

***Austen's Women* PRESS RELEASE**

DYAD PRODUCTIONS in association with Theatre Tours International presents:

Austen's Women

Adapted & performed by Rebecca Vaughan

Directed by Guy Masterson

Jane Austen created some of literature's most celebrated characters, defining her era, sex and class. Two hundred years on, her works continue to speak for the yearning heart as much as they did when they were written – so just how much has really changed for women since?

In a solo performance of extraordinary virtuosity – using only Austen's words – actor Rebecca Vaughan answers this question by boldly revisiting the most rewarding moments from all six major novels – including *Pride and Prejudice*, *Sense and Sensibility* and *Emma* – plus those in lesser known works such as Austen's *Juvenilia* and the unfinished *Sanditon*.

In scenes of high comedy and profound pathos, Vaughan deconstructs the souls of Emma Woodhouse, Lizzy Bennet, Mrs Norris, Miss Bates and nine other beautifully observed women. Divorced from their historical context (and in the absence of their men), these women present a glorious distillation of 19th century feminism and speak volumes about love, friendship, and notorious improprieties.

Austen's Women was a sell-out success at Edinburgh 2009 and Adelaide 2010. It is adapted and performed by Rebecca Vaughan, whose *I, Elizabeth* was a five-star success in Edinburgh 2010. It is directed by Guy Masterson, whose credits include *Scaramouche Jones* and the Olivier Award-winning *Morecambe*. Costume design is by Kate Flanagan (*I, Elizabeth*, *Bollywood Steps*). It is presented by Dyad Productions, who create and tour classic theatre with an innovative and contemporary twist.

This brilliant, illuminating and – above all – entertaining evocation of Jane Austen's works is a treat for Austen lovers and the perfect primer for the uninitiated.

(5 stars) 'Cleverly written and superbly performed' (One4Review)

(5 stars) 'Nothing short of breathtaking... You won't see too many one-woman shows as good as this' (Adelaide Theatre Guide)

(4 stars) 'A startling feat of performance, portrayal, writing & direction... each character has been carefully created and each is a piece in itself... a strongly recommended show' (Fringe Review)

(4 stars) 'Passes the Austen-fan test with flying colours' (Hairline)