



Christ Church Grammar School

PERTH, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

5 August 2019

MEDIA STATEMENT: Midnite to bring Brecht parable to life

Described as a gangster play, *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui* is a witty and savage satire of the rise of Hitler recast by Bertolt Brecht into a small-time Chicago gangster's takeover of the city's green grocer trade.

Presented by The Midnite Youth Theatre Company, the upcoming production features Year 11 and 12 Drama students from Christ Church Grammar School and neighbouring schools.

Director of The Midnite Youth Theatre Company Gregory Jones says, "The cast have worked fearlessly in approaching this challenging play. Brecht was against realistic theatre where the audiences 'hang up their brains' with their hats in the cloakroom."

Using a wide range of parody and pastiche, from Al Capone to Shakespeare's *Richard III*, Brecht's compelling parable continues to have relevance wherever totalitarianism appears today.

Brecht first wrote this play for the Broadway stage in 1941 while waiting for a visa which would allow him to escape the Nazi regime. He chronicles the rise of Arturo Ui, a fictional hustler, and his attempt to take over Chicago by any means necessary.

"*Arturo Ui* is simultaneously a satirical exploration of the rise of nationalism in Germany and a warning against allowing the events of the 1930s to repeat themselves."

"The Midnite cast and production team are looking forward to bringing this production to the stage with four performances at the Subiaco Arts Centre," said Jones.

The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui will be performed from 22 to 24 August at the Subiaco Arts Centre. Tickets can be purchased through the [Perth Theatre Trust website](#).

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