

MEDIA RELEASE

THE
COURT
THEATRE

9th April 2018

For immediate release

In the Next Room, or the vibrator play

Written by Sarah Ruhl

Directed by Melanie Luckman

12 May – 2 June 2018

Tonkin & Taylor mainstage at The Court Theatre

Show Sponsor: MoreFM

Short show description:

In the room next to Catherine Givings, a low buzz can be heard.

Her husband is using a new device, the Chattanooga vibrator, to relieve 'hysteria' – a 19th Century medical diagnosis. His practice forces the couple to confront the realities of their marriage, love and intimacy in this stunning comedy.

GOOD VIBRATIONS AT THE COURT THEATRE

IN BRIEF:

A low buzzing sound can be heard at The Court Theatre as the cast and crew prepare for the arrival of the theatre's latest production, *In the Next Room, or the vibrator play*.

Set in a time before the vacuum cleaner or the television – but not the vibrator – *In the Next Room, or the vibrator play* takes place in the 19th Century as Dr Givings treats patients afflicted by hysteria with the help of his Chattanooga vibrator.

Outside in the living room, his wife Catherine wonders exactly what her husband is doing in the other room and begins to consider what it means to be a woman, a wife and a mother in Victorian times – and whether or not the life she has is actually the one she wants.

Featuring Amy Straker, Hannah Wheeler and Jonathan Martin, director Melanie Luckman says that the show, nominated for three Tony Awards in 2010, is, "not about porn. It's not about cheap thrills. Is it about sexual pleasure? Yup. And it's also incredibly smart and funny. It has heart and integrity... As well as being about vibrators."

In the Next Room, or the vibrator play opens at The Court on 12th May and runs through until 2nd June.

IN DEPTH:

A low buzzing sound can be heard at The Court Theatre as the cast and crew prepare for the arrival of the theatre's latest production, *In the Next Room, or the vibrator play*.

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Season Sponsor



The Court Theatre

PO Box 268

Christchurch 8140

New Zealand

Email: admin@courttheatre.org.nz

www.courttheatre.org.nz

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Set in a time before the vacuum cleaner or the television – but not the vibrator - *In the Next Room, or the vibrator play* was written in 2009, but takes place in the 1880s: a period of corsets, industrialisation and the dawn of women’s liberation. The scene for the play is a household split into two; one room showing Dr Givings’ surgery and the other showing his wife Catherine’s domain, the living room, which doubles as a patients’ waiting room.

The door between the two is locked and as Catherine wonders exactly what her husband is doing in the other room, she begins to consider what it means to be a woman, a wife and a mother in Victorian times – and whether or not the life she has is actually the one she wants.

In the mysterious, other room, Dr Givings is using his new device, the Chattanooga vibrator, to treat patients of the now defunct medical condition hysteria. The patients that he brings into their home open Catherine’s eyes to the outside world and introduce her to a community of women whom she forges a life-changing connection with.

Former Associate Director of The Court, Melanie Luckman, is returning to the theatre to direct the play and is quick to say that the show, nominated for three Tony Awards in 2010, is, “not about porn. It’s not about cheap thrills. Is it about sexual pleasure? Yup. And it’s also incredibly smart and funny. It has heart and integrity... As well as being about vibrators.”

Stepping back into the 19th Century – and into a series of complicated costumes – is a cast equipped to juggle both the humour of the script and its more serious moments, including Amy Straker; Hannah Wheeler; Jonathan Martin; Eilish Moran; Fergus Inder; Bianca Seinafo and Matt Hudson.

Luckman, as a wife and mother herself, felt a specific connection to the script and thinks modern audiences will too.

“The struggles the characters have with motherhood are still hugely relevant today, particularly the isolation and the expectation to provide everything for everyone. I think that isolation of women is something that is absolutely still relevant today, even though we’re so connected through technology.”

...And for those still feeling hesitant about seeing a play with the subtitle *the vibrator play*, well, as Luckman says, “theatre should take you a little beyond your comfort zone.”

In the Next Room, or the vibrator play opens at The Court on 12th May and runs through until 2nd June.

[To read more click here.](#)

Cast

Catherine Givings	Amy Straker
Sabrina Daldry	Hannah Wheeler
Dr Givings	Jonathan Martin
Annie	Eilish Moran
Leo Irving	Fergus Inder
Elizabeth	Bianca Seinafo
Mr Daldry	Matt Hudson

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Creatives

Playwright	Sarah Ruhl
Director	Melanie Luckman
Set Designer	Julian Southgate
Costume Co-Designer	Pam Jones
Costume Co-Designer	Pauline Laws
Lighting Designer	Giles Tanner
Sound Designer/Operator	Matt Short
Properties Manager	Christy Lassen
Stage Manager	Jordan Keyzer

Ticket Prices

Adult	\$54.00 - \$62.00
Senior 65yrs+	\$47.00 - \$55.00
Supporter	\$45.00 - \$53.00
Group 6+	\$44.00 - \$52.00
Child (U18)	\$25.00 - \$33.00
30 Below (max 2 per person)	\$30.00

Show Times

- Monday & Thursday 6.30pm
- Tue/Wed/Fri/Sat 7.30pm
- Forum 6:30pm Monday 14th March
Discuss the play with cast and creative team after the performance
- Matinee 2:00pm Saturday 26 May

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:
Samantha McConnell, Marketing & Communications Manager
The Court Theatre, 03 963 0884, 0275 22 9700
samantha.mcconnell@courttheatre.org.nz

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