The Actors Company in two one-act plays by Daniel Keene, a writer renowned for his unflinching gaze into the pain at the centre of the human experience. The first play – Citizens – is set at the dividing wall of an unspecified war-torn country. A series of grippingly juxtaposed events occur and a picture of life is revealed in the fragments. Over the course of the play, the fragility and nobility of the human spirit at its most vulnerable is carefully probed and laid bare.

- But I've told you. He's my brother.
- You haven't seen him for almost thirty years.
- So?
- So... will anyone be expecting you?
- I was sent news of his death wasn't I?
- Yes
- News of a death is always an invitation.

Citizens is directed by Pamela Rabe, her STC directing debut.

After interval we go through the mirror.

The second play – Soldiers – has been specially commissioned for the STC Actors Company as a companion piece to Citizens. Set in an echoing Air Force hangar, family members gather to receive the bodies of their sons... brothers... and friends lost in an unspecified conflict abroad. The initial connection they share is the battle that claimed their loved ones. Soldiers will be directed by Tim Maddock who has collaborated previously with Daniel Keene to unanimous critical and audience acclaim on The Architect’s Walk (Adelaide Festival, 1988) and Because You Are Mine.

‘FASHIONING LANGUAGE IS DANIEL KEENE’S TRADE, AND THE PLAYWRIGHT APPROACHES IT WITH VISCERAL INTENSITY. YOU CAN ALMOST IMAGINE HIM PULLING A RED-HOT WORD FROM A FURNACE, HAMMERING IT INTO SHAPE AND LAYING IT DOWN ON THE PAGE TO COOL.’

THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD