



**SPORT FOR JOVE**  
THEATRE COMPANY

**PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**SPORT FOR JOVE THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS**

**-- 2016 Theatre Season --**

Sport For Jove Theatre Company proudly presents its 2016 theatre season.

In December and January, Sport For Jove's acclaimed Outdoor Summer Season returns for its 7<sup>th</sup> year with a double bill of moonlit romance, of men behaving badly and women winning the day, with a swift kick up the backside for a culture that is still discussing the rights and rules of marriage equality centuries after our greatest poets shot Cupid's arrows right back at him.

These are two of the world's perfect comedies, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, by Oscar Wilde and Shakespeare's only entirely original comedy, *Love's Labour's Lost*, the play most closely tied to his staggering series of Sonnets, to this day the most popular love poetry ever written. Sport For Jove, the company that salvaged the forgotten *All's Well That Ends Well* to such acclaim, brings this unknown gem to the stage in a full Elizabethan setting, fusing the sonnets and the play into a passionate study of the act of artistic creation. Summer Season 7 will give these wonderful plays a vigorous outdoor life in the glorious surrounds of Bella Vista Farm and Leura Everglades Gardens.

Also playing as a bonus curtain raiser to *Love's Labour's Lost* throughout the festival season is the brilliant short one-act play *Shakespearealism*, by acclaimed Australian actor, writer and film director Josh Lawson, directed by Lizzie Schebesta.

***Love's Labour Lost***, By William Shakespeare

Adapted & Directed by Damien Ryan

Stage Design by Anna Gardiner and Damien Ryan

Costume Design by Melanie Liertz

Lighting Design by Sian James-Holland

Sound Design by David Stalley

Featuring Emily Eskell, Sabryna Te'o, Tim Walter, Berynn Schwerdt, Madeleine Jones, Lara Schwerdt, Curtis Fernandez & George Banders

*Playing with the ingenious curtain raiser;*

***Shakespearealism***, By Josh Lawson

Directed by Lizzie Schebesta

Featuring Gabrielle Scawthorne, James Lugton, Aaron Tsindos & Ed Lembke-Hogan

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***The Importance of Being Earnest***, By Oscar Wilde

Directed by Damien Ryan and Terry Karabelas

More information available at [www.sportforjove.com.au](http://www.sportforjove.com.au)



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Stage Design by Anna Gardiner and Damien Ryan

Costume Design by Anna Gardiner

Lighting Design by Sian James-Holland

Sound Design by David Stalley

Featuring Deborah Kennedy as Lady Bracknell with Claire Lovering, Eloise Winestock, Aaron Tsindos, Scott Sheridan and Wendy Strehlow.

**December 12<sup>h</sup> – January 25<sup>th</sup>,**

**Bella Vista Farm, Baulkham Hills & The Everglades Garden, Leura**

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Moving indoors in May, Sport For Jove is remounting its hugely successful production of Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew* on the great Hollywood soundstage of the silent film era, in the York Theatre, Seymour Centre and the Riverside Theatre, Parramatta.

Shakespeare's love stories challenge us very deeply. They tend to be models of disharmony and madness in which trust, patience and finally, hope, are only reached through chaos and pain. They are as troubling as they are funny, and as beautiful as they are disturbing. *The Taming of the Shrew* captures that paradox perfectly, among the most challenging, confronting and exuberant plays ever written.

Sport for Jove's world-class production won unanimous critical acclaim in its 2011/12 Summer Festival Season, where it was nominated for 5 Sydney Theatre Awards including Best Independent Production, Actor, Actress, Director and Design. This strictly limited season is not to be missed!

***The Taming of the Shrew***, By William Shakespeare

Directed by Damien Ryan

Designed by Anna Gardiner

Featuring Danielle King, James Lugton, Michael Cullen, Eloise Winestock, Chris Stalley, Terry Karabelas & Christopher Tomkinson

**May 5<sup>th</sup> – May 7<sup>th</sup>,**

**Riverside Theatres, Parramatta**

**May 19<sup>th</sup> – May 28<sup>th</sup>,**

**Seymour Centre, Chippendale**

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In June, Sport For Jove is proud to be staging one of Australia's defining works of art on the big stage of the York Theatre. Michael Gow's *Away* is an extraordinary and moving story of family, community, awakening and forgiveness.

The 30th Anniversary of this seminal Australian work is marked by a powerful and inventive new production. Michael Gow's epic and intimate story of family renewal, death and awakening is brought to life with an exceptional ensemble cast, offering theatre goers a must-see experience. The coming of age story of Tom and Meg and their families celebrates a lost time and place in 1960s Australia that still expresses our deepest national, social and personal anxieties today. We are

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thrilled to present this national treasure in a vibrant new production.

*AWAY*, By Michael Gow  
Directed by Damien Ryan  
Designed by Lucilla Smith  
Featuring James Bell, Georgia Scott

**June 2<sup>nd</sup> – June 6<sup>th</sup>**  
**Riverside Theatres, Parramatta**

**June 22<sup>nd</sup> – June 25<sup>th</sup>**  
**York Theatre, Seymour Centre, Chippendale**

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Opening in late July, a lifetime dedicated to Chekhov's work brings Kevin Jackson to direct his greatest play, *Three Sisters*. Anton Chekhov's vision of the Prozorov family is one of the most atmospheric and complete portraits of the ordinary/extraordinary flux of human life and ebbing dreams ever penned and this production combines faith and bold invention for a beautiful and rewarding experience in the theatre.

This production will also be part of The Anton Project, a study over several months of Chekhov's life and work, including Russian history, dance, writing, and even cooking! This complete and immersive experience will allow people to become more engaged with the play, the people, and the culture, allowing for a deeper more appreciative understanding of the work. Anyone will be welcome to this series of talks and events in the months leading up to the production.

*Three Sisters*, By Anton Chekhov  
Directed by Kevin Jackson

**July 29<sup>th</sup> – August 13<sup>th</sup>**  
**Seymour Centre, Chippendale**

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The final play in Sport for Jove's 2016 Season brings an exciting new adaptation written by stage icons Andrea Demetriades and William Zappa, along with Damien Ryan and Terry Karabelas of Sophocles' *Antigone*.

Antigone is a child of war, like too many in our world. She asked a simple question thousands of years ago that remains too difficult for us to answer even to this day, as so many recent events have demonstrated. What do we do with the body of a terrorist, a murderer, who has brought destruction, death and horror to our community when that terrorist is our brother, our own flesh and blood? How do the unwritten laws of personal conscience co-exist with the laws of a society and a nation?

Like Hamlet, Joan of Arc, Galileo and Sir Thomas More, Antigone inspires us with her courage, fortitude and impenetrable strength of conscience. She stands against the monolith and brings her society to a reckoning it sorely needs.

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*Antigone*, By Sophocles  
Lighting Design by Sian James-Holland  
Featuring Andrea Demetriades & William Zappa

**October 6<sup>th</sup> – October 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
**Reginald Theatre, Seymour Centre, Chippendale**

**November 9<sup>th</sup> – November 12<sup>th</sup>**  
**Riverside Theatres, Parramatta**

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**-ENDS-**

For more information, please contact

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**NOTES TO EDITORS:**

Sport for Jove Theatre established in 2009, and now a resident theatre company at the [Seymour Centre](#), is an award winning NSW-based repertory theatre company producing a major touring summer festival of outdoor theatre in Australia, along with theatrical and education-based seasons of classical and new works. The company also provides an interactive Education program to NSW schools.

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