

MEDIA RELEASE

Deckchair scores a hat-trick with the WA Premier's Book Award Nominations

Krakouer!, *The Modern International Dead* and *Jasper Jones* have all just been nominated in the WA Premier's Book Awards for 2008-09, and all three will feature in upcoming seasons at Fremantle's home of new writing, Deckchair Theatre.

Krakouer! is nominated for Best Script in 2009, and it proved to be a hit with audiences in its world premiere season last year. Deckchair commissioned Reg Cribb to write the play, based on the lives of indigenous football legends Jimmy and Phil Krakouer, and it was such a success that the production is seeing a return season from October 2 – 9 at Victoria Hall, Fremantle, prior to a whirlwind tour of 14 regional venues across WA in October and November. Next year the production embarks upon a 10-week national tour of regional and metropolitan venues across the country.

Damien Millar's *The Modern International Dead* is nominated for Best Script of 2008, and if it wins it would be adding this award to an already impressive collection, including the 2008 Sydney Theatre Award for Best New Australian Work, and the 2008 NSW Premier's Literary Award for Best New Australian Play. The play provocatively examines the lives of peacekeepers, UN weapons inspectors and aid-workers in some of the world's most dangerous hotspots, and Deckchair will be presenting its WA premiere season in March 2011.

Finally, Fremantle novelist Craig Silvey's *Jasper Jones* has been nominated in the Fiction category for 2009. The novel has been a huge hit with readers and critics around the world, already winning a swag of awards, including Book of the Year in the Australian Book Industry Awards. It was also shortlisted for the Miles Franklin Literary Award and has been long-listed for the Dylan Thomas Prize for young novelists. Deckchair has secured the rights to adapt this brilliant novel for the stage, and engaged acclaimed Fremantle playwright Humphrey Bower for the task, following his successful adaptation of Robert Drewe's *Grace* for the company earlier this year.

Described as "genius" by *The West Australian*, the work is set in a West Australian mining town in the 1960s, and is a coming-of-age story like no other: a love story, a mystery that will keep you on the edge of your seat, and a tragic indictment of small-town bigotry. Filled with a cast of unforgettable characters, the adaptation is due to see its world premiere season at Deckchair Theatre early in 2012.

The WA Premier's Book Awards will be announced on September 1, 2010.

Visit www.deckchairtheatre.com.au for bookings for the return season of *Krakouer!* as well as the full WA touring schedule.

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