

MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday 18 June 2015

DEATH AND THE MAIDEN

by Ariel Dorfman



MTC MELBOURNE
THEATRE
COMPANY

Cast Eugene Gilfedder (Roberto Miranda),
Steve Mouzakis (Gerardo Escobar),
Susie Porter (Paulina Salas)
Director Leticia Cáceres
Set & Lighting Designer Nick Schlieper
Costume Designer Anna Cordingley
Composer & Sound Designer THE SWEATS

'A beautifully constructed psychological thriller.' The Arts Desk

'Gripping and harrowing.' The Telegraph

'As well as raising important issues, the play is also gripping, with much of the intensity of a first-rate thriller.'
The Telegraph

Venue

Southbank Theatre, The Sumner

Season Dates

Saturday 18 July –
Saturday 22 August 2015

Opening Night

8pm Thursday 23 July 2015

Production Briefing

6pm Monday 13 July 2015

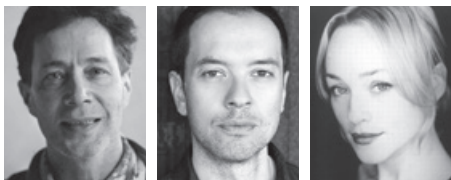
Tickets

From \$73; under 30s from \$36

Bookings

Southbank Theatre Box Office
03 8688 0800 or mtc.com.au

#mtcMaiden
@MelbTheatreCo
mtc.com.au/Maiden



Eugene Gilfedder Steve Mouzakis Susie Porter

**SYDNEY
THEATRE
CO**

A co-production with Sydney Theatre Company

Some plays maintain their relevance because some horrors never go away. **Ariel Dorfman's** captivating psychological thriller **Death and the Maiden** is one such work. Starring **Susie Porter** (*Puberty Blues*), **Eugene Gilfedder** (QTC's *Macbeth*) and **Steve Mouzakis** (MTC's *The Cherry Orchard*), this new co-production with Sydney Theatre Company opens on **Thursday 23 July 2015** at **Southbank Theatre, The Sumner** before travelling to Sydney for a season at Wharf I Theatre.

Written in the wake of the Pinochet regime in Chile, *Death and the Maiden* won the 1992 Laurence Olivier Award for Best New Play and was performed at MTC the following year. Twenty years on, writing about its 2011 West End revival, **Ariel Dorfman** said, 'It happened yesterday but it could well be today... I can't help but ask if 20 years from now I will be writing this phrase all over again: this story happened yesterday, but it could well be today.'

Director Leticia Cáceres said, 'I regard **Death and the Maiden** as part of my heritage, part of a dark past shared not only by a number of South American countries such as my homeland Argentina, but over and over again in so many places around the world. I am honoured to be able to share it with a new audience and demonstrate why this play is so powerful, and remains so tremendously important.'

Military rule is over and the new democracy looks towards a brighter future. But for victims of the old regime, such as Paulina, memories are a prison. Through months of pain and degradation she never saw her tormentor's face, but she heard his voice, calm yet menacing in her ear, a voice she will never forget. When her husband Gerardo invites a stranger back to their isolated beach house, she hears that voice again.

Ariel Dorfman has been called a literary grandmaster and one of the greatest living Latin American novelists. He is a Chilean-American author of fiction, plays, librettos, poems, essays and films in both Spanish and English. For *Death and the Maiden* he won the 1992 Olivier Award for Best New Play and in 2008 he penned the libretto for an operatic version of the play. Among his other plays are *Reader, Widows, The Other Side, Purgatorio*, and *Picasso's Closet*. Dorfman's fiction includes *Mascara, Hard Rain, The Last Song of Manuel Sendero, Konfidenz, The Nanny and the Iceberg* and *The Burning City* which was co-authored with his son Joaquin. A documentary based on his memoir, *A Promise to the Dead: The Exile Journey of Ariel*, received numerous prizes and was short-listed for an Academy Award.

MTC Associate Director Leticia Cáceres has been lauded as one of the most exciting talents in the country. For MTC she has directed *Birdland, The Effect, Cock, Constellations, Yellow Moon, Helicopter* and *Random* (nominated for three Green Room Awards). She has also directed for Belvoir (*Miss Julie* and *The Dark Room*, nominated for seven Sydney Theatre Awards), La Mama (*Tall Man*), Creative Regions (*Tales of the Underground*), Queensland Theatre Company (*The Orphanage Project, Far Away, and The Memory of Water*), Sydney Opera House (*Random, Hoods, and Children of the Black Skirt*), La Boite Theatre/ Brisbane Festival (*Kingswood Kids*), Arts Centre Melbourne, and Brisbane Powerhouse (*Hoods* and *Children of the Black Skirt*). She is the co-founder of nationally acclaimed independent theatre company RealTV whose seminal work *Hoods* won the 2009 Matilda Award for Best Independent Production. RealTV is currently under commission with Belvoir.

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MTC is a department of the University of Melbourne

