

# Benjamin Mary

theatre play in one act

by

Pasquale M Palmieri

directed by

Izeqiel McCoy

a Melbourne Italian Festival 2010

premiere production

in English

Friday  
28 May  
2010

Gasworks Arts Park Theatre

PROUDLY PRESENTS

# Benjamin Mary

## READ PERFORMANCES PREMIERE

(duration 90 minutes)

Play in one act  
by award winning  
playwright  
Pasquale M Palmieri

directed  
by Izeqiel McCoy

### Cast

*Benjamin*  
Milan Perkins  
*Mary 25*  
Alice Sainsbury  
*Mary 50*  
Nancy Finn  
*Mary 75*

Shirley Cattunar  
*Flirt, the dancer*  
Rebecca Jensen

### Choreography

Camilla van Rosendal

### Lighting

John McKissock

Set in contemporary Melbourne, **Benjamin Mary** is the tale of a couple in three phases of their relationship: at 25, just married and in love, dreaming of a life together; at 50, the apex of what has become a collection of continuous ego confrontations, arguments and fights; at 75, both old and resigned to the unfolding of their story, in a mix of acquired wisdom, regrets and fears.

Passionate and funny, alternating between humour and sadness, this play dares to expose the common idiosyncrasies developing in a couple's relationship as it transforms throughout the years.

**Benjamin Mary** is performed applying a revisited version of *Commedia dell'arte*, adapted to modern times and to the English language. The *Zanni* and other archetype characters are not the traditional ones, but rather subtle caricatures impersonating the idiosyncrasies of today's life.

Furthermore **Benjamin Mary** is acted applying the Read Performances technique.

### Read Performances

Since the 20th Century theatre scholars, directors and actors have been showing a strong interest toward a wider participation of the audience to the performance offered by actors who act reading the script.

This fashion of read theatre had spread already in ancient Rome, starting from the Emperor Augustus. Emperor Hadrian (117-138 ad) had even a small theatre specially built, the Athenaeum, destined to acted readings, which included a proper stage from which actors, or the authors themselves, would enact their works, with proper seats for a paying audience.

**Read Performances** is establishing an intermediate step between conventional readings and full productions, performing rehearsed theatre plays on stage in front of an audience.

In a Read Performance the actors don't fully memorize their lines, holding the script in hand as a guideline, offering a new listening sensation based primarily on their acting skills and the verbal content of the play.

The role of Read Performances is obviously not that of replacing or competing with traditional full stage productions, the very soul of live theatre, but that of creating new opportunities for theatre experiences above the existing ones, in full respect of the craft.

Gasworks Arts Park  
Theatre  
Cnr Graham & Pickles  
Streets, Albert Park

Friday 28 May  
8.00pm  
for  
8.30pm start

## A Read Performance In English

Tickets \$20  
Concessions \$15

Bookings/Tickets  
Gasworks Arts Park

03 9699 3253  
www.gasworks.org.au

