**– Media Release –**

**ROBERT IN CRISIS – a darkly comic study of ‘good blokes’, infidelity and revenge … that departs reality – begins its Northern Territory tour in Katherine.**

**Robert in Crisis** explores the notion of why men sometimes make extreme and damaging decisions after being confronted with a situation they are not equipped to handle. This gripping monologue is expertly executed by playwright and performer Scott Gooding and is performed with black humour that treads a fine line between the understandable and the inexcusable. Issues of familial separation and domestic violence rear their ugly head and do not hold back on the inevitable destruction and consequence.

“I wanted to produce a play that would deal with these difficult themes of toxic masculinity and domestic violence. To be able to provide a meaningful platform that raises awareness of the issues that impact men’s health and wellbeing such as depression, family violence and custody and encourages community discussion.” said Scott Gooding.

The inception of the show came from Gooding’s own personal experiences, when ten years ago he was living through a “depressive episode”. Sitting outside of himself, watching in, Gooding witnessed how his own behaviour was making his partner at the time miserable. Later he reflected that it was like being “taken over by another entity”.

“Over the past decade I have seen friends and the partners of friends experience the same destructive cycle over and over, leaving me in a space of understanding but also being baffled: ‘Who is this guy? And why is he hurting the people he says he loves?’” said Gooding.

*Robert in Crisis* reminds us of the devastating and irreversible effects that can unfold when men do not seek help and choose to battle through their demons in isolation. “By touring this play to Katherine, Nhulunbuy and Alice Springs we hope social change can be ignited positively. Scott’s performance is outstanding and he expertly balances black humour with some uncomfortable yet poignant moments” said Louise Partos, Executive Officer Artback NT.

**ABOUT THE SHOW**

Robert has it pretty sweet. Kids, wife, house in the ‘burbs’, the whole shebang! Until he receives a bombshell from the missus. After a wild night with his best mate, his life is further torn apart and he enters into another world, an outsider looking in, with no responsibilities and nothing else to lose.

Set to a 90s alternate rock soundtrack, *Robert in Crisis* spins a tale that journeys to the dark side. As his life spirals out of control, audiences are left wondering, will Robert redeem himself or ultimately become the monster?

View the [Robert in Crisis trailer](https://vimeo.com/517974478)

*Playwright and performer Scott Gooding and Liz Rogers, Performing Arts Manager, Artback NT are available for interview upon request.* Publicity images are available via [drop box](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/y9uveypud14glnq/AAC9T6WtA9xqsuYcosdQeiYoa?dl=0)

**Robert in Crisis itinerary**

**Godinymayin**, Katherine, Saturday 24 April, 7pm

**Gove Arts Theatre**, Nhulunbuy, Wednesday 28 April, 7pm

**Araluen Arts Centre**, Alice Springs, Friday 30 April, 7pm

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