

Sydney Theatre Company and UBS Present

The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui

By Bertholt Brecht

Translated by Tom Wright

21 March – 28 April. Opening Night: Tuesday 27 March 8pm. Roslyn Packer Theatre.

Hugo Weaving will make his much-anticipated return to the Sydney Theatre Company's stage this March in Bertolt Brecht's 1941 classic *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui*. STC Artistic Director Kip Williams directs a cast which also includes Mitchell Butel, Peter Carroll, Anita Hegh, and Ursula Yovich.

Arturo Ui is a small-time gangster with a lust for power. In a city shaken by economic crisis and undermined by corruption, Ui keeps rising and rising until he reaches the very top. When he gets there, he won't be breaking the law, he'll be making it.

With Weaving in the title role, his first with STC since 2014's *Macbeth*, the play examines the construction of power and authority while exploring the role that violence has in controlling the population.

"Hugo will bring psychological complexity, dark and daring humour, wit, insight and revelation to the role of Arturo Ui," Kip Williams says.

And as we continue to witness the rise of the far right globally, Williams says it is a timely tale about a demagogue coming to power in a democratic state.

"The story looks at how greed and power corrupt and how easily democratic freedom can be taken away from us. This play challenges us to resist. It reveals the ways in which we might fail to do so. And it shows us the consequences of that failure," he says.

In a new adaption by Australian playwright Tom Wright, Williams will bring

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a contemporary, Australian political feel to this classic play, using a melding of live performance and live video to examine the ideas of performance in the political sphere.

“This play is very much about the performance of power and the theatre of politics. It deconstructs this theatre, to reveal its construction and the ways we are influence and manipulated by it,” Williams explains.

Director Kip Williams. **Set Designer** Robert Cousins. **Costume Designer** Marg Horwell. **Lighting Designer** Nick Schlieper. **Composer & Sound Designer** Stefan Gregory. **Cinematographer** Justine Kerrigan.

With: Mitchell Butel, Peter Carroll, Tony Cugin, Ivan Donato, Anita Hegh, Brent Hill, Colin Moody, Monica Sayers, Hugo Weaving, Charles Wu, Ursula Yovich.

#ENDS#

Insight Events:

Pre Season Briefing: Monday 12 March 7pm, Richard Wherrett Studio

Night with the Actors: Monday 2 April and Monday 23 April post-show.

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