



PROJECT SAFECom INC. SUPPORTS CITIZEN X

Deckchair Theatre Production opens this week

WA based refugee action and advocacy group Project SafeCom supports Deckchair's new production Citizen X, which will open this week at Deckchair's home, Victoria Hall in Fremantle.

First produced by Sidetrack Performance Group in Marrickville NSW, the script, written by Don Mamounay, is based on letters from detainees in Australia's detention centres.

Imagine if your destiny was to abandon your country, many of your family, all that was precious, in order to save your life and the lives of those you love.

Elections have been fought over them, the newspapers are full them. We know them by their labels - asylum seekers, detainees, and queue jumpers. We know of their attempts to gain our attention - suicides, hunger strikes, breakouts. But what do we know of their humanity, the situations they have fled or the ordeals they continue to endure?

Some Australians have reached out and made contact by writing to detainees. The letters they have received in response make up the basis of the script of CITIZEN X.

These letters from Woomera, Curtin, Port Hedland and Villawood are vulnerable, confused, poetic, sometimes angry, sometimes resigned but always very human.

"Don Mamounay's production is spare and direct, and there's a white-hot rage beneath the coolness and clarity of this work. It's rough, direct and very urgent, as the cast performs the words of detainees and one horrified nurse from behind a deeply ironic picket fence." (Sydney Morning Herald, 3 October 2002)

Project SafeCom Inc - <http://www.safecom.org/refugees.htm>

P.O. Box 364 Narrogin WA 6312 - phone 0417 090 130

The Project SafeCom stall will be present at all performances

Citizen X

Letters from detention - the human stories behind the politics

Directed by Angela Chaplin

Lighting design by Andrew Portwine

Starring George Shevtsov, Elizabeth Spencer and Anna Kim

Where:

Deckchair Theatre, Victoria Hall, 179 High Street
Fremantle - BOCS (08) 9484-1133

When: (all evening performances at 8:00pm)

- *Previews:* Thursday October 30 and Friday October 31
- *Opening:* Saturday November 1
- *Season:* 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 November, and 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15 November
- *Matinee:* Saturday November 8, 2:00pm

Prices:

Previews \$15 Full | \$10 Conc | \$8 Members/Groups (6+)

Opening Night \$ 30 all tickets

Season \$ 20 Full | 15 Conc | \$13 Members/Groups (6+)

More at <http://www.deckchairtheatre.com.au>

"The detainees' texts range from incomprehension and pleading to gratitude for small kindnesses. There's a constant refrain about the heartlessness of the system, and amazement that a civilised, affluent culture that prizes its reputation for tolerance could treat human beings so harshly."

"This is a striking and heart-rending play that gives voice to the voiceless. And regardless of your opinion on detention centres for asylum seekers, these voices are worth hearing." (Sydney Morning Herald, 3 October 2002)