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Critics Rave About The Big Time! “Not to be Missed”

Queensland Premiere (Noosa)

David Williamson’s latest comedy play - 21-23 March 2019

David Williamson’s latest comedy play ‘The Big Time’ has been receiving rave reviews during its run in Sydney with critics declaring it “a theatre experience not to be missed” ahead of its Queensland Premiere as part of a four performance only season at **The J Noosa** from 21-23 March 2019.

Presented by **NOOSA alive!** festival in association with Sydney’s **Ensemble Theatre company**, The Big Time’s stellar cast includes **Claudia Barrie, Zoe Carides, Aileen Huyn, Matt Minto and Jeremy Waters** and is directed by **Mark Kilmurry**.

The Big Time, Williamson’s 54th play, is closely linked to both his professional and personal life. The connection focusses on almost 50 professional years in the theatre scene and his personal affiliation relates to his wife Kristin, a drama teacher and theatre critic, as well as his two NIDA graduate sons and actors’ agent daughter.

The play follows the story of Celia and Vicki, two women who were best friends at drama school. Celia is a high-profile soap star earning ridiculous amounts of money and enjoying a celebrity lifestyle. Vicki is scraping by playing gritty, critically acclaimed roles in independent theatre. When Vicki proposes they collaborate on an ambitious new film project, it could be a big opportunity for both to prove their mettle in the industry, but are Vicki’s motives as well-intentioned as they seem, or will jealousy rear its ugly head?

Critics have been glowing in their praise of The Big Time during its run at the Ensemble Theatre in Sydney, which continues until March 16 before coming to Noosa.

*“David Williamson’s The Big Time is a theatre experience not to be missed,” said **Rose Niland in The Culture Concept Circle**. “It offers audiences insight, understanding, humour, and it is essentially entertaining. It is relevant contemporary theatre penned by a much-appreciated Australian playwright.”*

David Kary in The Sydney Arts Guide said: *“I feel that it ranks as one of Williamson’s better later works. It is a world he knows so well, and that’s so often where the best writing comes from. **Mark Kilmurry’s** direction was fast paced, keeping the audience engaged with very tight editing between scenes. Performances were first class.”*

Ron Lee in Sydney Chic said: *“With The Big Time, Williamson continues his rich vein of theatrical creativity as he heads towards a half century of playwriting that gave Australian actors an Australian voice rather than the pseudo-British one that they had for a hundred years.”*

The Courier Mail Q-Weekend magazine’s Phil Brown told his readers: *“It’s typical Williamson with all the usual keen social and psychological insights...the new play questions the price of fame, ambition, friendship and what it takes to be true to yourself.”*

Oliver Wakelin in ArtsHub said: *“Don’t miss your chance to see the latest Williamson play which has audiences on the edge of their seats.”*

Other reviews included:

Diana Simmonds Stage Noise: *“The Big Time is a wry and unsentimental vision of the kinds of people the playwright has observed over the past five decades. They’re like most of us – except the stakes are higher and potentially more unpleasant. Laugh and then feel a little uneasy.”*

Nora Charles – Hunter and Bligh: *“Like many of Williamson’s plays, there is a constant battle of moral and ethical behaviour – a sense of right and wrong that questions the society in which we live. He turns the mirror on us from the start.”*

Jade Kops BroadwayWorld: *“The Big Time not only exposes the perils and pitfalls of the industry but also the relatability of the failures of modern society where success and winning at all costs takes precedence over friendships and human connections.”*

As **the most produced playwright in the history of Australian theatre**, David Williamson is renowned for tapping into the social pulse of the time.

“In the entertainment industry there’s only one place all the hopefuls want to be: The Big Time,” **Williamson says.**

“If they make it, they become wealthy, but perhaps even more importantly they are finally treated with respect. If you’re a struggling writer or actor who hasn’t made The Big Time no one reads your scripts, no one asks you to audition, or if they do you get to say two or three lines before you’re moved on. Being near the bottom of the entertainment ladder is one of the most miserable existences on earth. That’s why the competition to make The Big Time is so fierce. Beneath the surface of the friendly smiles actors exchange with each other, lies the realisation that only one of them is going to get the role. I know that in the industry that creates fictional drama, the real-life drama can be intense. And that’s what made it irresistible to write about.”

All you need to know:

- **What:** The Big Time by David Williamson
- **When:** March 21, 22, 23 at 7.30pm and March 23 at 2pm
2 hours with intermission. Recommended for ages 14+ (strong language)
- **Where:** The J Theatre, 60 Noosa Drive, Noosa Heads
- **Tickets:** \$60-\$65.
- **Book:** Via NOOSA alive!’s website <https://www.noosaalive.com.au/>
- **Download the NOOSA alive! App:** <https://www.noosaalive.com.au/>

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