

The Premiere Season of

**Joan**

By Tom Scott

Directed by Tim Gordon

Circa One

20 Jan – 17 Feb

Tues – Thurs 6.30pm. Fri – Sat 8pm. Sun 4pm

\$25 – \$52

What if you could meet yourself as you were when you were young and just starting on life's roller-coaster – would you tell yourself about the future or would you not spoil the journey of discovery, and if you could meet your future self would you really want to know what lies ahead?

Next in Circa 1 is *Joan*, a play by Tom Scott based on his mother's life. The character of Joan is played by two fabulous actors Mother and Daughter **Ginette McDonald** playing Old Joan and **Kate McGill** playing Young Joan. A continuing tension throughout is that Old Joan knows what is coming but can't reveal what they are – Young Joan must find these out for herself.

Meeting, they share the narrative - Old Joan, wounded, disappointed, and cynical feels robbed by life, and Young Joan, her younger self, full of fun and optimism are in constant conversation with each other. The play reveals the arc of her life from a humble, but magical and mystical childhood in Southern Ireland between the two World Wars, to raising six children in grueling, reduced circumstances small town New Zealand with an angry alcoholic husband, ending in a measure of qualified peace and contentment in a genteel retirement home in Hawke's Bay

It is a piece of social history – travelling through war years, in a time where New Zealand was prospering and wealthy however this seems to have bypassed the Scott's house. A time before women had control over birth and fertility.



Kate McGill & Ginette McDonald

The play is set in memories, switching and jumping through time. It is about living with hope and loss, of coming to terms with who we really are and how we are to be remembered.

For director **Tim Gordon** *Joan* is a play not only about Tom Scott's mum, it is a play for everyone who has ever had a mother. "Most of us have experienced a mother's love and many of us have also been driven to distraction as their world's shrink and age makes them more and more dependent. We thank the Scott Family for sharing their Mum with us. *Joan* is outrageous and funny, needy and giving, poignant and frustrating."



The Playwright; **Tom Scott** was born in London in 1947 and he and his twin sister emigrated to New Zealand as 18-month-olds with their Mother, Joan, to join their Father, Tom, who had already made the journey from Northern Ireland. The family was raised at Rongotea in rural Manawatu, and Tom studied at Massey University, graduating with a Bachelor of Science in psychology in 1972.

Tom has been a regular cartoonist for most of his career winning numerous awards, including the Qantas Awards for New Zealand Cartoonist of the Year (five times), Columnist of the Year, and Political Columnist of the Year (three times). He also won scriptwriting awards for *Fallout* and for *View from the Top*. He wrote for television *Rage*, *The Kick* and *Hillary on Everest* and for film, *Separation City*. He co-wrote the screenplay for the animated feature *Footrot Flats: The Dog's Tale* with Murray Ball.

In the 2006 New Year Honours, Scott was appointed an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services as a writer, journalist and illustrator.

In 2001 Tom wrote the semi-autobiographical stage play *The Daylight Atheist* which has since been performed by numerous theatres in New Zealand and Australia.

Tom says, "*Joan*, is not the reverse side of the coin of my play about my father. Nor is it an antidote - though it will have medicinal properties for anyone still reeling from that confronting piece. It is first and foremost, front and centre a stand-alone work that requires no a-priori knowledge. All that is needed to appreciate *Joan* is to be of women born - to borrow from *Macbeth*, my mother's favorite play.