on the gruelling roles of the parents as they desperately interrogate their neighbours in the search for a final answer.

-ends-

WHEN: 19-30 October 2010, Tue-Sat, 8pm
PREVIEWS: Fri 15 October and Sat 16 October, 8pm
MATINEES: Wed 27 October, 11am and Saturday 30 October, 2pm
RUNNING TIME: 80 minutes, no interval
WHERE: Victoria Hall, 179 High Street, Fremantle
PRICE: Standard \$30 / Concession \$20 / Student groups & preview \$15
BOOKINGS: 1300 314 151 or www.deckchairtheatre.com.au

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BACKGROUND

ALWAYS WORKING ARTISTS

Always Working Artists is the company of actor-playwright Kate Rice and director Jeremy Rice, formed in 2000 to produce *The Gospel of Mark* at Belvoir Street Downstairs. While living in Darwin, Kate and Jeremy produced *Sextet* – a season of international short plays, Oscar Wilde's *Salome* and several award-winning short films as part of the Darwin Festival of Films. In 2008 the company produced the acclaimed verbatim theatre project *Apocalypse Perth* at the Blue Room.

JEREMY RICE

Jeremy has worked continuously as a director in theatre and television since graduating from the directing course at NIDA (National Institute of Dramatic Art) in 1993.

He was artistic director of Barking Gecko Theatre for Young People 2006 – 2010, responsible for popular and critically-praised productions including *Fatty Wombat*, *The Troll from the Bowl*, *The Lost Girl* for Perth International Arts Festival and *Skylab* for the UNIMA international puppetry festival. His latest production for Barking Gecko, *The African Magician* by Sudanese-Australian playwright Afeif Ismail, is currently touring Western Australia.

Jeremy was recently drama coach for the television adaptation of Tim Winton's *Cloudstreet*.

His television directing credits include *Trapped* for Seven, *In the Swim* a comedy pilot for SBS and the cult adult drama series, *Pacific Drive*.

Jeremy is married to actor-playwright Kate Rice. Jeremy is directing Kate's latest commission, *The Fiction Makers*, for Curtin University's Hayman Theatre.

KATE RICE

Kate Rice studied acting at VCA and playwriting at NIDA. She has been commissioned by Agelink Theatre Company, Black Swan's HotBed program, Barking Gecko Theatre Company, Darwin Theatre Company, Darwin High School and Corrugated Iron Youth Arts. Her play *The Dead Zone* won an AWGIE in the Theatre For Young Audiences category in 2006. *The Mozart Faction*, produced by Red Ryder Theatre Company, won the Blue Room People's Choice Award 2007 and an Equity Guild Award for director Emily McLean. Kate has also written for the screen, including short films and several episodes of the children's television series *Trapped*. She is currently Playwright in Residence at Deckchair Theatre. Kate can be seen on Western Australian television with both her daughters in an advertisement for the Office of Road Safety.

BENJ D'ADDARIO

Benj trained at Curtin University and WAAPA. Theatre credits include *God of Carnage* and *The Crucible* (Black Swan State Theatre Company), *Glorious!* and *Welcome to Dullsville* (Perth Theatre Company); *Henry V* (Household Words); *Hamlet* (Parramatta Theatre); *An Idiot Amongst Us* (Belvoir St Downstairs); *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Short Shakes); *The Treatment* and *Portia Coughlin* (Darlinghurst Theatre); *Actors At Work* and *Much Ado About Nothing* (Bell Shakespeare); *Hotel Sorrento* (Class Act); *Medea 05* (Steamworks); *Dealer's Choice* and *Loveplay* (Red Ryder Productions); *Fragmented* (Fragmented Artists); *The York Crucifixion* (Happy Dagger Theatre). His TV credits includes *Home and Away*, *Big Sky* and *Comedy Inc*. He also produced *A Moment on the Lips* and *The Mozart Faction* (Red Ryder productions). Benj has been a proud member of Equity since 1996.

FIONA BRUCE

Fiona is a graduate of the WAAPA design course where, in her final year, she received the 2009 David Hough Award for Stage Design. Before attending WAAPA, Fiona designed *Falling Petals* at the Blue Room for Black Swan's Hotbed Ensemble in 2006. In 2010 she is again a member of Hotbed, designing *The Shape of Things* and *Yellow Moon* at PICA. She was a design assistant for Black Swan's *Much Ado About Nothing*, and has also worked for deckchair theatre, Steps Youth Dance Company, and ThinIce.

CHERIE HEWSON

Cherie Hewson's recent design credits include *Honey Spot* for Yirra Yaakin, *Refractions / Forget Me Not* at Deckchair Theatre and *Horsehead* at the Blue Room for Longwood Productions, *The Maids* at The Blue Room and *Run Kitty Run* for Barking Gecko Theatre Company. Cherie has worked wardrobe for Disney on Ice, Burswood, The Regal Theatre, Mandurah Performing Arts Centre, The Big Day Out, Kiss, AC DC, Janet Jackson, Elton John, Jerry Lewis, Billy Joel, Dancing Dynamite and Chicago.

JOE LUI

Joe Lui is a theatre director, writer and designer. He works primarily with Renegade Productions, a theatrical production company of which he is a founding member. His Directorial and Design credits include *Salome*(2007), *Mammalien*(2007), *Antigone* (2008), the *Stratagem of Interlocking Rings* (2008), *Mammalien II* (2008) and *Frankenstein, or the Modern Prometheus* (2009), all of which he directed, designed and composed for. He has worked with many independent theatre groups and practitioners in Perth, including Flaming Locomotive productions, Sandpiper Productions and Plink Plonk productions.

JOSEPH MERCURIO

Joseph Mercurio has collaborated with some of Australia's leading choreographers including; Stephen Page (*Praying Mantis Dreaming, Ochres, Fish and Corroboree*), Australian Ballet (*Alchemy*), Sue Healey (*Fine Line Terrain and Inevitable Scenarios*), and recently Grahame Murphy and Chrissie Parrott. Joseph was Lighting Designer for both the Olympic Arts Festivals (1996 and 2000) and in charge of lighting (props) for the Closing Ceremony for the 2000 Sydney Olympics.