

# Peach Season: Zenith Theatre

By [Victor Kline](#) ArtsHub | Tuesday, July 14, 2009



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Debra Oswald's *The Peach Season* blazes like a bushfire across the grasslands of the Australian literary landscape, devouring all lesser works in its path. It starts as a crackle and builds through a smouldering and a smoking until it rages and burns and makes us forget all the fake ocker and faux Americana and opportunistic Williamsonsque we have hitherto had to endure.

Oswald is the real thing, the real voice of Australia. In fact when it comes to capturing the true Australia, in all its beauty and all its power and all its complexities, she stands alone. Her characters owe nothing to the traditions of others. They are our people, and we know them immediately.

This production by The Phoenix Theatre Company is the first 'amateur' production of *The Peach Season* since it had its debut a few years back. But when the director, the entire cast and the design team do a thoroughly professional job, it seems silly to call it 'amateur'.

Director Jessica Tuckwell has obviously asked all the right questions of her cast, and they have equally obviously responded with all the right answers. Sure they have a marvellous, poignant script to work with, but they have treated it to the love and the inspiration it deserves.

The cast of Marika Aubrey, Christine Greenough, Laura Davies, Ben Jobberns, Caroline Kemp and Samuel Faull, meld together in a tight ensemble and rise as one to the emotional challenge the playwright sets them.

Whilst all the actors were marvellous, the title of first amongst equals has to go to Christine Greenough. Her naturalness and her remarkable comic timing had the audience more than ready to hear her as the voice, and to see her as the spirit of the playwright.

Overall a beautifully structured, original, funny, touching and powerful piece of writing, finely directed and expertly and sensitively acted. Come on Kate and Andrew, we know you are looking for the real heart of Australia. Well here it is. Let's see this one down at Wharf 1.

**Phoenix Theatre Productions Presents:**

***Peach Season: Zenith Theatre***

**Season: 11 July - 25 Jul 09**

**5pm & 8pm Shows**

**A\$23.00, C\$18.00**

**Bookings & Enquiries: MCA Tix - 1300 306 776**

**Zenith Theatre**

**Cnr Railway & McIntosh Sts**

**Chatswood**

**Victor Kline**

Victor Kline started his working life as Sydney's youngest barrister. He is now Editor of the Federal Court Reports, and an award winning playwright, director and actor who has worked extensively in theatre in Sydney and off Broadway in New York. He is also author of the novel 'Rough Justice'.

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