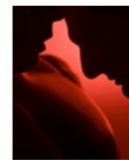




SYDNEY *2010*
GAY & LESBIAN
MARDI GRAS



HATS OFF!
22 FEB



THRILL ME
24 FEB-6 MAR



ON THE ROCKS
25 FEB-6 MAR



SARAH WATERS
26 FEB



QUEER THINKING
26 FEB



EACH HIT AND I
2-6 MAR

MARDI GRAS

AT THE SEYMOUR CENTRE

Saucy and sophisticated, the **Seymour Center's** new partnership with the **Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras** presents a smoldering line-up of music, theatre, art and conversation across **February** and **March 2010**.

Direct from the USA the **Kinsey Sicks** brings Sydney their cracker show **Each Hit and I** (2-6 Mar); the fabulous **Margaritas** star in **On the Rocks** (25 Feb-6 Mar), and the chilling tale of the 'perfect crime' unfolds in **Thrill Me** (24 Feb-6 March).

Queer Thinking on 26 February brings Sydney the most influential local and international queer thinkers and literary talent, with a range of fascinating events, at the Seymour including an 'in-conversation' with **Sarah Waters**. And a specially commissioned photographic exhibition **Take A Drag** (15 Feb-6 Mar), explores transgender, diversity and community.

Cheaper than a drag diva's diamantes – dare we say, Seymour is Mardi Gras' best valued fun; with a special double bill package to see **Thrill Me** and **On the Rocks** for nearly half price, as well as multi-tix discounts for three or more shows booked.

HATS OFF! 2010 'THE HISTORY OF SHOWSTOPPERS' (Tue 22 Feb, 7:30pm, \$70-90, (all proceeds to charity) Everest Theatre)
Hat's Off! returns for an amazing 12th year with a retrospective concert featuring a star studded line-up of Australian musical theatre, comedy, dance and cabaret performers all donating their time and talent to help raise much-needed funds for ACON and BGF. *Hats Off!* is a Mardi Gras Festival highlight featuring classic showstoppers from West End and Broadway musicals over the last century. Hosted by the hysterical Jan Van de Stool with Garry Scale attempting to lend some sanity to the proceedings, book early as this event will sell out! NB: Directed by Margi de Ferranti, produced by Jonathan Mill and Laurence Stark. Presented by New Mardi Gras and Oz ShowbizCares / Equity Fights AIDS Inc.

THRILL ME: THE LEOPOLD & LOEB STORY (24 Feb - 6 Mar Tue-Sat, 7pm, \$20-30 Downstairs Theatre)
Relationships can be murder. *Thrill Me* is the award-winning Off-Broadway musical that recounts the chilling true story of the legendary duo Leopold and Loeb, who committed one of the most infamous crimes of the 20th century. It's 1924, and two wealthy University of Chicago students believe themselves to be Nietzschean 'supermen', superior to the rest of society. But when they forge their dark plans to commit the 'perfect crime', things don't unfold exactly as they'd planned. NB: Book, Music & Lyrics by Stephen Dolginoff, a Squabbalogic production directed by Jay James-Moody, produced by Jessica Burns and musical direction by Mark Chamberlain

THE MARGARITAS IN 'ON THE ROCKS' (25 Feb - 6 Mar Thu-Sat 9.30pm, \$18-25, Downstairs Theatre)
Fast becoming notorious for reworking vintage gems from the 60s, 70s and 80s, Sydney's hilarious female trio, The Margaritas, serve up a delicious mix of cabaret and burlesque with a deliciously wicked sense of humour. Tart and complex with a hint of bitterness, these sophisticated temptresses will add some of your old favourites into the blender and serve them up with a twist for Mardi Gras 2010. NB: Creators Jackeline Laso, Nathalie Cotte, Natalie McCormack

QUEER THINKING (Fri 26 Feb, 12.30-10.30pm, \$12-15, (for day pass to any event) Seymour Centre)
A fusion of academia, literature and ideas, **Queer Thinking** brings together the queer community's best creative and academic talent to discuss their work, explore ideas and reflect upon the 2010 Festival theme, 'Mardi Gras' History of the World' including **Erwin Olaf, Pedro Virgil, Paul Burston** and so many more. This full day of talks, panel discussions, book launches and lively debates features sessions programmed throughout the Seymour, with one ticket providing access to the whole day. See below for more details on the individual events

QUEER THINKING: SARAH WATERS (Fri 26 Feb 6.30pm, \$18-25, Everest Theatre)
A highlight of the Queer Thinking day is this on-stage 'In Conversation' event with award-winning author Sarah Waters. Author of the award-winning trilogy of sexy Victorian novels (*Tipping the Velvet*, *Fingersmith*, *Affinity*); *The Night Watch*, a tender and tragic novel set against the backdrop of wartime Britain; and her most recent novel, *The Little Stranger*, Sarah Waters has been shortlisted for both the Man Booker Prize and the Orange Prize, and is among the UK's most successful lesbian authors. Get up close and personal with Sarah as she talks candidly about her books in this delightful In-Conversation event.

