

MEDIA RELEASE

MONOLOGUE FOR A MURDERER

OCTOBER 29 – NOVEMBER 9

"The heart of this event is not the loss. It's the desire to kill."

Monologue for a Murderer, a new play based on the 2002 shooting of 17 people at a German high school, opens at La Mama Courthouse Theatre on October 29 for a limited season.

Award-winning playwright **Kate Rice** imagines a confrontation between the ghost of the shooter and the school principal, recreates moments of pathos and black humour in the lead-up to the event, and questions her own arrogance at attempting to find meaning in someone else's tragedy.

Rice, who speaks fluent German, attended the 10th anniversary commemorations of the shooting. Rice writes, *"I saw the pain in Erfurt. I felt it. I cried for those who were killed. But my tears didn't bring me closer to understanding what happened here."*

Brilliant young actor **Nicholas Denton**, recently seen in *The Glass Menagerie* in Melbourne Fringe, plays the shooter Robert Steinhäuser. Denton wrote and starred in the short film *Rabbit*, selected for this year's Cannes Film Festival.

Leading Australian actress and director **Kaarin Fairfax**, the star of John Jarrett's soon-to-be-released thriller *Stalker*, plays the school principal. West Australian **Kirsty Hillhouse** returns to Melbourne theatre after playing lead roles for Perth's Black Swan State Theatre Company, Fremantle's Deckchair Theatre and other Western Australian theatre, television and film projects.

Director **Jeremy Rice** is stripping back the Courthouse Theatre to its 19th century institutional origins - matching the aesthetic of the 'Gutenberg Gymnasium' school where the shooting took place - with help from visiting German lighting designer **Elisabeth Strohmeier**.

Always Working Artists has produced independent theatre in Sydney, Darwin, Perth and Melbourne, including Kate Rice's one-act play *Royals* in Melbourne Fringe, *Improvilicious* for Melbourne Comedy Festival and the Western Australian premiere of Matt Cameron's *Ruby Moon*.



Directed by **Jeremy Rice**

Written by **Kate Rice**

Performed by **Louise Cox, Nicholas Denton, Kaarin Fairfax, Kirsty Hillhouse, Andi Snelling and Charlie Sturgeon**

Designed by **Sarah Tulloch**

Venue: **La Mama Courthouse, 349 Drummond Street, Carlton**

Times: **Wed 6.30pm | Thu, Fri, Sat 7.30pm | Sun 4pm**

Tickets: **Full \$25 | Concession \$15**

Available via: **www.lamama.com.au | 03 9347 6142**