Attempting to explore life’s contradictions

At the end of April, the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts brings UK playwright Martin Crimp’s challenging and provocative play, *Attempts on Her Life*, to the stage of its Roundhouse Theatre.

Performed by the 3rd Year Acting students under the direction of WAAPA’s Head of Acting, Chris Edmund, *Attempts on Her Life* opens on Friday 30 April and runs until Thursday 6 May.

First produced at London’s Royal Court in 1997 and subsequently translated into 20 languages, *Attempts on Her Life* has been described as “a mesmerising theatrical experience of outstanding agility and imagination.”

The playwright himself describes his best-known work as an exploration in “…trying to come to terms with contradictory things in the world”.

These “contradictory things” are encapsulated in 17 scenes in which a number of unnamed characters offer different descriptions of an unseen, shape-shifting woman known as Anne. At times she is an urban terrorist, a tourist hostess, a pornographic movie star, and an artist who has turned her suicide attempts into her art. At one point she even becomes a car, the Anny.

This deliberately fragmented work challenges its audience to re-define the notion of what constitutes a ‘play’ and questions whether someone has any existence beyond the models we construct.

In his writing, Crimp further explodes the structure and conventions of a traditional play: none of the lines are assigned to a particular character, nor does Crimp specify how many actors should perform the piece. This means that every production of the play is completely and utterly unique.

From material greed to unconditional self-sacrifice, from unprotected sex to religious fundamentalism, the play presents a provocative vision of the modern world and a poignant portrayal of contemporary obsessions.

*Attempts on Her Life* is a thought-provoking play that defies any expectations of theatre and challenges its audience to examine the contradictory nature of modern life.

**Performance Information: Attempts on Her Life**

Friday 30 April – Thursday 6 May at 7.30pm.

Roundhouse Theatre, WAAPA, Edith Cowan University, 2 Bradford St, Mt Lawley.

Tickets are $25 full/$20 concession. Bookings through WAAPA Box Office on 9370 6636.

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For further information or to discuss interview opportunities, please contact:
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