



QMF 2009 JUL17–AUG 2
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MEDIA RELEASE
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DIRTY APPLE

by Jonathan Henderson and Shaun Charles

Dirty Apple is a compelling new opera which looks at how 21st century technology is changing the parameters of peer pressure and communication in our society, and its subsequent impact on individuals, families and the wider community. Opera Queensland has joined forces with Backbone Youth Arts to create this new work which will make its world première in July as part of the 2009 Queensland Music Festival and Q150 celebrations. Seven performances will be staged at the Brisbane Powerhouse Theatre between 18 and 25 July.

Set against the backdrop of a Brisbane high school, Ben and his friends learn one of life's hardest lessons when they set out to discredit their teacher on the internet. Revenge isn't so sweet as the rumour mill works overtime, and this tight group of friends turn on each other as they struggle to deal with the fallout. Who is to blame for this tragedy and who will fess up?

Dirty Apple has been developed by a team of 14 young people (aged between 13 and 18) in collaboration with 21-year-old composer **Jonathan Henderson**, librettist **Shaun Charles**, **Fraser Corfield** (formerly the Artistic Director of Backbone Youth Arts) and **Kellie Kremmer** (Opera Queensland's Education Liaison Officer). A cast of 18 performers, under the direction of **Michael Futcher** (director) and **Andrew Cory** (assistant director), will bring to life this compelling piece of music theatre about choice and consequence. For the majority of the cast, this will be the first time that they perform on a professional stage. Brisbane conductor **Dane Lam** will lead the artists and an orchestra of young musicians from the **Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University**.

The collaborative process adopted for the development of *Dirty Apple* stems from Opera Queensland's *Creating Opera!* education program, created in partnership with Backbone Youth Arts. Since its inception in September 2006, young people have driven the project – from determining initial goals to devising the story and establishing musical motifs. This production is created by and for young people. The themes in the work reflect their interests and are of significance to young audiences as well as the wider community.

The Queensland Music Festival is a state-wide biennial celebration of musical excellence that makes the joy of music accessible to all. Whether your primary interest is in serious contemporary music, world music, regional cultural development or just taking in fantastic entertainment, QMF offers 44 events in over 20 regions throughout the State to connect with.

CREATIVE TEAM:

Conductor	Dane Lam
Director	Michael Futcher
Assistant Director	Andrew Cory
Set and Costume Designer	Sharka Bosakova
Lighting Designer	Andrew Meadows
Project Manager	Kellie Kremmer

CAST:

Emma	Milica Ilic
Ben	Jordan Pollard
Josie	Kiandra Howarth
Ryan	Kristian Roche
Veronica	Zoe Giddings Jones
Julie Weathers	Hayley Sugars
Principal/Counsellor	Stephen Beck
Chelsea	Alana Klein

ENSEMBLE (in alphabetical order)

Hannah Cliff, Henry Goakes, Elise Heller, Sam Hickey, Casey McCollow, Tom Oliver, Taylor Pearce, Georgina Purdie, Kate Stuart, Paul Tabone

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Sung in English.

Dirty Apple is suitable for those 13 years of age and over and contains occasional coarse language.

PERFORMANCE DETAILS:

18, 20, 21 (11.30am matinee), 22 (6.30pm), 23, 24 and 25 (1.30pm matinee) July, 2009

Bookings: Powertix (07) 3358 8600 or online www.gmf.org.au

Adult \$38* Concession \$33* Side Gallery \$28.50* 30 Below/Student \$26.50*

(* prices include booking fees)

This Opera Queensland production in collaboration with Backbone Youth Arts is co-presented by Q150, Queensland Music Festival, QPAC and Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University.



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For further media information and images go to www.gmf.org.au or please contact Tracey Whealey, The Shock Factor Pty Ltd (07) 3847 5358, 0417 146 552, info@theshockfactor.com.au