

MEDIA RELEASE

State of Play in association with B Sharp presents a radical re-writing of Oscar Wilde's fairytales

Wilde Tales

Devised and performed by the ensemble members of *State of Play*
Preview 13 October. Season 14–31 October 2004

Director: **Julian Louis** Writer: **Joshua Lobb**

With: **Julia Davis, Sean Lynch, Benedict Hardie, Johnny Nasser & Gwyneth Price**

'a kiss may ruin a human life'

2004 marks the 150th anniversary of Oscar Wilde's birth, and his work remains as potent as ever. **Wilde Tales** is a radical re-writing of his fairy tales, interrogating the darker and more complex aspects of Oscar Wilde's stories, creating a physical, frenetic and lavish production.

Wilde Tales is a journey into the darker side of Wilde's psyche. It is an invitation to enter into the dangerous world of his imagination: where rose bushes sport deadly thorns; tantalising mermaids tempt your soul away; cold-hearted princesses steal your heart; and rowdy witches drag you into the frenzy of the dance. **Wilde Tales** combines Wilde's savage wit with the dynamics of music, song and extravagant design, into a blackly comic experience.

Wilde Tales rips open Wilde's world of pandemonium, creating a work from the stories in *A House of Pomegranates*, including *The Star Child*, *The Infanta*, *The Fisherman and His Soul*, *The Remarkable Rocket*, and *The Nightingale and The Rose*. These tales continue to have resonance in the 21st century: how can we maintain our sense of community when, like the woodcutter's wife or the selfish giant, we are unwilling to accept the lost and desperate into our homes? How can we sustain our sense of soul when, like the fisherman, we are all too willing to sell it for momentary recognition?

And yet, at the heart of Wilde Tales are questions of love. After the sacrifices and the extremes, what price is love?

State of Play was founded in 2000 by Nick Enright, Julian Louis and Jessica Machin. State of Play is a diverse group of experienced actors, designers, musicians and acrobats who train regularly to make new and innovative theatre projects, taking inspiration from such companies as Theatre de Complicite, Théâtre du Soleil, Shared Experience and Robert Lepage's Ex Machina. As part of Sydney Festival 2003, State of Play produced **Five Stories High**, which *The Australian* claimed "**an affecting piece, with a fine ensemble of young performers who work well together.**"

Production Team: Director: Julian Louis. Writer: Joshua Lobb. Assistant Director/Production Manager: Lizzie Doyle. Designer: Gordon Burns. Costume Designer: Jo Briscoe. Lighting: Allan Hirons. Sound Design: Carl Polke. Produced by: Mel Rogan.

Wilde Tales

Belvoir St Downstairs Theatre, 25 Belvoir St, Surry Hills

Preview: Wednesday 13 October. Season: 14–31 October

Times: Tuesday 7.00pm. Wednesday–Saturday 8.15pm. Sunday 5.15pm.

Adult: \$27 Concession: \$21 Groups: \$23 Preview: \$18

Cheap Tuesday: Pay what you can. \$10 minimum.

Bookings: 02 9699 3444 / www.belvoir.com.au

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