

## MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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## AWARD-WINNING PLAYWRIGHT TELLS ALL

Queensland Theatre Company and State Theatre Company of South Australia present *Toy Symphony* by Michael Gow. The multi award-winning new play is an inventive and compelling look at what happens when a writer loses his ability to imagine.

Gifted playwright Roland Henning is trying to convince his sceptical therapist Nina that he doesn't have writer's block, it's just that, well, he can't write anymore ...

With Nina's help, Roland reluctantly recalls his primary school days in the outer-Sydney suburb of Como, and the extraordinary day that shattered his boyhood plunging him headlong into the dizzy circus of art and life. But Roland remains adamant that he is beyond help and will never write again, and personal tragedy threatens to permanently derail him. A chance discovery offers Roland salvation, but will he grasp it or slip back into old habits?

Director Geordie Brookman says "*Toy Symphony* is a highly theatrical and clever new work. It taps into one of the great, but not irreversible tragedies of life, the moment we lose our inner child. I was drawn to the piece initially because of its investigation of the creative act but it has stayed in my head and heart since because of the joy and rebirth it finds in some of life's most painful moments."

Michael Gow is one of Australia's leading playwrights and directors. His plays include the multi-award winning *Away*, hailed as a modern classic of the Australian theatre and one of the most performed Australian works written. *Toy Symphony* premiered in 2007 and won numerous awards including the Helpmann for Best New Australian Work and the Sydney Theatre Award for Best New Work.

After its Brisbane season, *Toy Symphony* will go to Adelaide and continue touring during 2010 to Hobart, Warragul, Frankston, Bendigo, Mooroopna, Wagga Wagga, Canberra, Wollongong, Gosford, Parramatta, Albury, Port Macquarie, Belrose and Newcastle.

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|-----------------------------------|---|
| <b>Director:</b>                  | Geordie Brookman  |
| <b>Assistant Director:</b>        | Melanie Wild  |
| <b>Designer:</b>                  | Jonathan Oxlade   |
| <b>Lighting Designer:</b>         | Nigel Levings   |
| <b>Lighting Design Associate:</b> | Ben Hughes  |
| <b>Composer/Sound Designer:</b>   | Brett Collery   |
| <b>Cast includes:</b>             | Lizzy Faulkland, Barbara Lowing, Daniel Mulvihill, Christopher Pitman and Ed Whiteman |

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| <b>Dates:</b>    | 9 November – 12 December 2009  |
| <b>Tickets:</b>  | \$38 - \$58 Under 30: \$30   |
| <b>Venue:</b>    | Cremorne Theatre, QPAC   |
| <b>Bookings:</b> | QTIX 136 246 or <a href="http://www.qldtheatreco.com.au">www.qldtheatreco.com.au</a> |

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