

The Blue Room and Plink Plonk Productions present

# Death of a Murderer

*His job is to protect the most hated woman in Britain... Will he survive the night?*

**Death of a Murderer**, the cult fiction novel by award-winning author Rupert Thomson, comes to the stage for the very first time in a beautifully haunting world premiere adaptation at **The Blue Room, 16 June – 4 July 2009**.

Sentenced with her partner to life imprisonment for the abuse, torture and murder of five children in the 60's (crimes dubbed "the Moors murders" due to the bodies' burial place the Yorkshire Moors, an expanse of fog-covered wasteland), Myra Hindley is pronounced dead.

That night, due to enormous public interest in her death, a large police presence was needed to secure the hospital where her body was guarded until disposal. **Death of a Murderer** is the story of Constable Billy Tyler's 12-hour shift in the morgue; tired, battling sleep, and surprisingly a few ghosts of his own.

Writer and director of Plink Plonk Productions' **Death of a Murderer**, Matt Penny, will combine his original compositions with dramatic visual effects by award-winning filmmaker Christopher Kenworthy to juxtapose Billy's reality and state of dreaming:

"The starkness of the morgue where we watch Billy's anxieties take shape seems almost comforting compared to the rich tapestry that encroaches upon us during sleep," says Penny, excited about obtaining the rights to produce Thomson's chilling work.

While the novel **Death of a Murderer** was short-listed for the 2007 Whitbread Book of the Year (now known as the Costa Book of the Year), and Thomson's *The Book of Revelation* was made into an Australian film by Ana Kokkinos in 2006, Penny is the first to bring Thomson's work to the stage, and his script is already gaining international attention, even before it's premiere:

"It's got a lovely 'chamber music' feel too it, quiet, muted, minor key." - Ian McGlynn, Exec. Director, Rondo Theatre, Bath

Penny's first stage adaptation (of the cult film *Withnail and I* for the 2001 Perth Fringe Festival) played to packed houses and was "short-listed for best theatre production," he recalls, "but was narrowly beaten by a bunch of rats in cages.

"My hope is that we can do even better with this production. We've got a hugely talented cast of local actors, and I hope audiences will be really challenged by the text and their performances," says Penny.

The cast consists of Michael Rae (*Kvetch, Art's Desire*), Kingsley Judd (*A Christmas Carol, Withnail and I*), Helen Angell (*Discharge, East*), and Chris McCafferty (*Withnail and I, Bouncers*).

Penny's previous producer/director credits include *The Magic Matt Show* (2003), *Slight Leakage* (2005), and *Discharge* (2007), all at The Blue Room. **Death of a Murderer** will be the first play produced under his new company banner Plink Plonk Productions.

**Death of a Murderer** Adapted for the stage by director Matt Penny, based on the novel by Rupert Thomson.  
16 June – 4 July, 8pm Tuesday – Saturday. *Meet the Artists* Tuesday 23 June.

The Blue Room, 53 James Street Northbridge

Tickets: \$22 / \$15 concession. Blue Room members \$18 / \$12. Bookings: 9227 7005 / [www.blueroom.org.au](http://www.blueroom.org.au)

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