

MEDIA RELEASE

THE
COURT
THEATRE

2 July 2018

For immediate release

Stephen King's Misery

Written by William Goldman

Directed by Dan Bain

4 – 25 August 2018

The Court Theatre's mainstage

Short show description:

Adapted from the bestselling novel *Stephen King's Misery* is a tension-filled stage adaptation of a story of quaint obsession turned living nightmare.

BESTSELLING THRILLER COMES TO THE COURT THEATRE IN STEPHEN KING'S MISERY

IN BRIEF:

Screams will be echoing in The Court Theatre when its first show of the Meridian Energy 2018/2019 season, Stephen King's *Misery*, opens this August.

Adapted from the bestselling novel by Stephen King, *Misery* is a thrilling story of obsession. *Misery* follows the tense story of writer Paul Sheldon as he struggles to break free of his captor – and biggest fan - Annie Wilkes.

Paul finds himself in Annie's care after waking up from a car crash somewhere in rural Colorado. Annie is, supposedly, Paul's saviour, having pulled him from the wreckage and into her home. But if that's the truth... then why is his bedroom door locked?

The woman delving into the madness of Annie Wilkes is actor and director Lara Macgregor, with Gavin Rutherford joining her as the writer being kept under lock-and-key, Paul Sheldon. Adam Brookfield rounds out the cast as cop Buster.

Director Dan Bain, who designed and ran the Ghost Tour at the Arts Centre, knows a lot about frightening people – which is his aim in bringing *Misery* to life.

"We'll be doing our best to honour the intent of the piece... Our aim is not to please, coddle or pander. Our goal is screams."

Stephen King's Misery opens at The Court Theatre on 4th August and runs through until 25th August.

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Core Funder



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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IN DEPTH:

Screams will be echoing in The Court Theatre when its first show of the Meridian Energy 2018/2019 season, Stephen King's *Misery*, opens this August.

Adapted from the bestselling novel by Stephen King, *Misery* is a thrilling story of obsession. Penned by playwright William Goldman (who wrote the screenplay for the Oscar winning film of the same name), *Misery* follows the tense story of writer Paul Sheldon as he struggles to break free of his captor – and biggest fan - Annie Wilkes.

Paul finds himself in Annie's care after waking up from a car crash somewhere in rural Colorado. Annie is, supposedly, Paul's saviour, having pulled him from the wreckage and into her home. But if that's the truth... then why is his bedroom door locked?

Annie has been patiently awaiting Paul's latest book in his popular *Misery* series but, upon reading the novel, flies into a frightening rage. Violently, she orders Paul to write a sequel where she gets to dictate the storyline.

Trapped with his new typewriter and his self-confessed biggest fan breathing down his neck, Paul does as she asks... All while plotting his escape.

For director Dan Bain, who is also the Associate Director at The Court, the story is a classic psychological thriller that he can't wait to bring to The Court's mainstage.

"If you've got an idea of what plays The Court does, this is the play that breaks those assumptions. Thrillers used to be a really big mainstay of people's theatre experience, but not so much anymore. It's a genre that is really easy to make a value judgement on by saying, 'that's not for me,' or, 'I certainly wouldn't enjoy that,' but there are things to enjoy in *Misery* that people will be surprised by."

The woman delving into the madness of Annie Wilkes is actor and director Lara Macgregor.

For Macgregor the play is exciting because, "so rarely does the opportunity present itself to view a psychological horror of this calibre on stage. It cleverly perches you on the edge of your seat while paying homage to the redemptive power of writing."

Joining her is two-time Chapman Tripp Theatre Award winner Gavin Rutherford as the man being kept under lock-and-key, writer Paul Sheldon, with Adam Brookfield rounding out the cast as cop Buster.

Bain, who designed and ran the Ghost Tour at the Arts Centre, knows a lot about frightening people – which is his aim in bringing *Misery* to life.

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[To read more click here](#)

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Cast

Annie Wilkes [Lara Macgregor](#)
Paul Sheldon [Gavin Rutherford](#)
Buster [Adam Brookfield](#)

Creatives

Director [Dan Bain](#)
Set Designer [Harold Moot](#)
Costume Designer [Hayley Douglas](#)
Lighting Designer/Head Technician [Giles Tanner](#)
Sound Designer/Composer [Andy Manning](#)
Stage Manager [Jo Bunce](#)

Ticket Prices

Adult	\$55.00 - \$63.00
Senior 65yrs+	\$48.00 - \$56.00
Supporter	\$46.00 - \$54.00
Group 6+	\$48.00 - \$53.00
Child (U18)	\$26.00 - \$30.00
30 Below (max 2 per person)	\$30.00

Show Times

- Monday & Thursday 6.30pm
- Tue/Wed/Fri/Sat 7.30pm
- Forum 6:30pm Monday 6th August
Discuss the play with cast and creative team after the performance
- Matinee 2:00pm Saturday 18th August

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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