

## MEDIA RELEASE

11 JANUARY 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# KING LEAR

So What? Productions presents *King Lear*, Shakespeare's greatest tragedy but also his most human. An ensemble of student theatre makers rips the heart out of this grand old play, sticks it on a spike and shoves it in your face at the Adelaide Fringe Festival.

A captivating performance of King Lear by a nineteen-year-old student from the University of Sydney reminds us that Lear is a human being: whether he's ninety or nineteen, a King or a cretin, English or Ecuadorian. This charged interpretation of *King Lear* argues forcefully that all members of society must connect with each other; once empathy fails us, we don't recognise humanity and all is lost.

Anarchy and madness descend upon a family when old King Lear tests the love and loyalty of his three daughters. Banishing his youngest for her honesty, Lear is subjected to betrayal and exile by his other daughters and watches his kingdom dissolve in disarray. Driven mad the King wanders in the stormy wilderness while his friends disguised attempt to restore order in a corrupted world turned upside down.

Says Director Christopher Hay, "*King Lear* unfolds in a world not so very different to yours, one where the former King has to stand by and watch other people stuff up in increasingly human ways. His tragedy is our tragedy: he gets things wrong, badly wrong. The challenge is to realise before it's too late."

King Lear will play in Sydney followed by Adelaide and is So What? Productions' kick-off to 2010 following its acclaimed Sydney season of *The Laramie Project*.

**Venue:** The Arch, Holden Street Theatres, 34 Holden Street Hindmarsh SA 5007  
**Dates:** 16 and 18 February (Previews); 19 - 28 February 2010  
**Tickets:** On sale now  
\$15 Adult; \$12 Concession; \$10 Preview  
1300 FRINGE (1300 374 643) | [www.adelaidefringe.com.au](http://www.adelaidefringe.com.au)

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For further information, images and interview opportunities please contact:

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Media kit and images available from Adelaide Fringe website



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