

Arts Centre Melbourne presents A Griffin Theatre Company Production

## The Bleeding Tree

Written by Angus Cerini, starring Paula Arundell, Sophie Ross and Brenna Harding



**MELBOURNE, FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** – Arts Centre Melbourne is thrilled to be presenting the acclaimed Griffin Theatre Company production *The Bleeding Tree* in May, starring **Paula Arundell** (*Mr Burns, Angels in America*), **Sophie Ross** (*What Rhymes with Cars and Girls*) and **Brenna Harding** (*Puberty Blues, Black Mirror*).

In a dirt-dry town in rural Australia, a shot shatters the still night. A mother and her daughters have just welcomed home the man of the house... with a bullet. The only issue now is disposing of the body.

From the pen of Victorian playwright **Angus Cerini**, *The Bleeding Tree* premiered at Griffin Theatre Company in 2015. It immediately earned praise as 'a great and complex production' (The Australian), winning three Helpmann Awards: Best Play, Best Direction and Best Female Actor, as well as a 2016 NSW Premier's Literary Award. In 2017, Sydney Theatre Company presented the original production, which completely sold out.

Triggered into thrilling motion by an act of revenge, *The Bleeding Tree* is an Australian murder ballad blown up for the stage, with three strong women fighting back. Throughout, Cerini's writing is powerfully lyrical, bracingly funny and a highly original take on Australian gothic.

In the hands of Griffin Theatre Company Artistic **Director Lee Lewis** and designer **Renée Mulder** (*Battle of Waterloo*) this is theatre that is, in all its elements, 'brutally brilliant' (*Daily Review*).

'This is powerful, visceral and deeply exhilarating theatre – just as it should be.' ★★★★★ - **The Guardian**

'...Powerful look at domestic violence... a short but potent piece, equal parts murder ballad and revenge thriller' - **Sydney Morning Herald**

'Bruising, bold and brilliant... the performances in *The Bleeding Tree* are pitch perfect.' - **Australian Stage**

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# Media Release

15 – 19 May, 2018

Tickets on sale at [www.artscentremelbourne.com.au](http://www.artscentremelbourne.com.au)

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