

MEDIA RELEASE

April 2017

SISTA GIRL

Presented by Country Arts SA, State Theatre Company South Australia

A raucous and powerful look at our search for identity.

Two young women meet face to face for the first time across the bed of a dying man. Strangers to each other but bonded by blood and grief. They are sisters. They break the cold silence of the hospital room to start a difficult conversation about the past and secrets; about the women who were their mothers, and why this man, their father, abandoned one family to make another. When the past is dying and can't say sorry, how do you move on?

Starring *Rabbit Proof Fence's* Natasha Wanganeen and Nadia Rossi (*The Memory of Water*), *Sista Girl* is an exploration of the relationship between indigenous and non-indigenous Australians, via the story of two women who share a white father.

Whyalla-born, Port Pirie-raised Elena Carapetis, who is the State Theatre Company South Australia's resident artist for 2017, co-wrote the production with Alexis West.

"I am so happy that I will be able to share my work with the wonderful people of Barngarla and Whyalla, the place where I was born. Living the early part of my life in country South Australia had a huge impact on the person I am today and it is a privilege to be able to give something back to the community," Elena said.

"I hope you will enjoy the stories as they unfold, I hope you get that little electric shock of joy as you witness something familiar play out, about the kinds of people and places that are dear to your hearts."

Strangers to each other but sisters by blood, these two young women break the silence between them and unfold the complex nature of family in *Sista Girl*.

Sista Girl is touring to smaller communities further out in regional SA as part of a strategy between Country Arts SA and State Theatre Company SA.

State Theatre Company South Australia Artistic Director Geordie Brookman said: "We see *Sista Girl* as a proactive step into the future of Australian theatre making. Creating cross cultural work that respects and gives a proper platform to diverse voices is one of the most important jobs for Australian theatre companies to do. To have the opportunity to tour that work regionally is like the icing on the cake."

Country Arts SA's Arts Programs Director Anthony Peluso said: "*Sista Girl* is the second work to tour to regional South Australia as part of a new four year strategy between Country Arts SA and State Theatre Company South Australia. More communities than ever before will see this newly commissioned theatre work, including in Ceduna and Taillem Bend for the first time. We are looking for new communities to come on board each year."

Media enquiries: Joy Lothian Joy.Lothian@countryarts.org.au or (08) 8444 0417 / 0423 828 035 or Helene Sobolewski Helene.Sobolewski@countryarts.org.au or (08) 8444 0429

Sista Girl is part of the State Theatre Company's Education Program. There are limited tickets for the general public for each performance.

Touring dates:

Hopgood Theatre, Noarlunga

Tuesday May 9, 1pm

Chaffey Theatre, Renmark

Thursday May 11, 1pm

Keith Institute, Keith

Friday May 12, 1pm

Bookings: Keith Council Office, Ph. 8755 3347

Sir Robert Helpmann Theatre, Mount Gambier

Monday May 15, 1pm

Port Augusta Institute Theatre, Port Augusta

Thursday May 18 1pm & 7pm

Bookings: Cultural Centre Booking Office, Ph. 8641 9176

Middleback Arts Centre, Whyalla

Friday May 19, 1pm

Nautilus Arts Centre, Port Lincoln

Monday May 22, 11am

Ceduna Memorial Hall, Ceduna

Tuesday May 23, 1pm & 7pm

Bookings: Ceduna Pharmacy

Tailem Bend, Town Hall Tailem Bend

Friday May 26, 1pm

Tickets

Adult \$26

Groups 6+ \$22

Under 17 \$15

Transaction Fees Apply: Online \$2.00 Phone/Counter \$3.50

Sista Girl has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Ministry for the Arts' Catalyst – Australian Arts and Culture Fund.



Media enquiries: Joy Lothian Joy.Lothian@countryarts.org.au or (08) 8444 0417 / 0423 828 035 or Helene Sobolewski Helene.Sobolewski@countryarts.org.au or (08) 8444 0429