

Award-Winning Play 'Holding the Man' Launches Australian Theater Company in L.A.



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Stateside production is directed by Larry Moss, starring Nate Jones, Adam J. Yeend

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Australian producers [Nick Hardcastle \(<http://variety.com/t/nick-hardcastle/>\)](http://variety.com/t/nick-hardcastle/) and [Nate Jones \(<http://variety.com/t/nate-jones/>\)](http://variety.com/t/nate-jones/) announced the formation of the [Australian Theater Company \(<http://variety.com/t/australian-theater-company/>\)](http://variety.com/t/australian-theater-company/), which launches April 23 at the Australian Consulate in Los Angeles.

The company kicks off with the Stateside premiere of the beloved Aussie book, "[Holding the Man \(http://variety.com/t/holding-the-man/\)](http://variety.com/t/holding-the-man/)," on May 10 at the Marix Theater in L.A.

"Our goal is to harness the huge breadth of Australian creative talent here in L.A.," Jones and Hardcastle said. "The company will focus on sharing Australian stories and culture and developing new works by Australian artists."

Based on Timothy Conigrave's best-selling memoir, "Holding the Man" takes place at an all-boys school in 1970's Melbourne and chronicles a fifteen-year-long love story between two young men. The stage version was written by Tommy Murphy; veteran Hollywood acting coach [Larry Moss \(http://variety.com/t/larry-moss/\)](http://variety.com/t/larry-moss/) is directing the L.A. production.

Along with producing, Jones stars as Conigrave, with Adam J. Yeend (TV's "Liz & Dick") playing the opposite lead of John Caleo. Co-stars include Cameron Daddo, Luke O'Sullivan, Adrienne Smith and Roxane Wilson.

"Tim's story is funny, harrowing, honest and universal," said Moss, who has worked with such A-list stars as Leonardo DiCaprio, Hilary Swank, Helen Hunt and Jim Carrey. "Like some of us, he discovers too late that he is loved. By the time he finds out he had it, he can no longer get it back."

Variety's Michaela Boland called "Holding the Man," which premiered in Sydney in 2006, winning multiple Aussie accolades, an "exquisitely raw and personal (story), something to which Tommy Murphy's adaptation adheres faithfully."

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