



Red Phoenix
Theatre

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 20 July 2016
Shakespeare's Game of Thrones

TITUS ANDRONICUS is Shakespeare's bloodiest play and a brilliant example of Elizabethan popular culture and the smash hit of Shakespeare's early career.

Shakespeare's *Game of Thrones* poses a fascinating question about how much popular culture has really changed in last 400 years. Like *Game of Thrones*, ***Titus Andronicus*** is a gripping thriller that **pits family against family in a bloody struggle for power and retribution.**

Two brothers demand to succeed their father as Caesar. Saturninus, the first-born son and his brother Bassianus, loved by the people insists the senators call an election. Marcus Andronicus arrives holding caesar's crown and declares that his brother Titus Andronicus, the valiant Roman General who has just returned home in triumph from a ten-year war with the barbarous Goths, should decide who gains the throne.

Titus has lost 21 sons to war and, clinging to his remaining family members, is looking forward to a peaceful retirement. He has no idea that his worst nightmare has only just begun. His prisoner of war, Tamora Queen of the Goths, is bent on revenge for the loss of her eldest son whom Titus sent to his death. The two become tangled in a vicious cycle of revenge in which they both lose more than they could ever have imagined. Let the games begin...

"Despite the intrinsic horror of Shakespeare's bloodiest play, there are genuine and surprising moments of beauty and humour. Many people tell me this is their favourite Shakespearean play and as we rehearse it I'm beginning to understand why." Says Red Phoenix Theatre's Artistic Director, Michael Eustice.

Shakespeare intentionally wrote ***Titus*** as a violent and bloody revenge play, an extremely popular genre with audiences in the 16th century. Due to shifts in the public's theatrical appetite, the play fell out of favour for about 300 years, but since the middle of the 20th century audiences and critics alike have been rediscovering this thrilling tale of **lust, murder and revenge.**

Eustice says that, *"If Shakespeare were alive today, he would probably write the next big thing to follow Game of Thrones because that's exactly what he did in his own lifetime. He understood what was popular and he fed the public's taste. George RR Martin does the same in Game of Thrones. He draws from the story of Titus Andronicus and other works by Shakespeare just as Shakespeare took stories from the Roman poet Ovid's Metamorphoses who in turn looked to stories in Greek mythology. In an interview with Rolling Stones magazine, Game of Thrones author George RR Martin said, "You look at Shakespeare, who borrowed all of his plots...I take stuff from The War of the Roses and other fantasy things, and all of these things work around in my head and somehow they gel into what I hope is uniquely my own."*

"There is a constant recycling of favourite stories and popular culture. Both the play and the TV series revel in drama, action and the art of villainy. It's interesting that the final scenes in the most recent series of Game of Thrones clearly reflect elements of the Titus Andronicus story line."

Incredibly, in the 400th anniversary year of Shakespeare's death this will be **the Adelaide premiere of *Titus Andronicus***. The play has never received a full stage public performance anywhere in South Australia until now. So, finally it is Adelaide's turn to enjoy Shakespeare's wonderful and gripping thriller.

Red Phoenix is Holden Street Theatres' resident theatre company and proudly dedicated to staging only Adelaide premieres. Holden Street Theatres' Artistic Director, Martha Lott stated that she believes, *"This new partnership with Red Phoenix heralds a new era for Holden Street Theatres as it works towards expanding it's growing reputation as 'the home of theatre' in Adelaide."*

Directed by Michael Eustice, featuring and all south Australian Cast Adolphus Waylee, Anna Bampton, Brant Eustice, Geoff Dawes, Joseph Salcedo-Storer, Joshua Coldwell, Joshua Mensch, Kyron Weetra, Lyn Wilson, Matt Houston, Mat Lynch, Peter Kahlbaum, Rachel Burfield, Sean Watters, Tom Fitzsimons, Tony Sampson, and Tracey Walker.

IN A NUTSHELL

When: Evening Performances: Thurs - Sat, Aug 18 - 20 and Wed - Sat, Aug 24 - 27 @7.30pm. Matinee Performance: Sun, Aug 21@2pm.

Where: Holden Street Theatres - The Studio, 34 Holden Street, Hindmarsh (next to coopers stadium) PARKING AVAILABLE

Tickets: \$21.50 Full / \$15 Concession / \$17.50 Group Concession (6+) Purchase tickets online from holdenstreettheatres.com or redphoenixtheatre.com (follow the links)

or call 8225 8888. Tickets at the door subject to availability

Information and interviews can be arranged through Michael Eustice at Red Phoenix Theatre info@redphoenixtheatre.com or on 0404595240

Hi-res production photos can be accessed via this link: https://1drv.ms/f/s!Aka9quRYfbyahDUch_uOA7eD5ngi Please credit the photos to: Richard Parkhill.

issued by Red Phoenix Theatre Inc. and Holden Street Theatres

Martha Lott

Artistic Director – Holden Street Theatres

Business Development – Thebarton Theatre

www.holdenstreettheatres.com

www.thebartontheatre.com.au

+61 (0)409 603 273 +61(0)8 82231450

164 South Road, Torrensville, SA 5031



Holden Street Theatres