



Media Release

Presented by the Australian Theatre for Young People (ATYP) and Brown's Mart in association with Artback NT, **CUSP** is coming to theatres in NSW and QLD from May this year.

Elvis wants Rosie. Rosie wants to escape. Maddie doesn't know what the hell she wants, but it sure isn't this. While Rosie weighs up the needs of community with her own life dreams, Elvis juggles a life of crime with a tougher path on the straight-and-narrow, and Maddie faces life as a single parent.

An ode to young people right across Australia, **CUSP** was written by award winning playwright Mary Anne Butler, and is directed by Fraser Corfield, who is also the CEO of ATYP, the national youth theatre company empowering young people to find their artistic voice.

For Corfield the power of **CUSP** lies in the honesty of the characters, and the very real issues they are wrestling with, allowing us to witness a slice of life we can all relate to, but that is not usually found in theater.

"These are not the type of people who we usually see on stage", Corfield explains. Teenagers that are self-deprecating and avoid the spotlight. Mary Anne's exquisite writing takes the complexity of their lives, mixes it with the rich landscape of the Top End and serves it to us as a work of beauty." Says Corfield.

For playwright Mary Anne Butler **CUSP** *"is a love letter to the people and landscape of Australia's Top End, in particular our youth, who hold the future so delicately and respectfully in their more-than-capable hands"*.

CUSP is being toured by Artback NT, a multi artform development and touring agency led by CEO Shay Vigona-Goudge, who hopes **CUSP** will attract more young people to the theatre.

"We are proud to tour CUSP", says Vigona-Goudge. "Not only is it a touching story about our brave and courageous youth here in the Northern Territory, but one which makes them really visible, and hopefully, for theater to become visible to young people".

CUSP Itinerary

10 – 12 August | Brown's Mart Theatre, NT – as part of Darwin Festival 2023

13 – 14 June | HOTA Home of the Arts, QLD

9 - 10 June | Goulburn Performing Arts Centre, NSW

7 June | Cowra Civic Centre, NSW

24 May – 2 June | The Rebel Theatre, NSW

TICKETS

<https://artbacknt.com.au/show/cusp/>

WARNINGS

Adult themes, frequent coarse language, descriptions of sexual acts, references to trauma and self-harm.

CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM**Writer**

Mary Anne Butler

Director

Fraser Corfield

Dramaturg

Jane FitzGerald

Cast

Lakesha Grant as Rosie

Joshua McElroy as Elvis

Abbey Morgan as Maddie

Understudies

Isaac Harley

Mema Munro

Set Designer

CJ Fraser-Bell

Lighting Designer

Jessie Davis

FX/LX Technician/Operator, and lighting re-design for the Darwin Festival season at Brown's Mart, 2023

Chris Kluge

Sound Designer

Brad Fawcett

Cultural Consultant

Rosealee Grimes (nee Pearson)

CUSP made its world premiere and opened on 23 October 2019 in Darwin at Brown's Mart Theatre before transferring to Sydney in 2020. Due to unavoidable derailment due to COVID-19, *CUSP* opened in Sydney on 13 March 2020 at the SBW Stables, Kings Cross, before the run was forced to come to an end on 19 March 2020. A filmed performance was placed on ATYP's YouTube channel and On Demand platform, where it received nearly 1.5k views.

FOR MEDIA OPPORTUNITES

Contact

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www.artbacknt.com.au

Artback NT is a multi arts touring and development arts organisation with offices in Garramilla (Darwin), Borroloola and Mparntwe (Alice Springs).

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