

Proudly supported by Paul and Danika McArthur

Switzerland

By Joanna Murray-Smith
Directed by Susan Wilson
With Music by Gareth Farr

Circa Two
17 March - 14 April

Tues - Sat 7.30pm, Sun 4pm
Note: Opening weekend Fri 16 & Sat 17 8pm.

\$30 Specials Fri 16 March 8pm & Sun 18
March 4.30pm

\$25 - \$52. Friends \$38 until 1 April



Australian High Commission
Wellington, New Zealand



Director Susan Wilson

Working on *Switzerland* has been a fascinating process as we delve into the life of renowned crime-writer Patricia Highsmith. We have all loved the background reading and research and we've been engrossed in the Mr Ripley stories and the biographies of Patricia Highsmith showing her mercurial and bizarre life.

Of Patricia's many successful works she is well-remembered for *Strangers on a Train* and *Carol* which were both made into movies. Probably, however, her most well-known work is *The Talented Mr Ripley* which enjoyed huge success as a movie in 1999 starring Matt Damon, Jude Law and Gwyneth Paltrow.

Joanna Murray-Smith's exquisite script has been a joy to work with and has given us the opportunity to present a chilling, and very witty look at what might have been the final chapter in the life of Patricia Highsmith. And....please don't tell anyone the ending!

Catherine Downes plays Patricia Highsmith

Playing Patricia Highsmith is, to use a line from *Switzerland* "like diving into 'a crevasse of sharks" - and the sharks are all within her. She's the star of her own nightmare. 'Anything that struck terror into you as a child is the foundation of your life' says Pat, a brilliant wordsmith and deeply complex woman who so badly needs to control an uncontrollable world. A fabulous challenge!

Simon Leary plays Edward Ridgeway

Edward Ridgeway is a mysterious visitor to Patricia Highsmith who keeps changing every time you think you've figured him out. Constantly undermined at every turn he meets his match in Highsmith "Has it occurred to you that maybe you are wrong? Maybe I am special?" "Maybe there are aliens, anything's possible" This character totally contrasts with my recent role as Captain Hook in *Peter Pan the Pantomime*.

Switzerland contains coarse language, adult theme, sexual references.



Meet Joanna Murray-Smith

We invite you to join us to Meet & Greet playwright Joanna Murray-Smith

Sunday 18 March 2018 2:00pm - 3:30pm Circa Two.

Please join us in welcoming internationally acclaimed and celebrated playwright Joanna Murray-Smith for an intimate Q&A about her fascinating play, *Switzerland*, and her work and life as a playwright. Hosted by Linda Wilson this will be an hour of pure pleasure, delight and insight.

Free entry but please RSVP circaadmin@circa.co.nz as we predict a huge response.

We look forward to seeing you there.



Director Susan Wilson



Catherine Downes



Simon Leary