

As part of the Melbourne Fringe Festival,
 La Mama Theatre presents

BROKEN RIVER

by Tony Reck - a World premiere

Tony Reck lives within proximity of one of the main sources of Melbourne's drug trade. He knows the territory.

In Reck's new drama, *Broken River*, a battle wages between 2 corrupt detectives in the Victorian police force, and a criminal family run by a ruthless matriarch out to protect her share in the drug trade. At stake are revelations that will strike to the heart of corruption lying beneath the surface of the legal and corporate worlds.

The power of *Broken River* lies not only in the tension and suspense of its plot, but in Reck's ability to search for the inner drivers within both the police, the law and those deemed the criminals. The characters are given dimensions and qualities that question the stereotypes presented by daily news coverage. This is theatre at its best – turning a searchlight onto areas of critical social dis-ease while refusing to be satisfied with an easy resolution.

Broken River is an exciting fiction - a terrifying expose of a dark heart of evil. Despite the gritty realism of its style, it is not a documentary. But the events it dramatises are drawn from true facts, actual people and real cases in the recent history of Victorian crime.

"In Victoria, there isn't much corruption.
 They kill you down there".
 Arthur 'Neddy' Smith.

The time is now. The setting is Melbourne and country Victoria. A dismembered female body is discovered on a remote road. Detective Sergeant Peter Rowstone of Victorian Major Crime pins criminal Marlene Corchoran as the prime suspect. But Rowstone himself has a few questions to answer. Above all, who or what is 'The Brotherhood': a secret organisation of powerful men who engage in 'unusual' rituals at an isolated country lodge?

Caught up in flow of events are two vulnerable young adults, out of their depth, likely to be sacrificed in the deadly cross-fire between the major players.

In the end we are left with questions. Who did kill Junie Patel? What are the consequences for the parlous state of democracy in Victoria and its fragile Rule of Law?

"Those who talk, don't know. Those who know, don't talk..."
 Carl Williams.



Image by Tony Reck

Tony Reck – Writer

Tony Reck has worked in the vocations of literature and the performing arts since 1993. He has published fiction and non-fiction, and has worked as an actor, a playwright, a writer-director, a director, a producer, and a theatre critic. Currently, Tony is writing preliminary scenes for a transmedia performance titled *Blue Carla's Western Bonaventure*, and completing his novel *True Crime*. www.tonyreck.com

Richard Murphet – Director

Richard Murphet has been engaged in writing, directing and creating contemporary forms of theatre for the past 4 decades. His plays have received productions throughout Australia and internationally, and he has worked as a director in Melbourne, Sydney, Adelaide, Toronto, New York, Amsterdam, Utrecht and Ghent. At La Mama, he directed a double bill of his two of his works – *Quick Death* and *Slow Love* – in 2015, a Swedish play, *Courage to Kill*, by Lars Noren in 2016, a double bill of two Belgian plays by Elvis Peeters – *Four Men* and *Dog Play* – in 2017 and a French play, *In the Solitude of Cotton Fields* by Bernard-Marie Koltes in early 2019. He received a Lifetime Achievement Award at the Greenroom Awards (2017). His book on Late-Modernist Theatre Practice will be published by Brill in 2020.

DATE 12 - 22 September 2019
TIME Wed 6.30pm
 Thu - Sat 7.30pm
 Sun 4pm
DURATION Approximately 140 minutes
VENUE La Mama Courthouse
 349 Drummond Street, Carlton
TICKETS \$30 Adult | \$20 Concession
BOOKINGS 03 9347 6948 or www.lamama.com.au

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