

## The Dinner

Devised by Joan Bellviure  
Directed by Juliet O'Brien  
Company: The Improvisors

Circa One  
10 - 25 August

Tues - Thurs 6.30pm  
Fri - Sat 8pm, Sun 4pm  
\$25 - \$52

\$30 preview - Thurs 9 August

New Zealand premiere season - 2 weeks only

We are so looking forward to *The Dinner*, premiering here for the first time outside of the Festivals of Europe. We welcome back the director, ex-pat French resident, Juliet O'Brien, her work was last seen at Circa in *The Letter Writer* (NZIF 2010).

In every performance of its limited 15-night season the play is set at a special occasion Wellington dinner party; it is always with old friends and always with consequences and, uniquely, it always an entirely new full-length play.

This show goes beyond what is normally thought of as improvisation to attempt a real exploration of how to build a dramatic situation - both serious and comic. Each night all the cast know is their character, their relationships, their hidden past and true feelings. From that they play a strong story, digging deep into the heart of each character and developing rich, touching, sometimes conflictual content. The play may be a family story, a story of former loves lost or won, of betrayal, of vengeance - the material is always rich, and the project is unique.

The material, although fictitious, is firmly centred on the world in which we live. Everything comes under the knife: family, politics, hopes and dreams.

Juliet says, *"I love watching the audiences takes pleasure in building the characters' story and then seeing the weaving of these stories into one: each night a new hero, a new victim, a new plot - comic or tragic or both."*



Mark Wright, Lori Dungey, Anna Kennedy, Tim Gordon and Nic Gorman



Photo Credit: Danielle Colvin

*It is an exhilarating experience for both actor and spectator as all is discovered in the moment with the public feeling totally implicated in the story. **The Dinner** is, in many ways, a mirror of our lives; in one hui's clos over the course of one Dinner everyone's world is turned upside down."*

To pull this off Juliet has called together the talents of **Mark Wright, Anna Kennedy, Lori Dungey, Ian Harcourt** and **Tim Gordon**, with **Nic Gorman** as the Dramaturge.

This is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy a play about those special dinners we've all shared. It maybe true that your own friends or family may not have such suppressed memories as our characters will have, nor such pent-up feelings but we all have a past, don't we?

And for the first time you don't have to guess who's coming to dinner - you decide.

