

RED
STITCH

THE
ACTORS'
THEATRE

A SNEAK PEEK



WITTENOOM

by
Mary Anne
Butler

Directed by Susie Dee
with Emily Goddard and Caroline Lee

Set & Costume Design
Dann Barber

Lighting Design
Rachel Burke

Composition/Sound Design
Ian Moorhead

Stage Manager/Assistant Director
Cassandra Fumi

Assistant Stage Manager
Georgina Bright

SEASON

1 FEBRUARY - 19 FEBRUARY

PREVIEWS

26 JANUARY - 31 JANUARY

Wittencoom was
developed by
Red Stitch Actors'
Theatre,
through its INK program.

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SYNOPSIS

Wittenoom is a new Australian play directed by the award-winning Susie Dee, featuring Emily Goddard (This is Eden) and Caroline Lee OAM. Wittenoom is a story of family, love, hope and Country. Dot is dying of mesothelioma; an incurable lung disease caused by blue asbestos. Her prognosis is days, if not hours left to live. Pearl sits by Dot's bedside narrating her death, as the 'Dogs of the Apocalypse' hover, waiting for Dot to finally let go. Flashback to The Past: Dot and Pearl live in Wittenoom; the blue asbestos mining town in WA's Pilbara. So begin glorious days, when the Pilbara's stunning landscapes, magnificent wildlife and close-knit community shaped an idyllic lifestyle; wild-natured Dot making the most of every second, while teenaged Pearl tries to make sense of what her own life might be. Wittenoom weaves Dot's current mesothelioma treatment into the glorious past, juxtaposing vivid life with looming death in an ultimately hopeful reminder that life is here, and now: a chance gift to be lived to the full. The entwining of Dot and Pearl's intensely personal story into the frame of the broader mining industry asks questions of accountability in an era where the health and cultural impacts of mining ricochet as heavily in 2022 as they did in 1962, pondering the health and safety of community versus the drive of corporate greed.

Recommended for ages 14 and older.

Contains mild coarse language.

"It's not the fear of dying that grips you in the blue neon light of dawn – it's the fear of never having lived..."

THEMES

- Love
- Grief
- Injustice
- Disease
- Community
- Mining
- Environment

THEATRE STYLES

- Poetic
- Stylised
- Symbolism
- Political Theatre

CHARACTERS

Pearl

female, teenager / younger woman

"I make myself a tomboy: cut off my hair, run like them, swear like them, ride bikes like them..."

Out in the bush they let me into their gang like I'm one of them, but in town they leave me on the outside; so I hover. Learn to live between worlds. Learn to live inside myself.

I like it in here, where I can be me. It's an in-between space.

It's my place."

Dot

female, an older woman

"One fella grabs me around the waist and we twirl and spin so fast we become a whirling cloud of hope. God, we dance. He asks me my name and I tell him it's Patsy, even though it's really Dot. Dot is a speck on the landscape; a nothing. Patsy has class - like Patsy Cline. That's the thing about way out here. You can be anyone; anything in this centre of the second chance."

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A SNEAK PEEK

TIMES

Wednesday - Saturday

7:30pm

Sunday

6.30pm

Wednesday Matinees

12pm on 8 & 15 FEB

Saturday Matinee

2pm on 11 FEB

PRICE

Student tickets \$25.

Accompanying teachers
free for every 10 students.

WORKSHOPS

School Workshops in acting, directing
and playwriting are available at Red
Stitch Cromwell Road Theatre or in
your school. Enquire now for prices:
admin@redstitch.net

EDUCATIONAL Q&A SESSIONS

8 & 15 FEB - 12pm

9 FEB - 7:30pm

REVISIT

Revisit the Play with
archival footage for
extensive revision of the
production.

SCHOOL BOOKINGS

Ticket reservations are
processed during Box Office
hours: Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm

All ticket reservations must be
finalised 7 days prior to the
booked performance.

ENQUIRIES

Phone:
03 9533 8083

Email:
boxoffice@redstitch.net

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