

MEDIA RELEASE

THE
COURT
THEATRE

21st February 2018

For immediate release

Easy Money

Written by Roger Hall

Directed by Ross Gumbley

17 March – 14 April 2018

Tonkin & Taylor mainstage at The Court Theatre

Show Sponsor: PwC

Short Show Description: The neighbours are whispering about Trudi and Stephen. Apparently, they've moved to Auckland for a new business opportunity: selling the Harbour Bridge.

Trudi and Stephen are whispering too... Their nosy neighbours are worth quite a penny...

Easy Money is a laugh-a-minute satire of how fools and their money are soon parted.

Something for nothing in *Easy Money*

IN-BRIEF:

There's no such thing as a free lunch – something the characters in Roger Hall's newest play will find out when they take to The Court Theatre's mainstage this March for the world debut of *Easy Money*.

Adapted from the 17th Century play *The Alchemist*, *Easy Money* is a hilarious romp which follows two Australian con artists, Trudi & Stephen Sharp, as they try to fool their prestigious Auckland neighbours into buying shares in the Auckland Harbour Bridge.

Trudi & Stephen say that they've got knowledge of a congestion toll that will send shares skyrocketing... If, in fact, there are any shares to sell.

A laugh-a-minute satire about greed, *Easy Money* is a plot driven farce that Hall describes as having, "no moral, no message – just entertainment."

Featuring Roy Snow and Luanne Gordon, director Ross Gumbley has assembled a dream cast. "I've got a cast who are wonderful actors and packed with funny bones."

Gumbley isn't worried about the relevancy of a production based off a 17th Century script. "We're all susceptible to greed. That's what the play's about and what's extraordinary about that, is that the idea hasn't changed in 400 years."

Easy Money opens at The Court on 17th March and runs through until 14th April.

Principal Sponsor



Core Funder



Season Sponsor



The Court Theatre

PO Box 268

Christchurch 8140

New Zealand

Email: admin@courtheatre.org.nz

www.courtheatre.org.nz

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IN-DEPTH:

There's no such thing as a free lunch – something the characters in Roger Hall's newest play will find out when they take to The Court Theatre's mainstage this March for the world debut of *Easy Money*.

Adapted from the 17th Century play *The Alchemist*, *Easy Money* is a hilarious romp which follows two Australian con artists, Trudi & Stephen Sharp, as they try to fool their prestigious Auckland neighbours into giving them enough money to pay off their debts and hightail it to Ecuador.

A rich merchant leaves his home to avoid the plague in *The Alchemist*, setting the scene for his servant to use the house as a base to defraud as many people as possible. The scammers peddle 'the elixir of eternal life' and the idea that they can turn base metal into gold.

In *Easy Money*, the sell is much more corporal. Trudi & Stephen attempt to trade shares in the Auckland Harbour Bridge, telling their wealthy neighbours they have insider knowledge of a congestion toll that will send shares skyrocketing... If, in fact, there are any shares to sell.

Ross Gumbley, the director for *Easy Money* and Artistic Director at The Court couldn't say 'yes' fast enough. After a two-year process of working with Hall as he developed the script, Gumbley wasn't going to let anybody else take the directorial reins: "Frankly, I wouldn't let anybody else direct this play."

A laugh-a-minute satire about greed, *Easy Money* is a plot driven farce that Hall describes as having, "no moral, no message – just entertainment."

Finding a quick and funny cast was essential for staging *Easy Money*. With the wealth of experience brought by Roy Snow, Luanne Gordon, Lynda Milligan, Bruce Phillips, Geoffrey Heath, Jared Corbin, Gregory Cooper, Susannah Kenton, Melinda Joe and Albany Peseta, Gumbley has unquestionably assembled a dream cast. "I've got a cast who are wonderful actors and packed with funny bones. They're amazing and it's such a joy to be spending my days in the rehearsal room with them."

As Gumbley describes it: "The characters in this play look like they've stepped out of *The Real Housewives of Auckland* – more bling than common sense." Supporting that sense of opulence is set designer Harold Moot, costume designer Deborah Moor, sound designer Matt Short and lighting designer Giles Tanner, who have created a lavish playground for the *Easy Money*'s wealthy – and aspiringly wealthy – characters.

Gumbley isn't worried about the relevancy of a production based off a 17th Century script. "We're all susceptible to greed. That's what the play's about and what's extraordinary about that, is that the idea hasn't changed in 400 years."

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To read more click [here](#)

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Cast

Stephen Sharp	Roy Snow
Trudi	Luanne Gordon
Sir Robert Kingswood	Bruce Phillips
Peter	Geoffrey Heath
Sylvia	Lynda Milligan
Nigel de Lacy	Gregory Cooper
Catherine	Susannah Kenton
Bishop	Albany Peseta
Trevor	Jared Corbin
Lee	Melinda Joe

Creatives

Playwright	Roger Hall
Director	Ross Gumbley
Set Designer	Harold Moot
Costume Designer	Deborah Moor
Sound Designer / Operator	Matt Short
Lighting Designer	Giles Tanner
Properties Manager	Christy Lassen
Stage Manager	Jo Bunce

Ticket Prices

Adult	\$59.00
Senior 65yrs+	\$52.00
Supporter	\$49.00
Group 6+	\$49.00
Child (U18)	\$30.00
30 Below (max 2 per person)	\$30.00

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Show Times

- Monday & Thursday 6.30pm
- Tue/Wed/Fri/Sat 7.30pm
- Forum 6:30pm Monday 19th March
Discuss the play with cast and creative team after the performance
- Matinee Saturday 7 April 2:00pm

Bookings: phone 03 963 0870 or visit www.courttheatre.org.nz

Images can be found at The Court Theatre's [Media Centre](#)

**For more information or to arrange an interview please contact:
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samantha.mcconnell@courttheatre.org.nz**

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