

At the Wake

By Victor Rodger
Directed by Jane Yonge
Presented by FCC

Circa One
21 – 31 March

Tues – Thurs 6.30pm, Fri – Sat 8pm,
\$25 – \$52

Please note: There is no preview on Tuesday 20 March as advertised in our 2018 brochure. We apologise for any inconvenience

Playwright Victor Rodger: I never got to be in the same room as my Samoan father and my Scottish grandmother.

The genesis for *At the Wake* came from me asking myself what that might have looked like – the three of us all under the same roof at the same time – and what might have finally brought us together.

Ultimately I imagined that the only way it would have happened was if my palagi mother (who in real life is still very much alive) had passed away and my father had turned up to the funeral to pay his last respects.

At the Wake deals with the three big L's: life, love and loss. At the centre of the play stands Joan, a one-time actress with a fondness for Johnny Walker Blue, foul language and recounting her past sexual exploits in excruciatingly explicit detail to her mortified grandson, Robert.



Starring Lisa Harrow

I must stress that Joan is absolutely nothing like my own deeply religious grandmother except in one crucial regard: her love for her grandson is fierce and unwavering.

I'm incredibly excited to be making my Circa debut with *At the Wake*. It's a play which has previously enjoyed critical acclaim in Auckland and Palmsteron North. And I'm especially pleased that Lisa Harrow, who played Joan in Auckland, will be making her debut on the Wellington stage in a role that has made audiences recoil and laugh and ultimately cry.

My old mate, Jerome Leota, who was in my Young and Hungry play *Cunning Stunts* 21 years ago will be also be part of the cast and the director will be Jane Yonge who took home the "Best Director" gong at last year's Wellington Theatre Awards for *The Basement Tapes*.

We're all looking forward to sharing *At the Wake* with you.

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



Starring Catherine Downes and Simon Leary

"A gripping psychological thriller. Creeps up on you and then has you on the edge of your seat"

- Sunday Telegraph ★★★★★

We are thrilled to announce that the acclaimed playwright Joanna Murray-Smith will be joining us during the opening weekend of *Switzerland*. Our thanks to the Australian High Commission, Wellington. Joanna will attend the Friday preview and opening night Saturday 17th March. Her work is well-known and loved by Circa audiences. We have produced, *Honour*, *Ninety*, *The Female of the Species*, *Bombshells* and this July Ali Harper will star in *Songs for Nobodies*.



Australian High Commission
Wellington, New Zealand

"Murray-Smith's writing is brilliant. The dialogue is razor sharp and quick witted..." - Perthnow ★★★★★

Celebrated crime writer, Patricia Highsmith is living hidden away in the Swiss Alps and refusing to contact her publishers who are urging her to write another in the best-selling Ripley series. A mysterious young man appears unannounced. Will her love of fictional murders become a dangerous reality?

A chilling and sometimes hilarious two-hander exploring the final chapter in the life of Patricia Highsmith. (*The Talented Mr Ripley*, *Strangers on a Train*, *Carol*)

"Funny, chilling and thrilling." - Perthnow ★★★★★