THE KINSEY SICKS DRAGAPPELLA QUARTET IN 'EACH HIT AND I' (2-6 Mar, 7.30PM, \$20-38, Everest Theatre)
Direct from the USA, combining award-winning acappella singing, sharp satire and over-the-top drag The Kinsey Sicks are one of the hottest Off-Broadway Comedy-Musical troupes. The New York Times praises their 'voices sweet as birdsong' and Billboard Magazine calls them 'one act that should not be missed'. In their all-new touring show *Each Hit and I*, The Kinseys treat us to an evening of politics, personal secrets and plain old raunch – and all in glorious four-part harmony! Through exciting original songs and truly evil parodies, The Kinsey Sicks plan to leave no sacred cow standing. (Don't ask.)

TAKE A DRAG (15 Feb - 6 Mar, Upper Foyer)
Question and challenge the boundaries of culturally-defined gender. Sydney photographer Cynthia Sciberras' collection of portraits taken in Bali from 2005-09 are an intimate, colourful and theatrical photographic exhibition of transgender, diversity and community.

FESTIVAL VITALS Dates: 22 Feb-6 Mar **Times:** various **Where:** Seymour Centre - Corner Cleveland Street and City Road, Chippendale **Bookings & More Info:** Box Office P: 02 9351 7940 W: www.seymourcentre.com **Prices:** Various * Multi-tix price - buy tickets to 3 or more Seymour 2010 Season shows and enjoy the Multi-tix discount. * Double bill offer - discount tickets to Thrill Me and On The Rocks when you purchase a DOUBLE BILL package.

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MEDIA ENQUIRIES: Amber Forrest-Bisley, Director - Cardinal Spin
P: 02 8021 1215 M: 0405 363 817 E: amber@cardinalspin.com.au

MEDIA RELEASE

EDITORS' NOTES:

"ENQUIRING MINDS" QUEER THINKING

IN CONVERSATION WITH SARAH WATERS

Date FRI 26 FEB

Time 6.30PM

Tickets ADULT \$25/CONC \$20, MULTI-TIX \$20/CONC \$18*, MARDI GRAS MEMBERS \$20

Venue EVEREST THEATRE

After her award-winning trilogy of sexy Victorian novels (*Tipping the Velvet*, *Fingersmith*, *Affinity*), Sarah Waters turned to the 1940s and wrote *The Night Watch*, a tender and tragic novel set against the backdrop of wartime Britain. Shortlisted for both the Orange and the Man Booker prizes, it went straight to number one in the bestseller chart. Sarah's most recent novel, *The Little Stranger*, was shortlisted for the 2009 Man Booker Prize and again proves why she is among the UK's most successful lesbian authors. Get up close and personal with Sarah as she talks candidly about her books in this delightful In-Conversation event.

TALKS AND SEMINARS

Full day's schedule on www.seymourcentre.com

Date FRI 26 FEB

Time 12.30PM-10.30PM

Tickets \$15, MARDI GRAS MEMBERS \$12

Ticket allows access to all Queer Thinking events. (except In Conversation with Sarah Waters)

A fusion of academia, literature and ideas, Queer Thinking brings together the queer community's best creative and academic talent to discuss their work, explore ideas and reflect upon the 2010 Festival theme, 'Mardi Gras' History of the World'. Featured books will be available at the Seymour Centre during Queer Thinking

Community Discussions (Talk)

The floor is open for discussion! Spend the afternoon feeding your mind with new ideas, re-examining old notions and challenging current concepts. We've opened up the discussion to the organisations within our community who'd like to have their thoughts heard. If you have something to say or just want to immerse yourself in theoretical discussion, come along and be a part of these dynamic community sessions. Various sessions run throughout the day.

Crossing the Line (Illustrated Talk)

Discover the long history of cross-dressing in Australia in an illustrated talk by the State Library's Fashion Curator **Margot Riley**. From Jeanne Bare, dressing as a man to become the first woman to circumnavigate the world, to Herbert Dyce Murphy who transformed himself into an Edwardian lady to spy on the Russians, see the many colourful, gender-swapping characters, both past and present, whose often surprising stories can be found in the collections of the State Library of NSW.

Erwin Olaf (Artist Talk)

Mixing photojournalism with studio photography, Olaf emerged in the international art scene in 1988 when his series 'Chessmen' was awarded the first prize in the Young European photographer competition. This award was followed by an exhibition at the Ludwig Museum in Cologne, Germany. Since then Olaf has continued to explore issues of gender, sensuality, humor, despair and grace in each successive series. Join Erwin as he discusses the creation of his work, its historical themes, and the art of photography.

