

MEDIA RELEASE

THE
COURT
THEATRE

31 July 2019

For immediate release

[The Arsonists](#)

Written by Jacqueline Goldfinger

Directed by Dan Bain

Dates: 17 August – 7 September

Location: The Forge at The Court's Pub Charity Studio

Short show description:

M and H are master arsonists who never get it wrong – until they do. Covered in ash, M hacks into the ground to bury their biggest secret yet: H's burnt body. Full of haunting music, *The Arsonists* explores the bond between parent and child in this swelling, poetic drama.

INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE OF BLAZING DRAMA

IN-BRIEF:

Flames are licking at The Court Theatre as *The Arsonists* enter The Forge, presenting a blazing drama featuring live music.

Running from the 17th August, the play follows a father-daughter arsonist duo whose latest job goes disastrously wrong, set deep in the swamps of Florida.

In this international premiere, Monique Clementson (*Jesus Christ Superstar*) and Roy Snow (*Chicago*) will be playing parent and child after H (Snow) is burnt to death, leaving M (Clementson) to deal with the ramification of their failed job.

Lyrical, poetic and hauntingly beautiful, H reappears to help M deal with unfinished business, the duo exploring their relationship through a series of wistful bluegrass and folk songs.

In her dedication, playwright Jacqueline Goldfinger writes: *this is a love letter to my father. He is not dead. It's a shame that folks hold off 'till somebody dies to say how much they mean to 'em. I'm gonna go ahead and do it now.*

"I found that really beautiful," Bain says. "My dad died four years ago, so personally, I found it really resonant. That wishing for things that got left unsaid. I think, at the guts of it, it's about saying what you need to say to people before it's too late."

The Arsonists runs at The Forge at The Court Theatre from 17 August – 7 September.

IN-DEPTH:

Principal Sponsor



Core Funder



Season Sponsor



The Court Theatre

PO Box 268

Christchurch 8140

New Zealand

Email: admin@courttheatre.org.nz

www.courttheatre.org.nz

MEDIA RELEASE

THE
COURT
THEATRE

Flames are licking at The Court Theatre as *The Arsonists* enter The Forge, presenting a blazing drama featuring live music.

Running from the 17th August, the play follows a father-daughter arsonist duo whose latest job goes disastrously wrong, set deep in the swamps of Florida.

In this international premiere, Monique Clementson (*Jesus Christ Superstar*) and Roy Snow (*Chicago*) will be playing parent and child after H (Snow) is burnt to death, leaving M (Clementson) to deal with the ramification of their failed job.

Lyrical, poetic and hauntingly beautiful, H reappears to help M deal with unfinished business, the duo exploring their relationship through a series of wistful bluegrass and folk songs.

“It taps into this real Southern American bluegrass tradition,” director Dan Bain explains. “What playwright Jacqueline Goldfinger did was find already existent songs where the lyrical content says something about the play. It’s not a musical – they’re not singing their feelings – it’s an expression of their relationship and their shared history.”

Bain (Stephen King’s *Misery*), who is also The Court’s Associate Director, programmed the play himself after falling in love with the script. In her dedication, playwright Goldfinger writes: *this is a love letter to my father. He is not dead. It’s a shame that folks hold off ‘till somebody dies to say how much they mean to ‘em. I’m gonna go ahead and do it now.*

“I found that really beautiful,” Bain says. “My dad died four years ago, so personally, I found it really resonant. That wishing for things that got left unsaid.”

For him, the heart of the play comes from its unusual core.

“So many dramas are built on conflict,” he explains. “I see this story as being built on love. It’s a play about coming to terms with loss - or almost a wish fulfilment of that.”

In the intimate space of The Forge’s Pub Charity Studio, the production’s acoustic nature will engross its audience members in this stirring drama about love and loss.

“I think, at the guts of it, it’s about saying what you need to say to people before it’s too late,” Bain muses.

The Arsonists runs at The Forge at The Court Theatre from 17 August – 7 September.

Principal Sponsor



Core Funder



Season Sponsor



The Court Theatre

PO Box 268

Christchurch 8140

New Zealand

Email: admin@courttheatre.org.nz

www.courttheatre.org.nz

MEDIA RELEASE

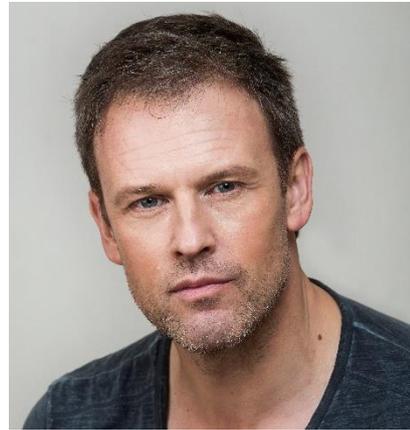
THE
COURT
THEATRE

Cast



M

[Monique Clementson](#)



H

[Roy Snow](#)

Creatives

Director	Dan Bain
Musical Director	Richard Marrett
Set Designer	Richard van den Berg
Costume Designer	Hayley Douglas
Lighting Designer	Paul Johnson
Sound Designer	Matt Short
Stage Manager/Operator	Jo Bunce

Ticket Prices

All tickets	\$23
-------------	------

Show Times

- Monday & Thursday 7:00pm
- Tue/Wed/Fri/Sat 8:00pm
- Forum 7:00pm Monday 19th August
- Matinee 4:00pm Saturday 31st August

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

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

Principal Sponsor



Core Funder



Season Sponsor



The Court Theatre

PO Box 268
Christchurch 8140
New Zealand
Email: admin@courttheatre.org.nz
www.courttheatre.org.nz

MEDIA RELEASE

**THE
COURT
THEATRE**

For more information or to arrange an interview please contact:

Mally Goldberg, Marketing Manager

The Court Theatre, 03 963 0884

mally.goldberg@courttheatre.org.nz

Principal Sponsor



Core Funder



Season Sponsor



The Court Theatre

PO Box 268

Christchurch 8140

New Zealand

Email: admin@courttheatre.org.nz

www.courttheatre.org.nz