

Username login

SUNDAY, 07 AUGUST 2016



HOME ADELAIDE BRISBANE CANBERRA MELBOURNE PERTH SYDNEY TASMANIA JOBS SLIDESHOWS MAIL LIST MEMBERS
News Reviews What's On



Buy Properties in Cammeray
Freestanding Tranquillity meets Complete Convenience
Domain.com.au



[Sydney » Reviews »](#)

The Hansard Monologues: Age of Entitlement

Saturday, 06 August 2016 12:50 Emily Shaddick



Hansard is a written record of parliamentary proceedings, and **The Hansard Monologues** is a play based on these records. Three years of government has been edited, fine-tuned and refined into this excellent script by **Katie Pollock** and **Paul Daley**. As you leave the theatre you mull over what you have heard and a small shiver goes down your spine as you realise what you heard was real.

Indeed the content of **The Hansard Monologues** would be hilarious if it was fiction. But the terrifying thing is that this is not make-believe. These are real conversations, statements and responses that our elected representatives have made. The sad thing is that there are moments of true leadership and compassion in the discourse but they are drowned out by a tide of the ridiculous, outlandish and at times offensive, noise.

The cast consists of four actors who take it in turns to portray politicians of all parties. It is a hard task to keep track of the identities of the speakers despite photos and names being displayed on a screen behind them. It is a fast paced revolving door of speeches and it can be distracting as your brain is constantly trying to connect the voices to faces and keep track of the context in which these words are spoken in Racism, terrorism, climate change, marriage equality, dodgy travel expenses and many other subjects are all covered It is overwhelming at times.

Heather Mitchell's entrance is astounding. She embodies her character so convincingly and it is a beautiful mixture of fun and fear as you watch and wait for her first words. But that is only the beginning of **Mitchell's** powerful performance. Despite being the only character who is visibly and purposefully dressed and identified as a particular politician she still takes on other roles in an instant. She pulls a veil over your eyes with her words and manages to persuade you that she is each and every one of the politicians in her script. She is a true chameleon and a master to watch on the stage.

Andrew Tighe, John Gaden and **Michelle Doake** are all extraordinarily adaptable dipping and weaving from one politician to another. Each actor takes on the voices of both male and female politician's. They bring the world that we presume is so high and mighty to earth with a shattering clarity of dialogue. This is not a just theatre experience it is a daunting revelation.

It should not be missed. We should all watch this. This is democracy at work. These are people we have elected. Some of them act like children in a school yard when they think no one is looking. Others are voices in the wilderness.

The Hansard Monologues: Age of Entitlement
by *Katie Pollock and Paul Daley*

Directed by Timothy Jones

Venue: York Theatre | Seymour Centre, Corner of City Rd and Cleveland St, Chippendale NSW
Dates: 5 – 13 August 2016
Tickets: \$45 – \$36
Bookings: www.seymourcentre.com | (02) 9351 7940

ALSO Touring
Glen Street Theatre | 28 – 31 July 2016
Illawarra Performing Arts Centre | 17 – 20 August 2016
The Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House | 26 – 28 August 2016

Tweet 81 Share 81

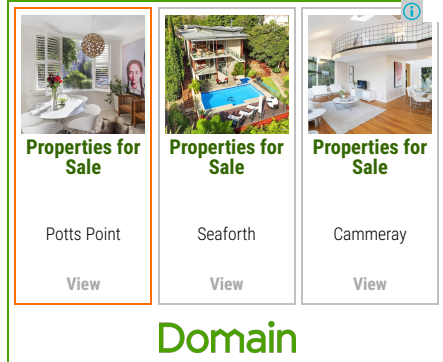
Comments (0)

Write comment

Show/hide comment form
You must be logged in to post a comment. Please register if you do not have an account yet.

TODAY in Sydney

- [Irish Film Festival](#)
- [Francesco Clemente: Encampment](#)
- [Fracture](#)
- [Fracture](#)
- [Broken](#)
- [Beirut Adrenaline](#)
- [View Full Calendar](#)



Domain

Theatre Jobs



Advertise and Search Theatre Jobs for FREE!
[Goto Australian Stage Jobs](#)

Advertise on Australian Stage



With our *NEW* Self-Serve Advertising, you can see your ad here in 10 minutes! Starting at just \$19.95.
[Try it now for FREE!](#)

[Advertise here](#)

Most Read SYDNEY Reviews

- [Betrayal | Ensemble Theatre](#)
The passing of time has not diminished the power of Harold Pinter's script, *Betrayal*. Tweet Ifunction(d,s,id...
- [Beirut Adrenaline | Theatre Excentrique](#)
Beirut Adrenaline is set in 1986, four years before the official end of the 15 year war in Lebanon. The war that took the l...
- [Those Who Fall in Love like Anchors Dropped Upon the Ocean Floor | Griffin Independent](#)
Those Who Fall in Love like Anchors Dropped Upon the Ocean Floor is a substantial title for a play that's a trifle....
- [The Beast](#)
After surviving a catastrophe at sea, three men, Baird, Simon and Rob, vow to make every meal count, to cultivate organic c...
- [The Hanging | Sydney Theatre Company](#)
The Hanging is no picnic although Joan Lindsay's *Oz* Goth classic, *Picnic at Hanging Rock*, casts a giant shadow over Angela...



Buy Properties in Cremorne
Versatile Opportunity, Zoned R3, 361sqm with potential to improve
Domain.com.au



Like Share Nick Bolton and 573 others like this.

More Reviews By 'Emily Shaddick'

- [The 26-Storey Treehouse | CDP Theatre Producers](#) 20 Aug 15
- [Aunty Donna](#) 26 Jun 15
- [Singin' in the Rain](#) 10 Jul 16
- [Time for Three with Sydney Symphony Orchestra](#) 28 Aug 15
- [Keating! The Musical | Birdie Productions](#) 17 Jul 15

[Australian Stage on Twitter!](#) Get regular updates

For Rent

[View](#)

Neutral Bay

3 bedrooms

Neutral Bay

3 bedrooms

[Site Terms and Conditions](#) | [Australian Stage Members](#)

© Australian Stage Online.
Images and text from this website may not be used in any product intended for commercial sale or redistribution.

