

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



***The Way of Water* marks devastating oil spill**

The largest accidental marine oil spill in the history of the petroleum industry is the subject of a free play-reading at the UTAS School of Visual and Performing Arts at Inveresk on Tuesday 24 April.

The reading of *The Way of Water* by international award-winning playwright Caridad Svich marks the second anniversary of the Deepwater Horizon Oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

The play focuses on poverty and the devastation of community, health and environment in the US Gulf region following the spill, caused by an explosion that killed 11 men working on the oil platform and injured 17 others.

It's estimated that the drill leaked about 4.9 million barrels of oil over five months, causing extensive damage to marine and wildlife habitats and to the Gulf's fishing and tourism industries.

Peter Hammond, Head of Performing Arts Program, SVPA, said the play offers a confronting array of propositions: "What would my own reaction be if this occurred here, how would it affect my life, and those around me? These questions with problematic answers resonate within all of us."

Visiting Artist-in-Residence and SVPA alumnus Angela Miller commented that play readings such as *The Way of Water* contribute to the ongoing development of scripts, the feedback of the actors, and the response and comments of the audience.

The play reading will be performed by Peter Hammond, Shah Shaharuddin, Megan Jolly, and Laura Bishop.

Venues around the world where *The Way of Water* is also being performed include Alameda Theatre, Toronto, Canada; American Stage Theatre Company, St. Petersburg, Florida; Atomic Age Theater Company in collaboration with Emerson College, Boston, MA; California Institute of the Arts, Valencia, California; Theatre Incognita, Ithaca, New York; EAST LA REP, Los Angeles, California; Lark Play Development Center, New York City; Main Street Theatre, Houston, Texas; Rose Bruford College, England

DATE: Tuesday 24th April, 4-6pm

LOCATION: Drama Studio @ Annexe Theatre, School of Visual and Performing Arts, Inveresk
COST: Free

For more information contact Alisa Ward, School of Visual and Performing Arts, ph. 6324 4423

- For further information on The Way of Water see <http://www.nopassport.org/wayofwater>

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