Out of the Box: Australian Lesbian and Gay Poets (Seminar and Book Launch)

Launched by The Hon Michael Kirby AC CMG and intermedia academic superstar Anna Gibbs, *Out of the Box* is the first contemporary book of its kind: poems by gay and lesbian poets writing now in the freedoms and dangers of the 21st century. Edited by Michael Farrell and Jill Jones and published by Puncher & Wattman, *Out of the Box* features poems by David Malouf, Dorothy Porter, Joanne Burns and Peter Rose, and introduces new poets Maria Zajkowski and Scott-Patrick Mitchell - not to mention the free ranging poets in between. Poems of love, violence, sex and experiment, with just enough everyday life to keep you grounded. A huge line-up featuring readings by **Pam Brown, Joanne Burns, Kate Lilley, Martin Harrison, Chris Edwards, Denis Gallagher, Andy Quan, Kerry Leves, Paul Knobel, Tricia Dearborn, Keri Glastonbury, Tim Denoon, Jenni Nixon, Louise Wakeling, Carolyn Gerrish, Jill Jones and Michael Farrell**.

Parties, Politics, and AIDS: The History of the Australian Gay Male (Panel Discussion)

A discussion on the changing identity of the gay Australian male and what factors have impacted this identity. In particular, the impact of drug and party culture on the community, including the increased presence of police at dance parties, as well as the impact of AIDS. Is there even an 'identity' or sense of community anymore and do the struggles for liberation even matter to the gay male today? Panelists: **Professor Dennis Altman, Dr. Kane Race** and Associate Professor **Robert Reynolds**.

Paul Burston's Polari (Literary Salon)

Direct from the UK is the wickedly funny, **Paul Burston**. Paul's latest novel is the bestselling *The Gay Divorcee*, which has received rave reviews from the likes of Julian Clary and Marc Almond. As a special treat for Queer Thinking, Paul will be hosting his unique Polari event, described as 'London's peerless gay literary salon' - a gay evening of words and music with Paul on the DJ decks!

Pedro Virgil (Artist Talk)

Best known for his photographic work on the 'Gods of Football' series, Pedro has positioned himself as a well sought after talent, in high demand around the country. Working in the commercial and fashion industry for over seven years, Pedro has some of the most prestigious clientele throughout Australia and overseas. Pedro will be discussing his work, the camera, the models and everything in between - a must-see for any 'Gods of Football' fan!

EDITORS' NOTES:

Queer Film and Television in Australia (Panel Discussion)

The Australian Writers' Guild presents an exploration of the Australian screen industry, discussing the representation of queer culture and identity on the big and small screen as well as being queer in the screen industry. Featuring some of Australia's most prominent screenwriters including **David Sale**, creator of the infamous television series No. 96 and prolific television writer Denise **Morgan** (Prisoner, Water Rats, All Saints) this session provides delightful insight into the television and film that has put queer Australia on the map.

Queer Histories Take on the World (Seminar and Book Launch)

Join these notable speakers as they each present a fascinating lecture on a variety of queer theory: **Professor Robert Aldrich's *Bodies of Colour***. Robert Aldrich is Professor of European History at the University of Sydney. He is the author of *The Seduction of the Mediterranean: Writing, Art and Homosexual Fantasy and Colonialism and Culture*, and editor of *Gay Life and Culture: A World History*. He is currently completing a book on Gay Lives in History. **Dr. Monica Pearl's *The Problem of Beauty in the Art of AIDS***. Monica Pearl is Lecturer in Twentieth Century American Literature at the University of Manchester. Her work addresses AIDS and its written and visual representations, as well as twentieth century American self-representation in literature and visual media. **Dr. Ana Carden-Coyne's *Reconstructing the Body***. Ana Carden-Coyne is Co-Director of the Centre for the Cultural History of War, University of Manchester, and co-founder, Disability History Group, UK/Europe. Dr. Ana Carden-Coyne's roles in DHG are Secretary and International Coordinator. She co-edited *Cultures of the Abdomen: A History of Diet, Digestion and Fat in the Modern World* (2005), and a special edition on disability history for the *European Review of History* (2007). **Dr. Carden-Coyne's *Reconstructing the Body: Classicism, Modernism and the First World War*** (Oxford University Press, 2009) will be launched at the Seymour Centre during Queer Thinking day.

Queer Tel Aviv (Seminar)

On the evening of August 1, 2009, an unknown person with firearms entered the 'Aguda' building in Tel Aviv and opened fire on a crowd attending an Israeli Gay Youth event. He immediately escaped after killing two and wounding a further fifteen. The resulting outpour of response from political leaders, police, media and community was unexpected. Israeli singer-songwriter, **Ivri Lider**, leads this insightful discussion about the incident in Tel Aviv, as well as its impact on the gay community. Joining him will be **Shai Feniger**, a youth movement representative who has significant involvement working with gay youth organizations in Tel Aviv and has worked with the Israeli Gay Youth Association. A look back at the queer revolution in Tel Aviv, its new direction and its impact on the rest of the world.

The History of Community (Panel Discussion)

Join this Welcome Discussion as we reflect on the 2010 theme, 'Mardi Gras' History of the World'. In this session, we examine the role of the queer-focused community organisations of Australia and how they have shaped our queer history. What is the direction of our community and its changing needs? Without community organisations is there even a community?