

# MEDIA RELEASE

THE  
**COURT**  
THEATRE

9<sup>th</sup> May 2018

## For immediate release

### *Fresh Ink*

*Siana* written by Alison Quigan

*The Falling* written by Karen Zelas

*The Sexiest Man in the World* written by Joe Musaphia

13 May – 27 May

Tonkin & Taylor mainstage at The Court Theatre

### Short show description:

It's raw; it's grass roots; it's never been seen before.

*Fresh Ink* is a festival of three curated readings of developing plays. Help playwrights discover where the laughs and gasps are and get rewarded by the richness of three very different – yet all very Kiwi – new plays.

## FRESH INK THIS MAY AT THE COURT THEATRE

This month The Court Theatre are debuting three brand new Kiwi plays.

The plays, all in various draft stages, will be performed over three consecutive Sundays in May. This is theatre without any of the bells and whistles of a usual Court production – no set, no props; just the audience, the actors and some very fresh words.

The audiences' reactions and feedback to the raw performances will help the writers grow their stories.

Literary Manager Roanna Dalziel believes *Fresh Ink* is crucial to The Court Theatre and its audiences.

“One of the key missions for The Court is about celebrating and questioning New Zealand voices. It's fundamental that we get New Zealand plays up on our mainstage or in The Forge so we're reflecting on New Zealand perspectives.”

Notable previous *Fresh Ink* readings include *That Bloody Woman* and *MAMIL (Middle Aged Man in Lycra)*, both of which went on to have full seasons at The Court followed by nationwide tours. [Astroman](#), a reading in last year's series, is on course to make the same transition, running for a two-week season on The Court's mainstage later this year. The Kiwi comedy, set in a time where the best social spot for teens was the local arcade store, opens at The Court on the 27<sup>th</sup> October.

For Dalziel the benefits for the playwright – and the development of New Zealand theatre as a whole – are obvious.

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The Court Theatre

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Christchurch 8140

New Zealand

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“If the audience laughs, you know that you’ve found a vein of comedy; if the audience cries, it’s the opposite - you’ve touched the audience in some way. Not that the two are mutually exclusive! It’s about seeing the impact of your work on an audience.”

For the audience, it’s a chance to see fresh Kiwi theatre delivered in a remarkable way.

“At this early stage in the play’s development, the plays can often be quite raw and audiences get connected to that rawness. You really get to focus on what is being said.”

The first play of the series, performed on the 13<sup>th</sup> May, is *Siana*, written by well-known Kiwi writer and actress Alison Quigan.

The story follows Cassie as she swaps a job in photography for local council work. The move forces her to face not only bureaucratic hurdles but her ex-husband and the haunting memories of her beautiful dancing daughter, Siana.

“At the centre it’s a heartfelt story about family and the impact of the loss of a daughter. Alison has a remarkable ability to tap into relationships and emotions, as you can see from *Mum’s Choir*, which is coming up at The Court this year as well.”

Following *Siana* on the 20<sup>th</sup> May is Karen Zelas’ *The Falling*.

*The Falling* relates to the trials of Minnie Dean, the first and only woman hanged in New Zealand.

“Karen wrote a verse biography that we read and then approached her and said, ‘hey, have you thought about dramatising this?’”

Beyond exploring the story of Minnie Dean, *The Falling* follows modern-day doctoral student Clemency Xavier as she maps out Minnie’s case.

The final play in the series, written by Joe Musaphia, is a little more light-hearted.

Former Shortland Street baddie Mike Edward will be taking on the role of *The Sexiest Man in the World*.

The comedy begins when hunk Chip Stone (Edward) returns home from LA looking to make amends with brother, Brian, a struggling playwright. Chip’s arrival wreaks havoc – to comedic effect.

For Dalziel, the play is best described as, “Hollywood meets New Zealand with explosive reactions.”

At its heart, *Fresh Ink* is all about embracing and encouraging Kiwi playwrights. Audience members get to see fresh, New Zealand theatre performed in a way that won’t be seen again and, hopefully, will be moved by what they see. To laughter or tears – or maybe even both.

***Fresh Ink*** runs over three consecutive Sundays in May. ***Siana*** will be performed at The Court Theatre on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> May at 4pm; ***The Falling*** on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> May at 4pm and ***The Sexiest Man in the World*** on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> May at 4pm. All tickets are \$10. [Click here to find out more and to book now.](#)

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## **Siana Creatives and Cast**

Writer	Alison Quigan
Director	Troy Tu'ua
Siana	Talia-Rae Mavaega
Cassie	Lara Macgregor
Leonardo	Shane Asi
Rachel	Kathleen Burns
Siapo	Anapela Polataivao
Stuart	Tim Bartlett
Lana	Tanya Muagututia
Nana	Taloa Sagapolutele

## **The Falling Creatives and Cast**

Writer	Karen Zelas
Director	Lara Macgregor
Minnie	Eilish Moran
Cass	Kathleen Burns
Clem	Luanne Gordon
Chorus M	Tom Trevella
Chorus M	Matt Hudson
Chorus F	Amy Straker
Chorus F	Bianca Seinafo

## **The Sexiest Man in the World Creatives and Cast**

Writer	Joe Musaphia
Director	Roanna Dalziel
Chip Stone	Mike Edward
Brian Entwistle	Tim Bartlett
Sarah Entwistle	Luanne Gordon
Andy Entwistle	Jack Marshall
Toni Banks	Chelsea McEwan Millar
Stage Direction	Ben Freeth
Dramaturg	Dave Armstrong

## **Ticket Prices**

All Tickets \$10.00

## **Show Times**

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- *Siana* Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> May at 4:00pm
- *The Falling* Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> May at 4:00pm
- *The Sexiest Man in the World* Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> May at 4:00pm

Bookings: phone 03 963 0870 or visit [www.courttheatre.org.nz](http://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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