

MEDIA RELEASE
3 August 2015

Betrayal

by Harold Pinter

MTC MELBOURNE
THEATRE
COMPANY

Cast Alison Bell, John Maurice,
Nathan O'Keefe, Mark Saturno
Director Geordie Brookman
Lighting & Set Designer Geoff Cobham
Associate Designer & Costume Designer
Ailsa Paterson
Assistant Director Suzannah Kennett Lister
Sound Designer Jason Sweeney
Accent Coach Simon Stollery

★★★★★

'The greatest, and the most moving,
of all Pinter's plays.'

The Telegraph (UK)

'An affair to remember. Alison Bell is
outstanding.'

The Australian

'Exceptionally good theatre.'

InDaily

Venue

Southbank Theatre, The Sumner

Season dates

Wednesday 26 August –
Saturday 3 October 2015

Opening night

8pm Saturday 29 August 2015

Production Briefing

6pm Monday 24 August 2015

Tickets

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

Bookings

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

#mtcBetrayal
@MelbTheatreCo
mtc.com.au/Betrayal

Acclaimed actress **Alison Bell** finds herself at the centre of a love triangle in **Betrayal**, **Harold Pinter's** most arresting relationship drama. Created by the State Theatre Company of South Australia and directed by its Artistic Director **Geordie Brookman**, **Betrayal** opens at **Southbank Theatre, The Sumner** on **Saturday 29 August 2015** after seasons in Adelaide and Canberra.

Hailed for its economical writing and backward travelling plot, **Betrayal** is inspired by Pinter's real-life affair with a British TV presenter and the reaction of her husband. Regarded as one of Pinter's major works, this is MTC's third outing of this remarkable play, following its premiere in 1980 and again in 2001 when it was a runaway hit.

Director **Geordie Brookman** said '**Betrayal** is a play of great economy and power. It's full of blood, damage and the heavy consequence of in the moment choices. In **Alison Bell, John Maurice, Nathan O'Keefe** and **Mark Saturno**, I'm lucky enough to have four actors at the peak of their powers, ready to bring Pinter's yearning and dark humour to life.'

Emma and Jerry meet for the first time since the end of their affair, but the coals they rake over have long grown cold. Emma reveals she is finally going to leave Robert, the husband and best friend they betrayed. When, later that day, Jerry decides to confess all to Robert, he discovers that Robert found out about the affair years ago and said nothing. Was this secret his betrayal? Or his revenge?

As memory reels backwards towards the moment the affair started, the lies tangle into a web of deception and betrayal begets betrayal.

Considered one of the most influential modern dramatists, **Harold Pinter** was a playwright, director, actor, poet and political activist. His acting and writing career spanned more than 50 years and in 2005 he won the Nobel Prize for Literature. His legacy includes twenty-nine plays such as *The Birthday Party*, *The Caretaker*, *The Homecoming*, *The Dumb Waiter*, *No Man's Land*, *Moonlight*, *Ashes to Ashes*, *Betrayal*, *Party Time* and *Celebration*; and twenty-four screenplays including *The Servant*, *The Go-Between* and *The French Lieutenant's Woman*.

Geordie Brookman is the Artistic Director of State Theatre Company. His directing credits for the Company include *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Little Bird*, *The Seagull*, *Maggie Stone*, *Hedda Gabler*, *The Kreutzer Sonata*, *Speaking In Tongues*, *romeo&juliet*, *Ghosts*, *Attempts on Her Life*, *The Dumb Waiter*, *Ruby Moon*, *Hot Fudge*, *Toy Symphony* (co-production with QTC), and *Knives In Hens* (co-production with Malthouse). Other directing credits include *Spring Awakening: The Musical* (STC), *Baghdad Wedding* (Belvoir), *Metro Street* (Arts Asia Pacific, Power Arts, Daegu International Musicals Festival and State Theatre Company of South Australia), *The City and Tender* (nowyesnow), *Marathon*, *Morph*, *Disco Pigs* and *The Return* (Fresh Track), *Tiny Dynamite* (Griffin), *Macbeth* and *The Laramie Project* (AC Arts). His productions have won or been nominated for Helpmann, Greenroom, Sydney Critics Circle, Adelaide Critics Circle and Curtain Call Awards.



Alison Bell



John Maurice



Nathan O'Keefe



Mark Saturno

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THEATRE
COMPANY

A State Theatre Company of South Australia production

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MTC is a department of the University of Melbourne

