

Holden Street Theatres



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'DON PARTIES ON' by David Williamson

David Williamson's sequel to his smash hit comedy and classic Australian play and film 'DON'S PARTY'.

40 years later Don and the gang are back for another election night party and ready to prove all over again that politics, strong personalities and drinking create the perfect cocktail; a Molotov cocktail...

Don's original party was held on federal election night in 1969 when a very young Gough Whitlam fought a close battle against Prime Minister, John Gorton. **'Don Parties On'** is set on election night in 2010 when Julia Gillard and Tony Abbott locked horns and delivered a hung parliament and headaches as big as a 'Don's Party' hangover.

There are curious similarities between the 1969 and 2010 election campaigns.

Both Gorton and Gillard were leading their parties as unelected Prime Ministers.

Gorton was appointed as PM by the Liberal Party following the mysterious disappearance of Harold Holt while swimming, and Gillard became the Labor Party PM following the infamous coup which toppled Kevin Rudd. *It would seem that sharks swim just as well in parliament as they do in the sea.*

Both Gorton and Gillard went to the electorate, the voting public turned against them and in both instances they retained their leadership by the narrowest of threads.

Sadly, for them the threads were too fine and neither survived the circling sharks within their own party rooms and neither led their party to the next election.

Both Gorton and Gillard's respective opponents; Gough Whitlam and Tony Abbott won those next elections with crushing swings.

'**Don Parties On**' is a play that bristles with philosophical contradictions, inter-generational conflicts, and questions of moral and political integrity.

Red Phoenix Theatre's Artistic Director, Michael Eustice says that, "*While the social and political issues of the 60's and 70's may seem distant, something which remains consistent is the pleasure, the passion, and the fun of yelling at the television screen on election night. Williamson's ability to cut through and expose the true Australian psyche with often bitter, and frequently hysterical humour is as bold and incisive as ever.*"

"Once again we are very excited to see another Adelaide premiere from Red Phoenix and Following the critical acclaim and sellout success of Shakespeare's Titus Andronicus in August, it is exciting to shift our focus to a playwright and play which are quintessentially Australian. Audiences adore Williamson and so do we." Holden Street Theatres' Artistic Director, Martha Lott stated.

Directed by Michael Eustice, featuring a talented cast of Adelaide actors including Wayne Anthoney, Adrian Barnes, Jessica Carroll, Brant Eustice, Brian Godfrey, Julie Quick, Victoria Morgan, Kate van der Horst, and Lyn Wilson.

IN A NUTSHELL

When: Evening Performances: Thurs - Sat, Nov 10 - 12 and Wed - Sat, Nov 16 - 19 @ 7.30pm. Matinee Performance: Sun, Nov 13 @ 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 www.holdenstreettheatres.com or www.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!Aka9quRYfbya5QixrqckOkQB9Juk> Please credit the photos to: Richard Parkhill.

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