

# ROULETTE

by Raimondo Cortese. Directed by Conrad Blakemore and Anna Ledwich. Presented by Jacaranda Theatre.  
Cast includes: Paul Ellis. Debra Low. Barry Rocard. Alexandra Williams.

## THE UK PREMIERE OF AUSTRALIAN PLAYWRIGHT RAIMONDO CORTESE'S PROVOCATIVE DUOLOGUES

Jacaranda Theatre returns to the Finborough Theatre with the UK premiere of a selection of Raimondo Cortese's *Roulette* series. These raw, gritty, witty duologues have a dark edge of black humour and menace, illuminating the moments of beauty or cruelty that are inherent in any encounter between two people. Sometimes they are chance meetings between strangers, at other times between friends, colleagues or family. Collectively they present an epic display of human frailty... Presented throughout Australia, they mark the debut of playwright Raimondo Cortese in the UK.

**Hotel:** Tara and Jane, two "rough as guts" hotel cleaners discuss the intricacies of work relations, theft and Kylie Minogue - with violent consequences.

**Fortune:** After the death of his partner, Terry, an old age pensioner, is enslaved by an aggressive prodigal son.

**Borneo:** Angelica, a psychotherapist, befriends a young passenger on a return flight home to learn precisely how it feels to have a monkey on her back.

**Sickness:** There is nothing fantastical about a dying man's confessions to a put-upon priest about his Oedipal tendencies.

**Jacaranda Theatre's** mission is to produce innovative, cutting-edge Australian Theatre to the UK and abroad. It made its debut in 2004 with the London premiere of *Europe* by Michael Gow at the Finborough Theatre. Since then, Jacaranda has presented many highly successful readings including Patrick White's *The Ham Funeral*, the *Sex, God and Red Tape* Australian playreading season at RADA and Alan Seymour's *The One Day of the Year* at the Imperial War Museum for the Anzac commemorative weekend. They were also shortlisted for the Oxford Samuel Beckett Theatre Trust Award for Sam Sejavka's *The Hive*.

Director **Conrad Blakemore's** credits include a trilogy of critically acclaimed plays by Paul Birtill - *Happy Christmas*, *Squalor* and *The Lodger* (Time Out Critics' Choice). Son of acclaimed international Australian director Michael Blakemore, he has made award winning documentaries for the BBC and Channel Four. Director **Anna Ledwich** recently directed *Poet No.7* (Theatre 503), and shortly to be seen at the 2006 Dublin International Fringe Festival).

**Paul Ellis** is best known for his TV work in New Zealand on *Shortland Street* where he was a member of the main cast for five years. He recently played Benjamin in the NZ premiere of *The Graduate* and has appeared in several UK drama series including *Dream Team* and *Mile High*. **Debra Low** wrote, directed and performed *Debbie Does Divas - A Cabaret Frockumentary* in Melbourne. Her Australian television appearances include *SeaChange*, *Janus* and *Blue Heelers*. **Barry Rocard** has been a BBC journalist, radio announcer, newsreader, interviewer and London correspondent of various Australian radio networks. **Alexandra Williams'** credits include *Cloud Street* and her Australian television appearances include *Wicked Science*.

## PRESS ACCLAIM FOR RAIMONDO CORTESE

"Universally relevant, theatrically engaging and very much of the day" Director, Berlin World Theatre Festival

"Raw theatre at its most basic and brilliant" Craig Clarke, *The Sunday Mail*

"A power that can make everyday language resonant with emotion and meaning" Helen Thomson, *The Age*

"Language-based drama at its best" Liz Jones, La Mama Theatre, Melbourne

## PRESS NIGHT: SUNDAY, 23 JULY 2006 AT 8.00PM

Finborough Theatre, The Finborough, 118 Finborough Road, London SW10 9ED

Box Office 0870 4000 838 [www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk](http://www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk)

**Sunday, 23 July & Monday, 24 July; Sunday, 30 July & Monday, 31, July;**

**Sunday, 6 August & Monday, 7 August 2006**

All performances at 8.00pm. Tickets £10 all seats.

Performance Length: Approximately 2 hours with one interval

For more information, interviews and images, please contact

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