

'Fifty Words' & Opening of The Melbourne Actors Lab in St Kilda

Vass Theatre Group and Melbourne Actors Lab are thrilled to announce that The Melbourne Actors Lab is moving its training academy to the Alex Theatre Arts Innovation and Technology Hub in St Kilda from 1 August!

We will also be launching the eXtension Program around the works of The Melbourne Actors Lab which will become an important component within the new 'Arts Innovation and Technology Hub' with a focus on the preparation and creation of content across traditional and new entertainment platforms.

Our aim is to train and mentor working actors, and we have a plan!

Alex Theatre Arts Innovation and Technology Hub will be:

- A destination to experience cutting edge technology in the arts
- An animated, creative collaboration space for the arts
- A space that is focused on sharing knowledge and developing new education models
- A space for developing environmental and sustainable practices for the Arts
- A mix of non-profit and for-profit social enterprises
- A place of opportunity and imagination
- A place to disrupt concepts such as 'the fourth wall' in Theatre, a home for research, experimental fusion in virtual time and space

Aleksandar Vass OAM - Patron of Melbourne Actors Lab

My Team and I are thrilled to be able to support and work with someone like Peter Kalos with The Lab, and on new projects that will be an extension to Peters current program.

When I saw Peters focus on the development of the Actor years ago, I knew we needed to find a way to ensure more people found out about The Lab, however, just telling people has not been enough.

I believe in the business of Show Business and our industry requires people like Peter to ensure we remain leaders in providing talent to the world stage, and as those stages expand onto new frontiers our methods and focus within our training sector need to evolve also.

We at the Vass Theatre Group firmly believe in Peters training methods, while founded on the teachings of the greats of our time like Lee Strasberg and Stella Adler there is a drive to extend the Actor beyond this and onto the stage or be it screens of the future.

Peter Kalos – Visionary and Teacher

Soon after the struggle between Adam and Eve, I'm sure the next immediate struggle of man was art and commerce - the struggle between those two is "Biblical" as Stella Adler use to say! We need both in life and I constantly remind my actors that it's called "The Entertainment Business!" What Alek is providing us here is an opportunity to reach a wider audience that for the most part, wouldn't have known about our plays in the little theatre we established in Brunswick. It was to this theatre that Alek and Susan turned up and we managed to grab their attention with our work. What became apparent to me was that Alek and Susan truly understood the craft and the message of the play. From here a bond was formed and we have nurtured that bond to produce 5 plays together over the past year or so.

The Alex Theatre is an amazing space and it already feels like home. With Alek and his team running the Theatre, we can focus on what we do best, training actors and propelling them forward into plays, films and careers creating content for others to enjoy.

This is a wonderful chance for us to share stories that need to be seen so that for a brief moment in time art touches your soul. We take that responsibly very seriously, it's our life it's not a hobby. With the support of Alek, Susan and the theatre, the success of our productions and training will continue to thrive.

About the Show:**Fifty Words – Opening Friday 26 July to Saturday 10 August.**

Playwright: Michael Weller
Starring: **Katharine Innes and Daniel Schepisi**
Directed by Peter Kalos

Adam and Jan are alone together for the first time in almost 10 years. Without the buffer of their nine-year-old son (who is away at his first-ever sleepover) Adam's attempt to seduce his wife before he leaves on business the next day begins a suspenseful nightlong roller-coaster ride of revelation, rancour, passion and humour that explores a modern-day marriage on the verge of either a breakup or deepening love...

This smoothly scripted multi-layered play reveals how closely love and hate can be linked in marriage, with each problem experienced as parents another subsequent layer revealed shows yet another problem in their relationship.

The play is an incisive close-up of the emotional battleground of contemporary relationships and the lengths to which a couple will go to save it.

"The play is a bruising back and forth of power games, recriminations, seemingly innocent putdowns and ugly confessions, but it's the evidence of inextinguishable love and desire that makes this 21st century George and Martha fascinating." - David Rooney, Variety

Exciting things are in the works at The Alex Theatre St Kilda and we would like to invite you to be a part of it...

Performance Dates - Fifty Words

Wednesday 24 July (Preview): 8PM
Thursday 25 July (Media &VIP)
Friday 26 July (Opening): 8PM
Saturday 27 July: 8PM
Sunday 28th of July: 5PM
Thursday 1st of August: 8PM
Friday 2nd of August: 8PM
Saturday 3rd of August (CLOSING NIGHT) 8PM

For further information and images contact:

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For more information about the group visit:

Melbourne Actors Lab: www.melbourneactorslab.com
Coming Soon: www.theextension.com.au
Vass Theatre Group: www.vasstg.com.au/media-release-updates

