

## YELLOW MOON FAQs

### What is *Yellow Moon* about?

*Yellow Moon* is a contemporary tale of teenage runaways fleeing from the ugliness of their lives. It's Friday night. Stag Lee is 17, bored and figuring out how to make fast money. Silent Leila is at the all-night superstore feeling stupid and ugly, wishing she lived inside the pages of a celebrity magazine. After a chance meeting and a shocking life-changing event, the duo find themselves heading north in search of refuge. Marooned in an unforgiving landscape, Leila and Lee are forced to confront who they really are. Moving between narration and poetry, imagination and reality, brutality and hope, *Yellow Moon* is a captivating journey of self-discovery with a dark heart.

### How long is the performance?

The performance will run for approximately 75 minutes.

### What type of performance space is used?

This production is being staged in traverse – with audience on either side of the playing space. If your school is hosting a performance, please select a space at the school that will allow for such a configuration.

### What type of theatre performance is *Yellow Moon*?

*Yellow Moon* is non-naturalistic. Four actors create a number of characters, multiple locations and times. They use a very simple set, narration, dramatization, and movement. They move quite fluidly between these elements in order to create Lee and Leila's story.

### What ages is *Yellow Moon* suitable for?

Regional Arts Victoria and Melbourne Theatre Company advise that *Yellow Moon* has been selected for the VCE Drama Playlist. The Playlists contains performances aimed at students in Years 11 and 12. It is recommended for ages 16+.

### Are there any warnings about content?

Yes. As the synopsis suggests, some of the ideas and concepts in *Yellow Moon* are potentially challenging. They include references to: murder, depression, drugs, suicide and self-harm.

### How are these ideas depicted in the performance?

Most of the themes and ideas in *Yellow Moon* are suggested through narration or through abstracted movement. There is no literal portrayal.

### Is there any swearing in *Yellow Moon*?

Yes, there is some swearing. These are characters that live in an edgy, contemporary world and the playwright believes that the language they speak should create an authentic feel.

### What important themes are explored in the performance?

*Yellow Moon* explores the themes and concerns of trust, loyalty, friendship, love, self-esteem, identity, and choice. Your students may discover more.

### How should I prepare the students for seeing *Yellow Moon*?

Ideally they can do some research online as the play has had several productions. It is useful for them to know the basic story line and some of the ideas explored. If they haven't watched much theatre, talk about live theatre as a medium, that it happens in real time, and that the actors will be in close proximity to the audience and can hear and see the audience. It may be useful to discuss the style and form of the performance as being 'non-naturalistic'. MTC is preparing detailed Teachers' Notes that will be available by mid-April.

### About The Director

Leticia Caceres is MTC's Associate Director and has been lauded as one of the most exciting talents in the country. She directed *Cock*, *Constellations*, *Helicopter* and *Random* (nominated for three Green Room Awards) for MTC; *Miss Julie* and *The Dark Room* (nominated for seven Sydney Theatre Awards) for Belvoir; and *The Orphanage Project*, *Far Away*, and *Memory of Water* for QTC. She is co-founder of independent theatre company, RealTV whose award-winning works include *Hoods* (nominated for a 2008 Helpmann Award), *War Crimes*, and *Children of the Black Skirt*.

### About The Playwright

David Greig is a writer and theatre maker based in Scotland. As a leader in writing for young audiences, his work in this area includes *The Monster in the Hall*, *Yellow Moon*, *Gobbo* and *Dr Korczak's Example*. He also wrote the book of the stage musical *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* which is currently playing on the West End. Greig's other award-winning work includes *The Strange Undoing of Prudencia Hart*, *Midsummer*, *Dunsinane*, *Damascus*, *Outlying Islands*, *The American Pilot*, *Pyrenees*, *The Cosmonaut's Last Message to the Woman He Once Loved in the Former Soviet Union*, *The Architect* and *Europe*. He has also written a number of adaptations including *Creditors*, *Tintin in Tibet*, *When the Bulbul Stopped Singing* and *Peter Pan*.

### OTHER RESOURCES

#### Scenes from *Yellow Moon* by Tag Theatre, Scotland

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hydT20UzcpA>