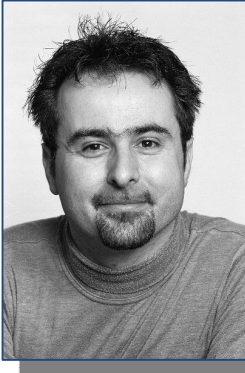


Biography of Darren Brealey



PLAYWRIGHT

Playwright Darren Brealey is the author of several plays, short film scripts, monologues and short stories. His book, *Performing The Goat, A Collection Of One-Act Plays*, was published in June 2006. ISBN 1 84401 503 3

Brealey first came to public attention in 1996 when his play, *The Meeting Place* was produced during the Melbourne Fringe Festival. In 1998, Brealey's next full-length work, *Three Shorts* was produced at Melbourne's Workhouse Theatre. *Performing The Goat* followed in 1999 containing three one-act plays, as part of the Melbourne Fringe Festival. In the 2005 Melbourne Fringe Festival he co-wrote with friend, Stuart Pursell and produced *Comfort Zone*.

Penniless Penny a one-act play was produced by Walking Into Bars as part of the 2008 Melbourne International Comedy Festival. Also, 2008 saw Brealey's one-act plays, *Disturbing Mavis* and *The Mechanics* produced in Singapore as part of the Short and Sweet Singapore 2008 Festival; *Disturbing Mavis* winning the People's Choice Award in Top 30 Week 1 section. *Spring* was produced in Malaysia as part of the Short and Sweet Malaysia 2008 Festival. In September, *Shattered Reflection* opened on Wednesday 24th at the Guild Theatre as part of the 2008 Melbourne Fringe Festival.

Brealey learnt drama from the age of six with Arena Theatre and first appeared on stage at the Palais Theatre in St. Kilda, when he was ten, in the *1980 Gang Show*. In addition to his training in theatre, he studied writing at the Australian Film, Television and Radio School. (AFTRS). In August 2004, Brealey attended the Robert McKee, 'Story Seminar', claimed to be the world's ultimate writing course taught by Hollywood's master of the craft.

The Meeting Place was a critical and public success: "The Meeting Place was a simple even old fashioned story of family and loss. I rarely cry in the theatre - at least for emotional reasons - but there I was enjoying some new talent. And I was bawling, with the joy of it and of the magic of a good yarn well put, the tears running down my cheeks like a bloody baby." (*Ralph McLean - 3RRR*). Brealey won a Special Recommendation Award for *The Meeting Place* in the Melbourne Fringe Performance Art Awards.

Three Shorts comprised of three self-contained plays: 'Disturbing Mavis', 'The Stair' and 'Champagne Ladies'. Once again, critical and public reaction to the work was favourable, with 'Champagne Ladies' singled out for particular praise: "With Three Shorts, Darren Brealey has written an eclectic mixture of observations that manage, somehow, to connect ... with the satirical 'Champagne Ladies' definitely my favourite" (*Stage Whispers*).

Performing The Goat was a strong production and gained a positive audience reaction and critical comment confirmed Brealey's ability to create realistic, original characterisations and dialogue: "Darren Brealey delivers four humorous and often terrifyingly accurate portrayals ... four short plays that capture colloquial Aussie stereotypes and presents them with hilarious accuracy" (*Buzz Cuts*).

Comfort Zone, co-written with friend Stuart Pursell was proven by its audience appreciation, the production received critical acclaim: "Comfort Zone has delivered a rare piece of new theatre that is hilariously self referential and thematically bold" (*BNews*).

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Shattered Reflection is Brealey's most confronting and controversial piece of theatre yet, tackling the serious problem of white-collar addiction to alcohol and drugs. Zachary Lurje, Arts Journalist wrote: "Writer, Darren Brealey, is to be commended for such well-drawn and developed characters. The strength of *Shattered Reflection* comes in these interesting characters that you can relate to – we all have a controlling or overly precious friend." (*Buzz Cuts*)

COMMUNITY THEATRE

Brealey joined the Arena Theatre in Cromwell Road, South Yarra in 1975 (now the home to Polyglot Puppet Theatre) as part of the youth theatre contingent, until 1979. Here he learnt the art of acting, character development and other theatrical skills.

Between 1980 and 1984 Brealey was involved with various community theatre groups, including the Scouting movement's Gang Show in 1980 (performing at the Palais Theatre in St. Kilda) and Springvale Youth Theatre.

Between 1984 and 2003, Brealey was a member of the Dandenong Light Opera Company (DLOC), which became Dandenong Theatre Company (DTC) in later years. Here, Brealey was to learn the business of Community Theatre from many and varied theatre veterans in set design, construction, props and sets, fire and safety (OH&S), theatre design, stage management, lighting, make up, the meaning behind community and of course, acting, dancing and singing.

During this period he also joined other community theatre groups, such as Cheltenham Light Opera Company (CLOC).

In 2004, he spent four years as the Secretary of Kyneton Theatre Company fostering creative relationships and creating sustainable relationships.

Brealey started his theatrical career at the age of six and have continued to create, consult, forge and make his career in theatre; acting, producing, writing, backstage, and technical and construction.

PROFESIONAL THEATRE, FILM & TELEVISION

Between 1983 and 1993 Brealey was involved with performing in television and film industry as an actor. He appeared in television soaps, such as *Neighbours*, *Australia's Most Wanted*, *Flying Doctors*, *The Comedy Company*, *Janus*, *The Four Minute Mile*, and so on. Commercials such as BP, HBA, Susan, and so on.

He had support speaking roles in *The Flying Doctors*, *The Battlers* (TV movie filmed in South Australia) and a commercial for SATAAC.

In 1999 and 2000 Brealey worked for Malcolm Cooke & Associates as his Assistant and Assistant Production Manager for the Australian national tour of *The Hobbit*.