

MEDIA RELEASE
14 July 2015

THE WEIR

by Conor McPherson



MTC MELBOURNE
THEATRE
COMPANY

Cast Nadine Garner, Peter Kowitz,
Ian Meadows, Robert Menzies, Greg Stone
Director Sam Strong
Set & Costume Designer Dale Ferguson
Lighting Designer Matt Scott
Composer & Sound Designer
Steve Francis
Assistant Director/Voice & Dialect Coach
Leith McPherson

★★★★★

'The Weir is unmissable theatre.'
Irish Post

*'For shivers, laughs and a night of master
storytelling, you cannot top The Weir.'*
Time Out

Venue

Arts Centre Melbourne, Fairfax Studio

Season dates

Friday 14 August -
Saturday 26 September 2015

Opening night

8pm Thursday 20 August 2015

Production Briefing

6pm Monday 10 August 2015

Tickets

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

Bookings

Southbank Theatre Box Office
03 8688 0800 or mtc.com.au
Arts Centre Melbourne 1300 182 183 or
artscentremelbourne.com.au

#mtcWeir

@MelbTheatreCo

mtc.com.au/mtcWeir

Much-loved actor **Nadine Garner** stars in *The Weir*, **Conor McPherson's** beautifully crafted, award-winning play that brings together the great Irish tradition of bar room tales and theatre's power as an arena for storytelling. Proving there's nothing more revealing than the stories we choose to tell, *The Weir* opens at **8pm Thursday 20 August at Arts Centre Melbourne, Fairfax Studio** before touring to Hobart for a season at the Theatre Royal.

Led by **MTC Associate Artistic Director Sam Strong**, celebrated actors **Greg Stone, Ian Meadows, Robert Menzies** and **Peter Kowitz** join **Nadine Garner** in this modern classic that has mesmerised audiences from the West End to Broadway and back again, and is now on stage in Melbourne for the first time.

Director Sam Strong said, '*The Weir* is a contemporary classic that Melbourne audiences have waited too long to see. This beautiful play is a rare combination of elegance, understatement and power; it's a play that tickles your funny bone, gives you a scare, breaks your heart and then gives you a hug. **Conor McPherson** has a unique gift for bringing to life not just ghost stories, but the things that actually haunt us - lost love, loneliness and regret.'

In a small rural pub in the west of Ireland, the old regulars and their host fall into swapping ghost stories, the sort of local legends and anecdotes that over the years get stretched in the telling. It's not their usual entertainment for a week night. They're just showing off, as fellas do, throwing around a little blarney for the benefit of an attractive stranger in their midst. And Valerie, who has just moved from Dublin into town seems to be enjoying the stories. What's the harm in it? Who could know how deeply these stories strike home and that the most moving story is waiting to be told?

Conor McPherson is a playwright, screenwriter and director who was named by The New York Times as 'the finest playwright of his generation'. He won an Olivier Award for Best New Play in 1999 for *The Weir* and a George Devine Award for *St Nicholas* in 1997. His recent work includes an adaptation of Strindberg's *The Dance of Death* and *The Night Alive* which premiered in the UK and transferred to New York in 2013. He received a Tony Award nomination for his play *Shining City* and an Olivier Award nomination for *The Seafarer*. His directing credits include *The Veil* for the National Theatre and *The Eclipse*, which marked his debut as a screen director.

MTC Associate Artistic Director Sam Strong is one of Australia's pre-eminent theatre directors and arts leaders. His directing credits include *Endgame*, *The Sublime*, *The Speechmaker*, *Private Lives*, *The Crucible*, *Other Desert Cities* and *Madagascar* (MTC); *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* (Sydney Theatre Company); *Masquerade* (Sydney Festival/Melbourne Festival/STCSA/Griffin); *The Boys* (Sydney Festival/Griffin); *The Floating World*, *Between Two Waves*, *And No More Shall We Part* and *Speaking in Tongues* (Griffin); *The Power of Yes* (Company B Belvoir); and *Red Sky Morning* and *Faces in the Crowd* (Red Stitch). He has been nominated for multiple Best Director and Best Production awards at the Helpmann Awards, Sydney Theatre Awards and Green Room Awards and won the 2013 Sydney Theatre Award for Best Direction of a Mainstage Play.



Nadine Garner



Peter Kowitz



Ian Meadows



Robert Menzies



Greg Stone

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MTC is a department of the University of Melbourne

