

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



Tiger stalks the stage at Inveresk

An action-packed play by Rajiv Joseph about a Bengal Tiger which haunts the streets of war-torn Baghdad will be the inaugural production of Launceston theatre group Persona Collective.

Persona Collective is an ensemble of theatre artists that evolved from the Voice Theatre Lab, a laboratory that explored and developed rigorous and highly energized physical and vocal training methods.

Its members investigate through process, the realms of physical theatre and vocal exploration to create new and reimagined theatrical works.

UTAS Tasmanian College of the Arts' (TCotA) Chris Jackson will direct the Tony Award-winning play *Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo*, which will be presented by Next Stage at The Annexe Theatre, Inveresk, on Thursday, April 3 and Friday (preview), April 4, before official three-day season performances on April 10, 11 and 12 (all at 7pm).

"This place is lousy with ghosts," proclaims the Tiger, as he observes the world around him, littered with people and places that are shadows of their former selves; shrapnel of a war long since finished.

The cast features local emerging and established theatre talent such as Mitchell Langley, Ben Glover, Amanda Phillips, Jordan Draper, John Swindells and director Chris Jackson.

Jackson utilises multiple performance styles to interrogate two of the script's themes: language and cultural barriers.

"The play presents us with a look inside the absurd insanity that is the state of our world and how much damage ignorance can do," Jackson said.

"The author examines the trauma and the perpetual motion of the bullet that, once fired, tears through the flesh of society leaving in its wake a mess of

ignorance, misinformation and fear of the unknown: what becomes of us now, what is next, is this all there is?"

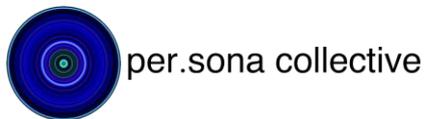
Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo

Where: The Annexe Theatre

When: Previews: April 3 and 4
Season: April 10, 11, 12. All shows at 7pm.

Bookings: Door sales (or call 6324 4450 for details)

Tickets: Adult \$20.00, Concession \$15.00, Student \$10.00



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