

NEW MUSICAL ON HOLD AS LIFE MIRRORS ART

Judith Wright Centre and Joymas Creative present

HANDLE WITH CARE BY MEGAN SHOREY

"Megan's work is charming, but also gutsy and heart-felt. A highly creative, polished performer...."
Mark Yeoman – Director Noorderzon Festival, The Netherlands

A family crisis in which "life has mirrored art" has forced the postponement of new contemporary musical **Handle with Care**, which will now premiere at Judith Wright Centre from Wednesday 14 to Saturday 17 April 2010.

Handle with Care creator Megan Shorey was forced to postpone the November 2009 premiere season when her son was diagnosed with a critical illness, a scenario Megan describes as "heart-breaking and ironic".

"The past few days for me have been a rollercoaster; my son has been diagnosed with a severe illness and I've had no choice but to postpone the premiere season of **Handle with Care**," Megan said.

"The situation is both heart-breaking and ironic; it's almost a case of life mirroring art," she said.

"**Handle with Care** celebrates the pains and joys of womanhood – including motherhood – and this is definitely a time where I am going through a whole gamut of emotions," she said.

Comprising four mini-musicals that celebrate the beauty and bother of being a woman, **Handle with Care** features the powerful piece **In My Arms**, which explores both the hardships and delights of motherhood.

In my Arms tips its hat to *Sliding Doors* as the stage is split into two identical nurseries with a woman in each room; in the first room she holds a baby, in the other she holds nothing.

Written by Megan Shorey in just a week, **In my Arms** was selected from hundreds of national and international works for the world renowned *Short, Sweet and Song* theatre festival.

Handle with Care creator Megan Shorey says she is confident her son will survive his illness, and is relieved that she can focus her attention on his recovery.

"This is time where I need to be completely focussed on the recovery of my son, and moving the season of **Handle with Care** to April 2010 will allow me this," Megan said.

"Making the decision to change was not an easy one for me, but the fact that the Judith Wright Centre has supported this decision makes me very grateful to be working and co-producing this piece with such a genuine team," she said.

"I know my son Ben will survive this illness... of this I am certain. And it's nice to know that at the other end he will still have a sane mummy too," she said.

The world premiere of **Handle with Care** will play at the Judith Wright Centre from Wednesday 14 to Saturday 17 April 2010.

-ENDS-

Date	Wednesday 14 – Saturday 17 April 2010
Time	7.30pm
Venue	Judith Wright Centre of Contemporary Arts
Tickets	Full \$35, Concession \$30
Bookings	07 3872 9000

For further information, images and interview opportunities please contact
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